



ARTS2542

Gods, Heroines and Heroes in Greek Myth

Summer // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Efrosini Deligianni	e.deligianni@unsw.edu.au	via appointment	MB 270	9385 2188

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Greek myths have had a profound influence on our culture. Because they comment on the enduring aspects of the human condition, they continue to be a major source of inspiration for contemporary philosophers, visual artists, writers and filmmakers. An understanding of this influence greatly enhances our appreciation of modern culture. In this course, you will be introduced to the creation myths, to the stories of the gods and their interaction with humans, and to the great mythical cycles – Oedipus, the Trojan War, Orpheus. The myths are discussed in relation to modern works incorporating new versions of the stories. You will also study 'The Odyssey', a monumental piece of literature with interesting historical references and an ongoing influence on western culture.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the social and intellectual context of ancient Greek culture as reflected through the Greek myths and the Odyssey.
2. Explain the central themes in Greek myth.
3. Analyse the lasting significance of Greek mythology in art, literature, music and film.
4. Critically reflect on universal and timeless themes through the lens of Greek myth.

Teaching Strategies

Lectures, tutorial discussions, video presentations and readings will take you through the fascinating world of Greek mythology and Ancient Greek society and culture. You will be introduced to the nature and the creation of myths. You will be familiarised with the stories of the gods and their interaction with humans, as well as with some of the great mythical cycles, like Oedipus, the Trojan War and Orpheus. You will also study Homer's Odyssey, one of the earliest and greatest examples of literature inspired by myth, whose influence in every artistic expression is constantly felt up to this day. All tutorials will be conducted by an experienced team of tutors, who will attempt to engage you in discussions, taking your interests and disciplinary background into consideration.

The lectures provide the basic material required for the assessments and the tutorials. You will be expected to have read Homer's Odyssey in Wilson's translation prior to the start of classes. In addition, you will be required to read further so as to obtain a deeper understanding and formulate a critical approach to the topics and themes covered in the lecture. All classes are through face-to-face mode. For the tutorials, you will also be required to study the set written and visual texts prescribed in the Course Reader, which is available via Moodle. Each text comes with a series of questions, which provides the framework for the tutorial discussion. The classroom discussion fulfils an important component of the above University Graduate Attributes, and it should be stimulating and rewarding for your intellectual development. The assessments will allow you to consolidate the ideas and concepts that you have learnt, and also help you develop your independent, critical and reflective thinking.

Assessment

All general assessment information will be uploaded on Moodle under 'Assessment'.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Take-home assignment	40%	29/01/2021 05:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4
Reflective Writing Task	20%	19/01/2021 03:00 PM	2, 3, 4
Online Test	40%	22/01/2021 03:00 PM	1, 2

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Take-home assignment

Length: 1600-1800 words

Details:

The take-home assignment is 1600-1800 words.

Students will receive feedback on their assignment by reading carefully the comments of their tutors. This is the final assessment task for attendance purposes.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Reflective Writing Task

Length: 600 words

Details:

The time of the reflective writing task is 20 minutes and its length is 600 words. Student will receive individual comments.

Assessment 3: Online Test

Details:

The time of the test is 45 minutes. The test will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions and 3 short answers.

Students will receive mark and individual feedback.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
12/01/2021	Lecture	<p>PART 1 Greek Myths: Lectures 1-12, Tutorials 1-8.</p> <p>Please note that all tutorials are available in an online and asynchronous format.</p> <p>Lecture 1. Introduction & Course Overview (asynchronous)</p> <p>Lecture 2. 'What is a myth? Why Greek myth? Where does it all come from? (11:00am-12:00pm)</p>
	Tutorial	<p>Tutorial 1. 'Orpheus Story'</p>
	Lecture	<p>(2:00-3:00pm)</p> <p>Lecture 3. 'Creation myths: the "first generation" of gods'.</p>
	Tutorial	<p>Tutorial 2. 'Pelasgian Creation Myth: a different version of creation'</p>
13/01/2021	Lecture	<p>Lecture 4. 'The Olympians- origins and functions' (asynchronous)</p> <p>Lecture 5. 'The Olympians- relations with humans' (11am-12pm)</p>
	Tutorial	<p>Tutorial 3. 'Olympian gods: gender differences'</p>

	Lecture	(2:00-3:00pm) Lecture 6. 'The demigods: Prometheus'
	Tutorial	Tutorial 4. 'Prometheus Story'
14/01/2021	Lecture	Lecture 7. 'The demi-gods: Atreus to Agamemnon' (asynchronous) Lecture 8. 'The demi-gods: Heracles' (11:00am-12:00pm)
	Tutorial	Tutorial 5. 'Iphigeneia's sacrifice in Aulis'
	Lecture	(2:00-3:00pm) Lecture 9. 'Helen of Troy, her husband, her lover and her fate'
	Tutorial	Tutorial 6. 'Helen never went to Troy?'
19/01/2021	Lecture	Lecture 10: 'The Trojan War and its aftermath' (asynchronous) Lecture 11: 'Helen's sister Clytemnestra and her children' (11am-12pm)
	Tutorial	Tutorial 7. 'The vengeance of Orestes on Aegisthus'
	Lecture	(2:00-3:00pm) Lecture 12. 'Oedipus, Jocasta and their children'
	Tutorial	

