CLASSICS 42: MYTHOLOGY [10763] SYLLABUS
Spring 2000, 9:05-9:55 a.m. MWF Fleming 101
Z. Philip Ambrose Assistant: Angeline Chiu
zambrose@zoo.uvm.edu chiuthyphro@hotmail.com
Office: Dept. of Classics, 481 Main Street, Rm 304
Tel: 656-0649 or 656-3210
Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 MWF and by appointment
WWW: http://www.uvm.edu/~classics/ambrose/clas42_syllabus.html

Abbreviations: SG = Slide Guide; RG = Reading Guide; LEC = Lecture Outline, all
found in Ambrose, Handbook to Classical Mythology

THE OLYMPIANS
Week 1: Ovid, Metamorphoses 1; Hesiod, Theogony
1/19 W LEC 1: Methodology, Chronology, Geography
1/21 F LEC 2: Cosmogony and Divine Succession
1/24 M Reading Guide I

THE TANTALIDS
Week 2: Ovid 2; Aeschylus, Oresteia (3 plays: Agamemnon, Libation Bearers, Eumenides)
1/26 W LEC 3: Zeus and the Tantalids
1/28 F SG 1: Zeus in Idea and Art
1/31 M RG II; Quiz 1

Week 3: Ovid 3; Sophocles, Electra; Euripides, Electra
2/2 W LEC 4: A comparative Study of the Electra Myth: Strauss/Hofmannsthal
2/4 F LEC 4: continued
2/7 M RG III; Quiz 2

Week 4: Ovid 4; O’Neill, Mourning Becomes Electra
2/11 F SG 2: Tantalids in Art and Archaeology
2/14 M RG IV; Quiz 3

THE CECROPIDS
Week 5: Ovid 5; Euripides, Hippolytus
2/16 W LEC 5: The Story-pattern of Potiphar’s Wife
2/18 F SG 3: Athenians in Myth and Art
[2/21 M President’s Day Holiday]
2/23 W RG V; Quiz 4
Week 6: Ovid 6; Racine, Phèdre

2/25 F LEC 6: Racine, Rameau, Louis XIV
2/28 M RG VI; Quiz 5
3/1 W REVIEW SG 5 (OVID 1-6 ONLY)
3/3 F HOUR TEST ONE: OBJECTIVE TEST [CANE MEETING]

THE LABDACIDS

Week 7: Ovid 7; Sophocles, Oedipus Rex; Optional reading for extra credit: Aeschylus, Seven Against Thebes

3/6 M LEC 7: Thebes and the Descendants of Cadmus
3/8 W RG VII; Quiz 6;
3/10 F Stravinsky/Cocteau, Oedipus Rex

Week 8: Ovid 8; Sophocles, Antigone

3/13 M LEC 8 and SG 4: Perseus in Art
3/15 W RG VIII, part 2; Quiz 7
3/17 F SG 5 continued: Review Ovid 1-8 and other readings
[3/20-24 Spring Recess]

Week 9: Review Ovid 1-8 and other readings.

3/27 M HOUR TEST TWO: ESSAYS ON ALL READINGS
3/29 W LEC 9: The Labors of Heracles;
3/31 F LATIN DAY: NOVUS ORDO SAECLORUM; Meet in Patrick Gymnasium

THE AEOLIDS

Week 10: Ovid 9; Euripides, Medea

4/3 M LEC 10: Medea
4/ 5 W RG IX, part 1; PROJECT CHOICES DUE
4/ 7 F RG IX, part 2; Quiz 8;

Week 11: Ovid 10; Vergil, Aeneid 4; Optional Reading for Extra Credit: Apollonius, The Voyage of Argo 3

4/10 M LEC 11: Dido, The Virgin Queen, in Music
4/12 W Purcell's Dido and Aeneas; LANE SERIES: AQUILA THEATER'S OEDIPUS REX. Review for extra credit.
4/14 F RG X; Quiz 9

THE CHTHONIANS

Week 12: Ovid 11; Euripides, Bacchae; de Alta Silva, Dolopathos (= Handbook, p. 21)
4/17 M LEC 12: Dionysus and the Musical Contest
4/19 W SG 6: Dionysus, Heroes, Chthonians and Satyrs in Art RG XI
4/21 F RG XI; Quiz 10; TERM PROJECT DUE

Week 13: Ovid 12 and 13; Euripides, Cyclops

4/24 M SG 7: Review
4/26 W RG XII, parts 1 and 2
4/28 F RG XII, part 3; Quiz 11

Week 14: Ovid 14 and 15

5/1 M LEC 13: Myth and Metamorphosis
5/3 W RG XIII-XIV; Discussion of Final Exam
5/12 F FINAL EXAM 8:00 A.M.

Notes:

1. **Exams:** Hour Test One is on Friday, March 3, 2000. It will be entirely objective, covering the material of the course through Week 6 and including identification of slides; Hour Test Two will be on Monday, March 27. It will be a series of essays on all the readings through Week 8. The Final Exam is on all the material of the course, but with emphasis on Weeks 9 through 14 and will include objective questions, slide identification, and essays. It is on Friday, May 12, at 8:00 a.m. Its length is 90 minutes. Any special arrangements needed for these examinations must be made within the first two weeks of the semester.

