



CLAS CCXX: CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY SPRING 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nick Dobson
TIME: T/TH 11:00-12:15
OFFICE: WH 2, x2103



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PLACE: Wallace Hall 114
OFFICE HRS: M-F 10-11, & by appointment (or serendipity)

This course will focus primarily on the adaptation of Greek myths in contemporary culture, with brief consideration of some Roman versions of the stories. We'll concentrate on four stories: The Trojan War, Odysseus' journeys home, Jason's quest for the golden fleece, and the Spartan stand against the Persians at Thermopylae. We'll examine how the stories have been changed over time and try to figure out why these changes were made.

Required Texts

All text will be made available via Moodle (<http://lms.monmouthcollege.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=103>), and all films will be on reserve at the library.

Class Format

Classes will generally meet 2 days a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 A.M. until 12:15 P.M. Attendance is recorded, & class participation counts towards your final grade. Each student is permitted 2 unexcused absences during the semester. A student with **more than 2** unexcused absences will drop one grade point on the final semester grade for each unexcused absence over 2. **If you are texting in class, you will be asked to leave and counted as absent.**

Do not hesitate to ask questions in class. If you don't understand something, there are inevitably others in the class who do not understand either. You will do the entire class a favor by asking for explanations.

Your final grade will be determined in the following way:

Informal Response Papers	15%
Midterm Exam + Final	40%
Class Presentation	20%
Quizzes	25%

I. Response Papers

Approximately once every other week each student will submit a response to a question or topic supplied by me. These responses, at least 600 words (2 pages) in length are informal, short, non-research essays on discussion topics. Class discussions, readings, films, etc. may all be used in discussing the topics, but they are not just summaries of activities. They should go beyond mere recording of events to include personal analysis and commentary. Emphasis will be on (1) integration of the student's own ideas and thoughts with the subject matter of the course and on (2) coherent and logical expression of these ideas. In these responses you will briefly summarize the main points, offer your own opinion and thoughts about the topics raised, and support your response with specific data. These responses will be graded primarily on personal analysis and insights, but appropriate length and timeliness will also be taken into account. ALL written assignments must be submitted via turnitin.com.

Grading Criteria for Responses

A: Content, writing style, and personal analysis are all excellent.

B: Content, writing style, and personal analysis are good.

C: Content, writing style, and personal analysis are adequate.

D: Assignment is submitted on time but is otherwise inadequate.

F: Assignment is woefully short on content or not submitted reasonably on time.

II. Exams

There will be 2 exams in this class, a midterm and a final. I will give you more information about their formats and expectations as appropriate.

III. Class Presentation

I will divide the class into groups of 3 or 4, and each group will present a topic (provided by me or of your choosing with my approval) to the class. The grade for this presentation will be based upon 1) the appropriateness of the presentation to the topic; 2) the group's ability to explain the topic to the class; 3) the quality and appropriateness of the visual features accompanying the presentation.

IV. Quizzes

There will be approximately 1 quiz every week covering material from assigned texts (primary and secondary), class discussions, and group presentations.

Grading scale:

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following pattern:

A 93-100 B+ 87-89 C+ 77-79 D+ 67-69

A- 90-92 B 83-86 C 73-76 D 63-66

B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D- 60-62

F below 60

Weekly Work Expectations:

I expect each student in this class to spend approximately 2-3 hours working outside of class for each hour spent in the classroom. Outside work includes (but is not limited to) reading and analyzing texts, reviewing class notes, preparing written assignments, and doing research, as necessary. Including class attendance, students should anticipate spending an average of 10-14 hours per week on this class.

Academic Honesty:

Students in this course are encouraged to study together and discuss course materials. All written work (essays, reviews, quizzes, and exams) must be each student's own work. Plagiarism, i.e., copying someone else's work without giving credit, is to be avoided. Such copying--from a book, another classmate's paper, or any other source--is dishonest.

At Monmouth College we view academic dishonesty as a threat to the integrity and intellectual mission of our institution. Any breach of the academic honesty policy either intentionally or unintentionally - will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the college. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined in the Scots Guide (<http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/life/residence-life/scots-guide/academic.aspx>) and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus.

The following areas are examples of violations of the academic honesty policy:

1. Cheating on tests, labs, etc;
2. Plagiarism, i.e., using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit;
3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments unspecified as group projects by the instructor;
4. Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous authorization by the instructor.

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

Teaching & Learning Center (TLC):

The Teaching and Learning Center offers various resources to assist Monmouth students with their academic success. All programs are FREE to Monmouth students and are here to help you excel academically. Our services are not just for struggling students, but designed to assist all students to get better grades, learn stronger study skills, and be able to academically manage your time here. Visit them at the 2nd floor of Poling Hall from 8am-4:30pm or online at <http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/academics/support/tlc>. They can also be reached at: tlc@monmouthcollege.edu or 309-457-2257. They want to help you get the help early!

Writing Center:

The Monmouth College Writing Center offers unlimited, free peer tutoring sessions for students at MC. Peer writing tutors work with writers from any major, of any writing ability, on any type of writing assignment, and at any stage of their writing processes, from planning to drafting to revising to editing. We are located on the 3rd floor of the Mellinger Teaching and Learning Center, and we are open Sunday-Thursday 7-10pm and Monday-Thursday 3-5pm on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment necessary! Learn more about the Writing Center at our website: <http://blogs.monm.edu/writingatmc/>

Disability Support Services:

Monmouth College wants to help all students be as academically successful as possible. It is the goal of Monmouth College to accommodate students with disabilities pursuant to federal law, state law, and the college's commitment to equal educational opportunity. Any student with a disability who needs an accommodation should speak with the Teaching and Learning Center. The Teaching and Learning Center is located on the 2nd floor of Poling Hall, 309-457-2257, or <http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/life/disability-services>.

Caveat: This syllabus is subject to revision by me, provided that written or verbal notice is given in class.