		Tutorial 8. 'Antigone's moral dilemma'
20/01/2021	Lecture	PART 2 Homer's Odyssey: Lectures 1-6, Tutorials 1-4. Lecture 1. 'Introduction to Homer's Odyssey' (asynchronous) Lecture 2. 'Homer and history' (11am-12pm)
	Tutorial	Tutorial 1. 'Odyssey characters'
	Lecture	(2:00-3:00pm) Lecture 3. 'Odysseus' world: mythical monsters and human geography'
	Tutorial	Tutorial 2. 'Debates triggered by Odyssey's plot'
21/01/2021	Lecture	Lecture 4. 'The Odyssey as an oral poem' (asynchronous) Lecture 5. 'Ithaca and Phaeacia: dysfunctioning society and mythical ideal' (11:00am-12:00pm)
	Tutorial	Tutorial 3. 'Odyssey's story and structure'
	Lecture	(2:00-3:00pm) Lecture 6. 'The Odyssey and European literature'
	Tutorial	Tutorial 4. 'The legacy of the Odyssey'

Resources

Prescribed Resources

For PART 1 and 2 of the course: The assigned tutorial activities must be completed BEFORE the following lecture e.g. Tutorial 1 must be completed before Lecture 2.

Also for PART 2 of the course it is imperative that you will have read prior to the start of the classes Homer's *Odyssey*. The selected version of the *Odyssey* for this course is *The Odyssey* translated by Emily Wilson (W.W. Norton, 2017). Wilson's translation is regrettably NOT available online via UNSW Library (there is still no institutional access to the ebook by the publisher). You can either borrow a printed copy from UNSW library or purchase your own copy (either print or ebook).

Clark, Matthew (2012). *Exploring Greek Myth*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell is highly recommended reading. This book is available online via UNSW Library.

Recommended Resources

- Additional Readings

(An updated version of this list, **comprised exclusively of electronic resources**, will be available on Moodle)

Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* (any edition). (e.g. London: Fontana, S291.13/70)

Dowden, K. (1992). *The Uses of Greek Mythology*. London, NY: Routledge (S 292.13/28). Available online at UNSW Library.

Ferry, Luc (2014). *The Wisdom of the Myths*. How Greek Mythology can change your life. NY: Harper Perennial (HUC 184/125)

Nagy, Gregory (2013). *The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours*. Harvard: Harvard University Press. Available online at UNSW Library.

Plant, Ian (2012). *Myth In The Ancient World*. Sydney: Palsgrave Macmillan (PART I, Ch. 1-7) (HUC 292.13/38)

Powell, Barry (2007). *Homer* (2nd ed). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. (883/HOM/C-31)

Vernant, Jean Pierre (2001). *The Universe, the Gods, and Men: Ancient Greek Myths*. N.Y.: Harper Collins. (S292.13/21)

- **Reference works**

Below are some suggested Reference Works, all available at UNSW Library both as print and ebook:

Fowler, Robert L., (2004) (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Homer*. Cambridge: CUP. (S883/HOM/C-24). Available online via UNSW Library.

Howatson, Margaret C. (1989) (ed.). *The Oxford Companion to Classical Literature*. Oxford: OUP. (S880.3/2 G). Available online via UNSW Library.

Woodard, Roger D. (2007) (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Greek Mythology*. Cambridge: CUP. (292.13.34). Available online via UNSW Library.

- **Websites**

There is a wealth of information on the web on Greek Mythology, not all of which are equally valuable and some might even include misleading and inaccurate information. Speak with your tutor if unsure whether a particular database can be used for researching your assignment.

The four most recommended web links, ranked in terms of importance, immediately follow:

PERSEUS Project (Tufts University). The most extensive collection of primary source materials online. Features: hypertext-annotated and searchable text both in the original and in English translation, Greek-English dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference material. Of particular note is an excellent overview of Greek history from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic era.

URL: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>

Greek Mythology Link (Carlos Parada): a full encyclopedia of Greek myth. Features: geographical reference guide, a dictionary, a search engine, index and bibliography.

URL: <http://www.maicar.com/GML/>

Theoi Project: an online reference tool. Features: a searchable Greek Gods family tree, a bestiary, links to other related websites.

URL: <http://www.theoi.com>

Greek Mythology (J. M. Hunt): A basic introduction to Ancient Greek mythology.

URL: https://www.desy.de/gna/interpedia/greek_myth/greek_myth.html

Course Evaluation and Development

The results of the student feedback in **myExperience** reports will be used to enhance the course and teaching practice.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.