2. **Term Project:** Your Term Project will be to prepare a report on two aspects of a mythical character (whose name you will have received early in the semester, see below, note 8), one on the treatment of your character in antiquity, the other on the treatment of your character after 1000 C.E. Each part must be no more than one page, the whole project no more than two pages. The two parts of the project are as follows: **Page 1:** Identify one work of ancient literature or ancient art, not read or seen in this course, in which your character is applied. Identify the author or artist, title of work (book and line where appropriate), life dates of the author or artist, and production date of the work (dates should be as precise as the evidence allows), and in no more than one page describe how your character is treated in that work. "Ancient" is to be interpreted as before 1000 C.E. **Page 2:** Choose what you consider to be the most interesting application of your character in literature, art, or music after 1000 C.E. and in no more than one page describe the treatment of your character in that application. As in the first page, give the life dates of the author, artist, or composer, and the production date of the work. "After 1000 C.E." includes anything from the medieval period through 2000. The whole report must be no more than two pages long and is to be double-spaced typed. You must inform me in writing on Wednesday, April 5, 2000 of the two works you have chosen for the Project (full first drafts are also welcome from this date to April 12). The Final Draft of the Project itself is due on Friday, April 21, 2000. You will find materials set aside for you to work with.
in the Reference section of Bailey Library. Cooperation in the use of the library materials is imperative! I am happy to advise you on this project during my office hours or by appointment. In preparing the Project, consider the bibliography in the Handbook. There are two recent publications that should be very helpful for this assignment. To use them present your Student ID to the librarian on duty at the Reference Desk in Bailey Howe:


3. **Extra Credit:** There are several opportunities for extra credit as follows:
   - Attendance and participation in the *24th Annual Vermont Latin Day on Friday, March 31, 2000.* We would appreciate your help. Please contact Jeanne P. Valley, the Secretary of the Dept of Classics, 481 Main Street, Room 305, at Extension 6-3210.
   - Write a one page (typed, double spaced) review of the UVM Lane Series' presentation of *Aquila Theatre* production of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex,* Wednesday, April 12, at the *Flynn Theater.* Special prices are available for student tickets.

4. **Quizzes:** The eleven 5-minute quizzes are based on the readings and Reading Guides in the *Handbook to Classical Mythology.* THESE READINGS AND READING GUIDES SHOULD BE PREPARED PRIOR TO THE FIRST LECTURE IN EACH READING WEEK. The dates of quizzes are announced in the syllabus. **There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason, including illness.** If you miss a couple, there is no serious penalty. The total grade for the quizzes is scaled. Take the quiz, even if unprepared. **If you miss six quizzes your course grade will be F.**

5. **Regular attendance and questions:** Attendance is REQUIRED. At the close of every class hand in a sheet containing your full name and signature and one question or comment about the content of that day’s class. With full attendance you will be able to follow the lectures, know what to look for in the readings, and prepare for the examinations in an orderly fashion.


7. **Bring Ambrose, Handbook to Classical Mythology** to every class.

8. You will receive a **mythological name** and a **class roster** of your colleagues' new names. You should become an expert on your new character and serve as a resource to your colleagues on anything pertaining to your character. Others in
the class may have the same character. This name will determine the subject of your Term Project, (see 2, above).

10. **Your Course Grade** will be determined as follows:
    - Hour Test One 15%
    - Hour Test Two 15%
    - Quizzes 25%  If 6 quizzes are missed, course grade is F!
    - Course Project 20%
    - Final Exam 25%

12. **Reading List:** (You may read works marked * in any translation)
    - Ambrose, *Handbook to Classical Mythology*
    - *Hesiod, Theogony*
    - *Aeschylus, Oresteia*
    - *Sophocles, Electra, Oedipus Rex, Antigone*
    - *Euripides, Electra, Hippolytus, Medea, Bacchae, Cyclops*
    - *Jean Racine, Phèdre*
    - *Vergil, Aeneid, Book 4*
    - Eugene O'Neill, *Mourning Becomes Electra*
    - Optional: Pierre Grimal, *Dictionary of Classical Mythology*
      - *Aeschylus, Seven Against Thebes, Prometheus Bound*
      - *Apollonius of Rhodes, The Voyage of Argo, Book 3*

**LECTURE 1: METHODOLOGY, CHRONOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY**


II. Nature of this course.
1. What is myth? Story with personal and proper names.
2. What is an aetiological myth? A story that explains a cause.
3. Myth, Saga, Folk tale: distinctions and similarities
4. Mythopoeia (myth-making); mythologia (studying and collecting myth), mythographia (writing down myths), mythochreia (using myth)
5. Ancient mythography: Apollodorus, Hyginus, Ovid.
7. Topics of the course: the poet and myth; history and the choice of myth; the creative effect of myth; music and myth; art and myth.

III. Ancient Chronology and Geography (all dates B.C.E. = B.C., unless indicated)

**Late Neolithic Age** in the Aegean (4000-3000)

**Bronze Age:**
- Mesopotamia: Sumerians (from 4000); Akkadians and Amorites (after 2700) --> Babylonians (after 2300); Assyrians (3000-1200)
- Egypt: Old Kingdom (2740-2270); Empire (1600-1200)
• Asia Minor: Hittites (2000-1200); Troy falls (1184)
• Aegean (2000-1000): Minoans (Crete) and Mycenaens (Greek Mainland):

Iron Age (1000-)
• Greek resettlement: Ionians in Asia Minor, Dorians in Peloponnesus
• Hebrews and Aramaeans in Palestine
• Assyrians: Nineveh falls (610)
• Phrygians in Asia Minor
• Persian Empire: Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and after 550 in Asia Minor

Greek and Roman Historical periods:
• Geometric: Homer (750?); Hesiod (700?)
• Classical: Aeschylus (525-456); Sophocles (500/494- 406/5); Euripides (c.485-406)
• Roman Augustan: Vergil (70-19); Ovid (43 B.C.-17 A.D.)