



**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES  
CLAS 2105: Classical Mythology**

**LOGISTICS**

Day and Time: Online, asynchronous, no set hours (except tests)

Instructor: Dr. Rhonda Dubec

Office: LI 5015D (but not currently on campus because of the pandemic)

Email: [rdubec@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:rdubec@lakeheadu.ca) (or the email in the D2L course site)

Phone: 807-343-8010 ext. 8874

Office hours: By appointment (and by Zoom during the pandemic)

**DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

This course introduces the myths and legends of the ancient Greeks and Romans through the primary texts which presented and preserved them for millennia. Students familiarize themselves with the origins, meanings, and interpretations of the myths as well as their representation in literature, art, and culture from ancient to modern times.

Such familiarization includes specific knowledge of (a) mythological narrative arcs and their common variants, (b) the representative iconography of principal mythological characters, and (c) texts and authors of the primary literature through which these tales were conveyed to later ages.

Accordingly, students will read (usually prose) translations of original poems, plays, and epics (and, if time allows, one proto-novel) from ancient times (complete works as well as substantial extracts). The expectation is that students will develop not only a knowledge of the basic facts of this mythology but also a working and demonstrable awareness of the complexity of these myths, both in their multifarious versions and in the social, political, and cultural purposes they serve(d).

Students will also be presented with post-classical texts, works of art, music, etc. that have used and reworked these myths for their own purposes. Meant to illustrate the uses and re-uses of the myths, some of these works will be examined in depth; others will be for the students' own perusal.

**NOTE:** This is a course which requires a LOT of reading time – especially of primary sources. This requires note-taking, detailed comparison of what is being read with what has been read, etc.

Wherever possible, I have provided free audiobook versions to be used as read-a-longs or complements to the core texts as well as adapted versions of the texts to make it easier for students to access the basic stories of the plays, epics, etc., and I have also included multiple videos to vary the medium for knowledge acquisition, so time must be allotted for the viewing of these as well.

But, there is no getting around it: this course requires 4-6 hours each week of focused reading (of primary material!), thinking, and note-taking. The adapted texts and video versions will only take a student so far: they provide a broad-stroke, generic version of tales – not the detailed textual knowledge needed to compare tellings, to hear the silenced voices, and to do well on the text-based “identification” questions on the tests (i.e. a selection from a text is given and the student is asked to identify the source [author/title] and/or its relevance to that text’s unique version of the tale).

True, the material is engaging (secondary, critical content is kept to a minimum to focus on the various tellings of the tales), and the stories carry you right along, but the necessary time frame of hours spent reading remains.

It is important you do not fall behind in your reading because every week brings another heavy load of new texts and tales.

## **OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate accurate knowledge (general and specific) of the characters, events, places, contexts, and narrative cycles of Greek and Roman mythology
- Identify and be able to summarize the core ancient literary sources for classical mythology
- Demonstrate deep, specific, and comparative knowledge of the core ancient literary sources for classical mythology
- Identify the iconography and key narrative clues of Greek and Roman mythological characters in art, literature, and other cultural artifacts from ancient to modern times
- Explain the changing and culturally mitigated significance (i.e. functions they are serving or uses to which they are being put) of Greek and Roman myths, mythological characters, and mythological allusions in art, literature, and other cultural artifacts from ancient to modern times

## METHODOLOGY

This course is taught asynchronously online. That means the material is provided for the students each week, and the students assume primary responsibility for learning the content on their own time.

In this class, we read and compare key classical works that preserve (variations of) the myths of Greece and Rome. Higher-order critical thinking skills are engaged as students are invited to parse the (re)tellings, reworkings, rewritings, and redefinitions of the tales to explain differences, apparent contradictions, and even subversions in various versions of the core myths of ancient times – and then extend these awarenesses through the ages to respond to written and visual retellings of these myths from medieval to modern times.

