

CLAS 230: Classical Mythology

ROME



.25 Course
2ND 8 Weeks
Fall Semester
9:30-10:45 TT
Instructor: Martinez



This course will focus on the myths and legends of the Romans including their traditional Italic elements and imported Etruscan and Greek components. This will be a mostly discussion-based course in which your reading and interpretation of ancient texts in translation and modern texts and videos will take center stage. It's open to all students.

Roman myth is Roman legend, intimately bound up with Roman history and equated with it. Mostly they are myths in our modern sense of propaganda, designed to foster support for social patterns, and maintain traditional power structures. Traditional Roman myths and legends grew out of the needs of a simple agricultural society and evolved to serve the political needs of the state. We will pay special attention to the themes of rape, fratricide, patriotism and sacrifice. We will also look at how for the Romans a blending of myth and history defined their national character and supplied them with a wealth of behavioral exemplars, both good and bad. From the foundation myths of Aeneas and Romulus and Remus to the treacherous Tarpeia and the chaste Claudia Quinta the myths of the Romans exercised a profound influence on their world and the development of Western civilization.

