San Diego State University
Dept. of Classics & Humanities

Classics 310 — Greek & Roman Myth & Legend
MWF 11-11:50 — PSFA 300

Dr. Brad Cook, office AL 632
off. hrs. MW 9-9:50 & 2-2:50
and by appointment (ask/phone/e-mail)

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and on Blackboard

COURSE CONTENT & GOALS: We will read and examine ancient Greek and Roman texts and artifacts, i.e., pots (or vases), sculpture, wall paintings, mosaics, about the myths of the deities and heroes, especially the Greek ones, dating from the 6th cent. B.C. to the 2nd cent. A.D. We will memorize many names, places, and dates. We will catalogue and analyze the relationships, actions, and motives of the characters, divine and mortal, both within myths and in the broader context of the culture, while examining the nature of the sources. We will diagram and compare doers, deeds, and events in different myths and apply various interpretative theories of myth to understand how these myths (may) have come to be and how they have been reused and reinvented by different people and cultures through the millennia.

(Can be used, if upper division standing has been attained, for GE credit, IV. Explorations, C. Humanities)

and Daily Study Guides available on Blackboard; additional readings & images will be posted on Blackboard.

DAILY STUDY (to achieve course goals): As we study the myths, it is essential to learn the characters and plots (= Who? does What?) and identify and analyze Passages and Pictures that are Pithy (= "precisely meaningful") that is, passages that hint at or tell us the Why, i.e., the motives of the individuals in the myth, the storyteller, and/or the culture that lies behind and is affected by the myth. So,

i. Schedule a min. of two hours to read the texts and take notes on the assigned material before each class.

ii. Download the study guide for the day and write out both for texts and images:

a. WHO = lists of names and terms that appear in the primary texts (the original texts),

b. WHAT = outline events & actions,

c. WHY = figure out and list motives & issues, as you find them in the Pithy Passages & Pictures.

iii. Come to class with texts, notes, questions, and ideas. Class will consist of lecture—by me—and questions and discussion—by all of us. Thorough, daily reading and notes made in advance of each class are essential for each class meeting to be a success.

QUIZZES & EXAMS: There are daily reading quizzes—see the study guides on Blackboard; a sample quiz will be given in the first week. There will be one midterm and a final (Mon., Dec. 10, 10:30-12:30 pm) for which you: 1) complete brief sentences with proper names of figures, places, etc.; 2) identify, describe, and discuss images from class; 3) identify, describe, and discuss pithy ancient passages from class; 4) write a brief essay on a major theme from course reading and discussion.

WRITTEN WORK: 1750-word (min.) expository essay on a figure, divine or human, from classical myth that:

1. presents and examines three different versions of an aspect of or event in the life of a mythic figure, e.g., early version in a Homeric Hymn, Homer, or Hesiod, and/or later version in another Greek source, and/or Roman version in Ovid, and/or modern version (Renaissance to 21st c.);
2. incorporate at least two pithy passages or pictures into each of the three sections (= six for whole paper);
3. follow the formatting and referencing guidelines posted on Blackboard.

DUE 12/7 (optional): I will read and respond to your introduction (1/2 page) and one paragraph of body: due 11/19.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Civil, conscious attendance is expected; if you need to leave early, please sit near an exit and exit quietly. A multitude of details, topics, and images will be presented in this class: be in class (and awake) and "what's important" (aka, what's on the exam) will become clear. All electronic devices are to be turned off and stowed. If you miss class, come see me during an office hour or schedule an appointment (after class or by phone, i.e., NOT by e-mail) immediately to discuss the missed material: it is your responsibility to speak with me about missed material. Absences can be excused for documented medical and/or family emergencies; in such cases the missed quiz will be excused.

GRADE: Quizzes (30%), Essay (15%), Midterm (25%), Final (30%)

N.B. all work is to be your own; cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment, test, or course.
Week 1: Cosmogony & Theogony
M 8/27 Introduction, terms
READ: Syllabus
W 8/29 Cosmogony (Creating the Cosmos)
READ: Hesiod, Theogony lines 1-452
F 8/31 Theogony (Creating the Gods)
READ: Hesiod, Theogony lines 453-1,022 and Carpenter pp. 69-71 & Images 89-98

Week 2: Anthropology & the 12 Olympians
M 9/4 NO CLASS (Labor Day)
W 8/9 Anthropology (Creating Humans)
READ: Hesiod, Works & Days 1-380 and Carpenter pp. 75-77 & Images 116-119
F 8/7 The Twelve Olympian Gods, part 1
READ: Carpenter pp. 7-17 & Images 1-19 and Carpenter pp. 35-41 & Images 38-63