To make the learning process interesting and engaging, content is presented through instructional notes, open-access online texts, (free online) audio versions of texts (through Librivox), hyperlinks, embedded videos (both instructional and variant media retellings of the myths), (interactive) text-related maps, images of and/or links to the myths in art and popular culture, charts, other visuals, and online games for review. As well, the instructor posts directive queries on the Discussion boards and is available to answer questions by email as well as for consultations as needed.

The onus, though, remains on the student to make use of the texts and tools provided to master the content and to think deeply about the myths and what they meant and mean – both in their own time and in our own.

Tests and responses to discussion questions assess students' mastery of text content and the related issues.

## COURSE MATERIAL

There is no textbook to purchase for this course.

All required texts, videos, maps, images, games, links, etc. required for this course are provided in the D2L/mycourselink course site.

Some, but not all, of the texts read in this course include the following:

- Ovid, *Metamorphoses*
- Hesiod, *Theogony* and *Works and Days*
- (Pseudo)Apollodorus, *Library*
- Apollonius Rhodius, *The Argonautica*
- Valerius Flaccus, *Argonautica*
- *Homeric Hymns* (selections)
- Pindar, *Odes* (selections)

- Claudian, *Gigantomachia*
- Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*, *The Orestia: Agamemnon*, *Libation Bearers*, *Eumenides*
- Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*, *Oedipus Colonus*, and *Antigone*
- Euripides, *The Suppliants*, *Hippolytus*
- Homer, *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*
- Vergil, *The Aeneid*
- Dictys Cretensis, *Journal of the Trojan War* (pro-Greek)
- Dares of Phrygia, *History of the Fall of Troy* (pro-Trojan)
- Apuleius, *Metamorphosis*, or *The Golden Ass of Apuleius* (selections)

**CONTENT WARNING:** Many of these texts – as well as others in the course – contain scenes and depictions of graphic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, rape, and other forms of brutality, misogyny, murder, suicide, and extreme abuses of power and privilege.

This content is inseparable from the literature, the times, the values, and societies in which it was composed – as well as the ways the texts have been used/depicted since -- but the reader should be aware of this before engaging with these works.

## EVALUATION

1. Summative evaluation in this course is done through four cumulative tests:

- Fall Mid-term Test: Wednesday, October 7; worth 20% of the final grade
- Fall End-of-Term Test: Friday, November 27; worth 30% of the final grade
- Winter Mid-term Test: Wednesday, February 10; worth 20% of the final grade
- Winter End-of-Term Test: Friday, March 26; worth 30% of the final grade

2. Tests will be done online through the D2L/mycourselink site.

- Test will be open-book, open-note, open-Internet – though human help (in-person or online) is not permitted.
- Tests will consist of multiple-choice, multiselect, fill-in-the-blank, matching, true/false, ordering, and/or short-answer (responses up to a paragraph or two in length) questions.
- Mid-term tests will be 90 minutes in length; end-of-term tests will be 120 minutes (two hours) in length.

- Students may do a test at any time on the test date from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Once a student starts a test, their clock keeps running: students may not exit and re-enter a test without losing time.
- Tests must be taken on the assigned date, or they will earn a grade of zero.
- Alternate dates can be arranged only in dire and documented circumstances (with documentation being on letterhead from an official source – not a parent or partner).
- If such arrangements are necessary, contact me as soon as possible via email, preferably with the documentation attached.

## CALENDAR & OUTLINE

### Fall Semester: Gods and Heroes

Week	Topics	Tests
<b>1</b> <b>Sept.</b> <b>8-13</b>	<b>Introductions</b> (a) The Course, the Content, & the Contexts (b) Mythology, How It Works, & Its Various Kinds (c) Reading Mythology (Theories) (d) Oral Tradition <b>Texts:</b> Begin reading the texts for next week.	
<b>2</b> <b>Sept.</b> <b>14-20</b>	<b>Creation Week:</b> (a) The World, The Ages, and the Early Gods (b) Prometheus and Pandora (c) The Great Flood <b>Main Texts</b> (plus various – see module): (a) Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> and <i>Works &amp; Days</i> (b) Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Book I (c) Claudian, <i>Gigantomachia</i> (d) Aeschylus, <i>Prometheus Bound</i>	
<b>3</b> <b>Sept.</b> <b>21-27</b>	<b>The Big 12 (or 14 ...): Getting to Know the Olympians</b> <b>Main Texts:</b> Various	
<b>4</b> <b>Sept 28</b> <b>– Oct. 4</b>	<b>Gods and Mortals I: Gods in “Love”</b> <b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Books II, III	
<b>5</b>	<b>Gods and Mortals II: Avenging Gods</b>	<b>Fall Mid-term Test</b>

