

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Mythology for the Logic Stage

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text:

Marianthe Colakis and Mary Joan Masell. *Classical Mythology and More: A Reader Workbook*. Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 2007. ISBN 9780865165731

Course Description:

In this course, we will study Greek and Roman myths as told by ancient authors such as Hesiod, Homer, and Ovid. We will learn how these ancient civilizations used stories of gods, monsters, heroes, and transformations to better understand the world around them, and what the myths tell us about their cultures. We'll also compare these stories to mythology in other traditions, explore the impact of classical mythology on literature, art, and culture of later time periods, and discover elements of mythology in the world around us today. At the end of the course, students will use their knowledge of the functions and common themes of mythology to create their own modern myths.

*Please note: While most Greek and Roman myths are appropriate for students of all ages, some stories exist that contain sensitive subject matter, in particular violence and sexual themes. Our textbook, which is designed to make the ancient texts accessible to middle and early high school students, aims to tell these stories in a manner that neither whitewashes nor dwells on some of the more controversial aspects of mythology. All assigned readings and myths discussed in class will be age appropriate; however, parents should be aware that the textbook contains additional content that they may consider objectionable. If you have any concerns we encourage you to check the texts out at the local library before enrolling your student.

Assignments and Grading Breakdown:

- Attendance and participation (10%): This will be assessed via polls and discussion questions in class, as well as brief reflection questions following class.
- Weekly comprehension quizzes (20%): Brief multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer quizzes about the material learned in the previous class or on additional readings from the text; students may use resources to complete these quizzes.
- Weekly discussion questions (20%): Discussion questions will be about material learned in the previous class, or they may require students to read and respond to material in the text not covered in class. Students will have a choice of questions to answer in 1-2 paragraphs. Each student must write a meaningful reply to the question by midnight EST on Thursday, and meaningfully respond to two other students' responses by midnight EST the following Monday.
- Projects and longer writing assignments (25%):

- Mid-Semester Project: Students will give a presentation on a myth that is not covered in class; a list of acceptable myths and project formats as well as a grading rubric will be provided. (15%)
- End-of-Semester Project: Students will write a modern myth of 500-1000 words using knowledge of the function and common themes in mythology. (10%).
- Tests (25%)
 - Midterm (10%)—Students will be required to complete a mid-semester test which will cover the material learned in the first eight weeks of class.
 - Final (15%)—Students will complete a semester ending test which will feature questions on material learned throughout the semester.

Grading breakdown:

Attendance and Participation -10%

Quizzes - 20%

Discussion Questions - 20%

Mid-Semester Project - 15%

End-of-Semester Project - 10%

Midterm Test - 10%

Final Test - 15%

Example Class Schedule:

Week	Topic	Primary Sources
1	Introduction to Mythology and the Muses	Hesiod, Theogony
2	Creation Mythology and the Earliest Deities	Hesiod, Theogony; Ovid, Metamorphoses
3	Olympian Deities (Children of Cronus)	Hesiod, Theogony; Homer, Iliad
4	Olympian Deities (Children of Zeus)	Hesiod, Theogony; Homer, Iliad
5	Other Deities (Asclepius, Ilythia, Eos, Eris, Hebe, Hecate, etc.)	Hesiod, Theogony
6	Victims of Olympian Wrath (Prometheus, Arachne, Niobe, etc.)	Ovid, Metamorphoses
7	Adventurers (Phaeton, Bellerophon, Daedalus)	Hesiod, Theogony; Ovid, Metamorphoses; Pindar, Olympian Odes; Homer, Iliad

8	Love (Io, Daphne, Europa, Narcissus)	Hesiod, Theogony; Ovid, Metamorphoses
9	Metamorphosis (Tereus and Procne, Baucis and Philemon, Orpheus and Eurydice, Pygmalion)	Ovid, Metamorphoses
10	Heroes (Perseus, Jason, Hercules, Theseus)	Horace, Pindar, Sophocles, Euripides, Theocritus, Xenophon, Plautus, Apollodorus, Vergil, Apollonius, Catullus, Plutarch
11	Heroines (women in mythology)	Hesiod, Ovid
12	Trojan War	Homer, Iliad; Sophocles, Euripides, Apollodorus, Vergil, Ovid, Seneca, Lucan
13	Odysseus	Homer, Odyssey
14	Aeneas/Founding of Rome	Vergil, Aeneid
15	Comparative Mythology (connections between Greek and Roman mythology, and classical and other traditions)	
16	The Persistence of Myth (transmission of myth, renaissance and influence of myth)	
Exam Week	Optional Sharing Session (Students will share the modern myths they've written, and discuss with classmates the different functions of mythology to which their myths relate.)	