Week 3: Twelve Olympians (cont.), Apollo, and Hermes
M 9/10 The Twelve Olympian Gods, part 2
READ: Carpenter pp. 42-48 & Images 64-88 and Carpenter pp. 69-75 & Images 89-115
W 9/11 Apollo: The Will of the Gods & Music
READ: Homeric Hymn to Apollo 3a, 3b
F 8/13 Hermes: Breaking and Keeping Boundaries
READ: Homeric Hymn to Hermes 4

Week 4: Love, Motherhood, the Afterlife
M 9/17 Aphrodite: Erotic Love
READ: Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite 5, 6, 10 and Homer, Odyssey Bk 7 (ll. 266-366)
W 9/19 Demeter & Persephone: Mother & Daughter
READ: Homeric Hymn to Demeter 2
F 8/21 The Underworld and Hades
READ: Hesiod, Theogony lines 722-819 and Homer, Odyssey Bk 11 (all), Bk 24.1-204 and Carpenter 77-80 & Images 120-132

Week 5: Greek Heroes
M 9/24 Two Heroes: Perseus & Bellerophon
READ: Carpenter pp. 103-8 & Images 144-66 and Blackboard
W 9/26 Herakles: Jason & Medea
READ: Carpenter pp. 183-6 & Images 271-83 and Blackboard
F 8/28 Herakles I
READ: Carpenter pp. 117-34 & Images 167-234

Week 6: Greek Heroes (cont.) & The Trojan War
M 10/1 Herakles II
READ: Blackboard
W 10/3 The Trojan War & Homer's Iliad
READ: Carpenter pp. 195-210 & Images 286-338 and Homer, Iliad Bk 1 (all)
F 10/5 Homer's Iliad 3, 6
READ: Iliad Bk 3 (all), Bk 6 (all)

Week 7: Homer's Iliad (cont.)
M 10/6 Homer's Iliad 9, 11, 16
READ: Iliad Bk 9 (all), Bk 11 (ll. 597-847), Bk 16 (all)
W 10/10 Homer's Iliad 18, 19, 22
READ: Bk 18 (ll. 1-238), Bk 19 (ll. 1-237), Bk 22 (all)
F 10/12 Homer's Iliad 23, 24
READ: Homer, Iliad Bk 23 (ll. 1-257), Bk 24 (all)

Week 8: Nostoi, Odysseus, and Homer's Odyssey
M 10/15 MIDTERM
W 10/17 Nostoi and Odysseus
F 10/19 Homer's Odyssey
READ: Odyssey Bk 1 (ALL), Bk 2 (ll. 1-330), Bk 4 (all)

Week 9: Homer's Odyssey (cont.)
M 10/22 Homer's Odyssey
READ: Bk 5 (all), Bk 6 (ll. 1-250), Bk 7 (ll. 1-225), Bk 8 (ll. 1-265)
W 10/24 Homer's Odyssey
READ: Odyssey Bk 9 (all), Bk 10 (all)
F 10/26 Homer's Odyssey
READ: Odyssey Bk 12 (all), Bk 13 (all), Bk 14 (all)

Week 10: Homer's Odyssey (cont.)
M 10/29 Homer's Odyssey
READ: Odyssey Bk 15 (ll. 380-557), Bk 16 (all), and Bk 17 (ll. 1-60, 182-594), Bk 18 (ll. 1-345)
W 10/31 Homer's Odyssey
READ: Bk 19 (all), Bk 20 (ll. 1-239), Bk 21 (all)
F 11/2 Homer's Odyssey
READ: Odyssey Bk 22 (all), Bk 23 (all), Bk 24 (all)

Week 11: The Roman Hero: Aeneas and Vergil's Aeneid
M 11/5 Vergil's Aeneid
READ: Vergil, Aeneid Bks 1 and 2
W 11/7 Vergil's Aeneid
READ: Vergil, Aeneid Bks 4 and 6
F 11/9 Vergil's Aeneid
READ: Aeneid Bks 7 and 8

Week 12: Vergil's Aeneid (cont.) and Ovid
M 11/14 NO CLASS (Veterans' Day)
W 11/16 Vergil's Aeneid
READ: Aeneid Bk 10, Bk 11 (ll. 854-1209), Bk 12
F 11/18 Ovid's Metamorphoses I
READ: Ovid, Met. Bks 1-3

Week 13: Ovid's Metamorphoses II
M 11/21 Ovid's Metamorphoses II
READ: Ovid, Met. Bks 4-6
W 11/21 TBA
F 12/3 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week 14: Ovid's Met. (still cont.)
M 11/26 Ovid's Metamorphoses III
READ: Ovid, Met. Bks 7-9
W 11/28 Ovid's Metamorphoses IV
READ: Ovid, Met. Bks 10-12
F 11/30 Ovid's Metamorphoses V
READ: Ovid, Met. Bks 13-15

Week 15: A Greek Hero à la Disney
M 12/3 Disney's Hercules
W 12/5 Disney's Hercules (cont.)
F 12/7 Discussion and Final Review

FINAL EXAM: M 12/10 @ 10:30-12:30