Instructor information:
Instructor: Matthew Semanoff
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Office hours: MWF 2:00-3:00, Th 1:00-3:00, or by appointment

Course Information:
Time and Days: 3:00-3:50 MWF
Room: Social Science 356

Course description:
Classical Mythology is an exploration of the ancient stories, legends, and folk tales of the gods and heroes of the Greeks and Romans. We will study ancient stories – many of which will be familiar through adaptations in film, music, art, and contemporary retellings – through Greek and Roman literature. Although many of these stories come down to us as told by a particular poet (e.g. Hesiod, the Homeric Hymns, or Ovid) we will try to explore how myths fulfill a variety of functions, how myths can be told and re-told for different purposes, and how myths often provide a symbolic framework through which the world can be better explained and understood. While this class will focus on the myths of the Greeks and the Romans, we will also discuss Near Eastern sources and parallels as well as later versions and adaptations of these Classical Myths.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester, the successful student will be able to:
1. define “myth” and the various categories of it;
2. list and understand the importance of the specific characteristics which define Greek and Roman mythology;
3. identify the gods and goddesses of the Greek pantheon, recognize the “attributes” of each deity, and discuss the roles of the various deities in the ancient world;
4. discuss the classical myths represented in ancient art and literature within their historical and cultural frameworks;
5. identify major frameworks, ancient and modern, by which classical myth has been interpreted.
6. apply various interpretative frameworks to major myths as appropriate;
7. be able to recognize features of classical myths that have influenced western culture in general and continue to influence contemporary art and literature;
8. understand the continued legacy of classical myth in our art, literature, and thought.

Required textbook:

Additional readings will be made available on the Moodle Course Shell. Please bring the appropriate books to lecture, or have access to those posted on Moodle.

Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.
You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don’t receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: https://app.tophat.com/e/958465
Note: our Course Join Code is 958465

Top Hat requires a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Course Calendar:
A full schedule of readings, assignments, is available on the Moodle Course Shell. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

There will be an opportunity for the class to direct the readings and topics covered following the second exam. At least three classes will be devoted to heroic myth, but the heroes studied will depend on class interests. There will also be two weeks devoted to a Classical Reception projects, that will provide an opportunity for students to present on topics of their own choice. (More details to follow)

Course guidelines and policies:

Grading policy
Grades will be calculated according to the following breakdown: 10% Participation; 35% Micro-themes; 15% Classical Reception Assignment; 40% Quizzes and Exams.

- **Participation:** Student participation grades will be based on attendance, periodic quizzes during lectures, and other student engagement activities through the Top Hat platform. An account with Top Hat is mandatory.

- **Micro-themes:** Students will be assigned weekly micro-themes based on assigned topics. The topic will be assigned on Monday of the week during which the micro-theme is due. The micro-themes will be submitted via Moodle by 2:00 pm on Fridays.

- **Classical Reception Group Assignment:** Students will be assigned groups to work on a project that examines how a specific Greek or Roman myth is re-told and re-interpreted after the classical period. These projects may focus on myth in visual arts and performing arts, literature, or film. Groups may also decide to create their own re-telling of a myth and write an artist’s statement explaining the relationship of the ancient myth within today’s culture. More details to follow.

- **Quizzes and Exams:** Students will take two mid-term examinations and a final examination. Additionally, there will be periodic quizzes in class throughout lectures. The grades for in-class quizzes will be split between participation and the quiz grade.

Attendance
I expect you to make every effort to attend class. If you are unable to do so, please contact me; you are responsible for making any necessary arrangements for whatever you missed in class. Late assignments will be penalized by one grade per day, unless prior arrangements have been made. I will not reschedule quizzes or exams unless arrangements have been made prior to the absence.
**Disability modifications**
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Student Conduct Code**
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code](#).
Preliminary Schedule of Topics and Readings. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class lectures and through Moodle announcements (email).

