Required Texts

Ovid: *Fasti.* (Boyle and Woodard, trans.) Penguin. 0-14-044690-7

Course Description and Requirements

Here is an introductory course which promises much, and then delivers both less and more than what it promises. The promise: a set of introductory lectures on mythology, ostensibly world mythology, delivered from the perspective of the "Humanities." Indeed, these will be introductory lectures, yet the true subject of these lectures, as you will discover, will focus particularly upon European mythology of the post-classical period. So our interest will be the mythologies of Italy (both the pre-Christian mythology of the Roman Empire as well as the popular mythologies of the Catholic church), of central Europe (as we study the crystallization of primitive Celtic mythology into Medieval romances and the Arthurian legends), and of northern Europe (with special emphasis on the Germanic material of the Nibelung myths), and, finally, the importation of Buddhist philosophy into modern(ist) Germany. Along the way, we shall be constantly interested in issues of comparison of myths in the big family of Indo-European cultures. Our final literary text even explores the confrontation of Western civilization with Eastern religion and philosophy.

But wait! There’s more!

These lectures will treat mythology by unpacking myths from a set of literary classics selected from over a very broad period of European history. We’ll survey, as we progress through the course, differing ways in which the predominant literature of various periods in European history incorporated and used myths. Our final "text," a classic bit of cinema, will even allow us to consider how our own mass media regularly package and convey myths. And so we shall study not only the "what" of story-telling but the "how." At no extra cost, the course will expose the student to major contemporary theoretical approaches to mythology.
Evaluation of the student's progress will involve two midterms (take home essays due in the 6th and 11th week), a final (another take home essay), and some periodic (and short) reading quizzes. The second midterm will be given more weight in the grade-book than the first midterm, and the final will be given more weight than the second midterm. Thus, your chances of improving your grade are optimized as you learn how to write essays for me. Reading quizzes will be given on-line via Blackboard (Bb) from the comfort of your favorite net-wired computer.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes and “response” material</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>35%</td>
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**Final Schedule**

Tuesday, 15 May, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Intellectual Properties**

Scores kept at Blackboard reflect raw scores only, but are posted there as a private means for you to check to make sure your scores have been entered correctly. I transfer your scores at the end of the semester to my grading software in order to weight your grade.

You must ask the owner of the course’s intellectual content (a.k.a. me) for permission to record the class. I retain all rights over that intellectual property. You must ask my permission to bring any guests to class. I reserve ownership of the class and the specific right to monitor and adjust course content (namely the reading schedule) to aide student progress toward the course objective.