<b>Oct. 5-11</b>	<b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Books III-VI	<b>Wednesday, October 7</b> <b>(20% of final grade)</b>
<b>6 Oct. 12-18</b>	<b>FALL STUDY BREAK</b>	
<b>7 Oct. 19-25</b>	<b>“Pathos of Love” I: (Mostly) Human vs Human</b> <b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Books VI-VIII	
<b>8 Oct. 26- Nov. 1</b>	<b>“Pathos of Love” II: (Mostly) Human vs Human</b> <b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Books IX-XI	
<b>9 Nov. 2-8</b>	<b>Getting Epic I: Troy and the Odyssey</b> <b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Books XII-XIV	
<b>10 Nov. 9-15</b>	<b>Getting Epic II: Aeneas and Rome</b> <b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Books XIV-XV	
<b>11 Nov. 16-22</b>	<b>Golden Fleece I: Jason &amp; the Argonauts</b> <b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Apollonius Rhodius, <i>The Argonautica</i>	
<b>12 Nov. 23-29</b>	<b>Golden Fleece II: Jason&amp; the Argonauts</b> <b>A Main Text</b> (plus various – see module): Valerius Flaccus, <i>Argonautica</i>	<b>End-of-Term Test</b> <b>Friday, November 27</b> <b>(30% of final grade)</b>
<b>13 Nov. 30- Dec. 6</b>	<b>Supernatural Roundup: Mythical Beings that Receive Little “Text Time”</b> <b>Main Texts</b> (plus various – see module): Theoi.com – “Mythic Bestiary,” “Legendary Creatures,” and “Giants and Giant-Kin”	

### Winter Semester: Legends and Epics

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics &amp; Texts</b>	<b>Tests</b>
<b>1 Jan. 4-10</b>	<b>The House of Atreus: Agamemnon et al.</b> <b>Main Texts</b> (plus various – see module): Aeschylus, <i>The Orestia: Agamemnon</i> , <i>Libation Bearers</i> , <i>Eumenides</i>	
<b>2 Jan. 11-17</b>	<b>The House of Thebes: Oedipus et al.</b> <b>Main Texts</b> (plus various – see module):	

	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Rex</i> , <i>Oedipus Colonus</i> , and <i>Antigone</i>	
3 Jan. 18-24	<b>The House of Athens: Theseus et al.</b> <b>Main Texts</b> (plus various – see module): Euripides, <i>The Suppliants</i> , <i>Hippolytus</i>	
4 Jan. 25-31	<i>The Iliad I</i>	
5 Feb. 1-7	<i>The Iliad II</i>	
6 Feb. 8-14	(a) Dictys Cretensis, <i>Journal of the Trojan War</i> (pro-Greek) (b) Dares of Phrygia, <i>History of the Fall of Troy</i> (pro-Trojan)	<b>Mid-term Test</b> <b>Wednesday, February 10</b> <b>(20% of final grade)</b>
7 Feb. 15-21	<b>WINTER STUDY BREAK</b>	
8 Feb. 22-28	<i>The Odyssey I</i>	
9 Mar. 1-7	<i>The Odyssey II</i>	
10 Mar. 8-14	<i>The Aeneid I</i>	
11 Mar. 15-21	<i>The Aeneid II</i>	
12 Mar. 22-28	<b>Getting Roman: Roman Divinities &amp; Greek Mythology in the Roman World</b> <b>Texts:</b> Various	<b>End-of-Term Test</b> <b>Friday, March 26</b> <b>(30% of final grade)</b>
13 Mar. 29- Apr. 6	<b>Topic:</b> The Roman (Proto)Novel <b>Text:</b> Apuleius, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , or <i>The Golden Ass</i> (selections)	