### Week 1
- **8/27/18** Monday: Introduction. What is a myth: Myth, Legend, Folktale, Mythology
- **8/29/18** Wednesday: Cultural Context
  Powell, Chapter 2
- **8/31/18** Friday: Cultural Background Continued
  Powell, Chapter 2

### Week 2
- **9/3/18** Monday: Labor Day -- No Class
  Powell, Chapter 4
- **9/7/18** Friday: Theogony and Near Eastern Succession Myths
  Enuma Elish, Genesis, Kumarbi (Moodle)
  Micro-theme #1

### Week 3
- **9/10/18** Monday: The Origin of Mortals
  Powell, Chapter 5
- **9/12/18** Wednesday: BOR - Billings
- **9/14/18** Friday: Myths of Creation II: Mortals
  selection from Plato's Protagoras; Genesis 2-3, 6-9; the Orphic tradition (Moodle)
  Micro-theme #2

### Week 4
- **9/17/18** Monday: The Study of Myth: Background and Definitions
  Reading from Maurizio "Classical Myths and Contemporary Questions" (Moodle)
- **9/19/18** Wednesday: Apollo
  Powell, Chapter 7
- **9/21/18** Friday: Apollo Continued
  Micro-theme #3

### Week 5
- **9/24/18** Monday: Hermes, Pan, Hephaestus, and Ares
  Powell, Chapter 8
- **9/26/18** Wednesday: Hermes, Pan, Hephaestus, and Ares
  selection from Hyde "Trickster Makes This World: Mischief, Myth, and Art" (Moodle)
- **9/28/18** Friday: Aphrodite, Artemis, Athena
  Powell, Chapter 9
  Micro-theme #4
### Week 6
- **10/1/18** Monday  
  Artemis, Apollo, and Niobe  
  *Ovid's Metamorphoses* 6.209-450 (Moodle)

- **10/3/18** Wednesday  
  Discussion and Review

- **10/5/18** Friday  
  First Exam

### Week 7
- **10/8/18** Monday  
  ***Theories of Myth Interpretation***  
  Powell, Chapter 25

- **10/10/18** Wednesday  
  Myth Interpretation Continued

- **10/12/18** Friday  
  Myths of Fertility: Demeter  
  Powell, Chapter 10  
  Micro-theme #5

### Week 8
- **10/15/18** Monday  
  Demeter Continued  
  Ishtar's Descent to the Underworld (Moodle)

- **10/17/18** Wednesday  
  Myths of Fertility: Dionysus  
  Powell, Chapter 11

- **10/19/18** Friday  
  Dionysus Continued  
  "Liminality, Inversion, Initiation" (Moodle)  
  Micro-theme #6

### Week 9
- **10/22/18** Monday  
  Myths of Death: Underworld  
  Powell, Chapter 12

- **10/24/18** Wednesday  
  Underworld continued  
  Gilgamesh and the Underworld  
  AIA lecture: Alison Futrell

- **10/26/18** Friday  
  Adonis and Orpheus  
  selections from *Metamorphoses* and *Georgics* (Moodle)  
  Micro-theme #7

### Week 10
- **10/29/18** Monday  
  Discussion and Review

- **10/31/18** Wednesday  
  Second Exam

- **11/2/18** Friday  
  Defining the Hero  
  Readings from Maurizio, Chapter 10 (Moodle)

### Week 11
- **11/5/18** Monday  
  Origins of Heroic Myth  
  Powell, Chapter 13

- **11/7/18** Wednesday  
  Transcending Death: Gilgamesh and Odysseus  
  Readings TBA

- **11/9/18** Friday  
  Heroic Myth  
  Readings TBA  
  Micro-theme #8
### Week 12
- **11/12/18** Monday: Veterans' Day — No Class
- **11/14/18** Wednesday: Heroic Myth
  - Readings TBA
  - AIA Lecture: Rafael Chacon
- **11/16/18** Friday: BOR - Missoula
  - Micro-theme #9

### Week 13
- **11/19/18** Monday: Heroic Myth
  - Readings TBA
- **11/21/18** Wednesday: Thanksgiving -- No Class
- **11/23/18** Friday: Thanksgiving -- No Class

### Week 14
- **11/26/18** Monday: Roman Myth: Legends of Aeneas
  - Powell, Chapter 23
- **11/28/18** Wednesday: Aeneas in the Underworld
  - Reading TBA
- **11/30/18** Friday: Origins of Rome Continued: Aeneid and Legends of Early Rome
  - Powell, Chapter 24
  - Micro-theme #10

### Week 15
- **12/3/18** Monday: Myth Projects
- **12/5/18** Wednesday: Myth Projects
- **12/7/18** Friday: Myth Projects