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>First Day of Classes</b>	Tuesday, September 8, 2020
<b>Final Date to Register (Add)</b>	Monday, September 21, 2020
<b>Mid-term Exam</b>	Monday, October 26, 2020
<b>Final Date for Withdrawal (Drop)</b>	Friday, February 12, 2021
<b>Final Day of Classes</b>	Tuesday, April 6, 2021

<b>Exam Contingency Date</b>	Monday, April 19, 2021
<b>Marks Due</b>	Thursday, April 22, 2021
<b>Examination Period</b>	Friday, April 9, 2021 - Sunday, April 18, 2021 (10 Days)

<http://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/~Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=26&topicgroupid=23475>

### STUDY WEEKS

<b>Fall Study Week</b>	Oct 12, 2020 - Oct 18, 2020
<b>Winter Study Week</b>	Feb 15, 2021 - Feb 21, 2021

<http://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/~Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=27&topicgroupid=25535>

### CODE OF CONDUCT

- It is essential to work at least 6 hours weekly. [This a standard expectation in the Languages department.]
- Check your [Desire2Learn/mycourselink](#) page on a regular basis to obtain posted information, documents, and activities.
- Study regularly, and complete the activitie that correspond to the lessons posted on D2L.
- If you have difficulties accessing your online course, please contact [helpdesk@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:helpdesk@lakeheadu.ca).
- In the event that you are sick for a quiz or an exam, a medical note (the original) is required to have this test or exam rescheduled.
- No extra work will be allowed to bump up a mark.
- Academic dishonesty: Please, note that academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism, cheating, and impersonation) is considered a serious academic offense. For more information, please go to: <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>  
<http://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/rights-and-responsibilities>  
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre/skills-for-success-seminars/thunder-bay/node/45182>
- Use email to schedule appointments with your instructor. Please allow at least 72 hours for the instructor to answer.
- All emails have to have greetings as the opening and the end of the message. “Hey/hi there” are not appropriate opening for an email to your instructor.

- Disrespectful comments during Zoom classroom exchanges between students or between students and the instructor, as well as comments of a sexist, racist, or homophobic nature or against any disabilities will not be tolerated.
- Learners are asked to behave in the discussions in a professional and civil manner. If you are in doubt, do not post it! Instructors reserve the right to remove any postings deemed inappropriate, unprofessional, or otherwise distracting from the course.

## **Copyright Compliance**

Students understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which they are given access in this course (the "course materials"), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law.

- (a) Students may access and download the course materials only for their own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and
- (b) Students are not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor. They further understand and agree that, if they infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, they may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

## **Exam/Assignment Integrity**

Students understand and agree that:

- (a) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, they must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.
- (b) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, they must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam.

Students further understand and agree that, if they violate either of these two rules, or if they provide any false or misleading information about their completion of course assignments or exams, they may be prosecuted under the Lakehead

University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University’s academic values.

**\*\*\* Disclaimer and Notice Regarding Recording \*\*\***

In the context of remote instruction and participation, video and audio recordings of class activities may occasionally be made to ensure students' and instructors' easy and comprehensive access to those discussions.

Any such recordings are confidential and are intended **only** for the use of the course students and instructors. They may otherwise **not** be used or disclosed. During recording, to protect others' privacy, each student should ensure that no one else is present in the location where they are being recorded without that non-student's consent. The recordings are made under the authority of sections 3 and 14 of *The Lakehead University Act, 1965*.

Questions about the collection of the images and sounds in the recordings may be directed to Dr. Isabelle Lemée, Chair of the Department of Languages.

### **Extra Resources**

- **Student Accessibility Services:**

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

- **Indigenous Services:**

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/tb/aboriginal-services>

- **Counselling Centre:**

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-health-and-counselling-centre>

- **Human Rights and Equity Services:**

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity>