CLA 396: MYTHS OF ROME – SUMMER ONLINE 2018

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Course Description

What is myth? Who are the Roman gods? How did the Romans worship them? What was their relationship with the gods? What are their most famous stories? This course will examine concepts of divinity, ritual and mystery through the eyes of the ancient Romans. We will explore the nature of the universe, humanity’s place in it, the path of the hero, magic, and origin stories which attempt to explain who the Romans were – and in many ways, who we are. All readings are in English translation.

Required Texts


Course Goals

- To define “MYTH” usefully & appropriately.
- To become familiar with the broad outlines of Roman myth and a selection of specific myths.
- To recognize the influence & importance of Roman myth today: literature, art, history, & religion.

This course fulfills the following General Education Requirements:

- General Education Category
  - for students who enrolled before the 2016-2017 Academic Year
    - Fine Arts & Literature
    - Integrated Skills: Read Complex Texts; Write Effectively; Use of Qualitative Data
- General Education Learning Outcomes
  - for students who first enrolled in the 2016-2017 Academic Year or later
    - Humanities Knowledge Area (Outcome A3)
    - Global Responsibilities (Outcome C2)

The Nature of An Online Course

- This course will run exclusively online via the Sakai Learning Management System (LMS). This means that we shall never meet in person. While some people enjoy this type of course, others find it extremely challenging. I have designed this course with specific due dates and deadlines. Please check the Course Schedule for all due dates. Feel free to access and utilize the materials and various components of the Sakai course whenever you like. Sakai is open for business 24/7.

- Please bear in mind that this online course contains the same amount of content and coursework as a normal semester-long course. I have taken no short-cuts in that respect, although I have made some adjustments in the types of assignments and graded materials which I have incorporated into the course. In other words, just
because this is a shorter, online course, do not expect to do less work. In fact, you may feel that you are doing more work. This is the nature of an intensive online summer course. We have approximately 1/3 the time to complete the work.

○ You have chosen to take this online course of your own free will. GE/Core courses are offered in person on a regular basis during the semesters. You specifically chose this particular course. This means that you accept responsibility for the technology which we shall be using. The main internet platform which we shall use this semester is the Learning Management System (LMS) Sakai. Please acquaint yourselves with Sakai and this particular course design. You are also responsible for checking your URI email account on a regular basis throughout the course.

○ N.B. If you are taking this course long distance and are not in the same time zone as URI (Eastern Time), please note that all due dates correspond with Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

• *** Please make sure that you have a reliable internet connection. ***

Grades

URI’s standard grade scale will be used for this course.

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.5-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5-93.49</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>86.5-89.49</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83.5-86.49</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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• Sakai Quizzes (3x per week -- 15 total)  40%
• Forum Posts (2x per week – 10 total)      35%
• Final Paper (due at the end of the course) 25%

Sakai Quizzes (40%)

○ Three (3) multiple choice, true/false quizzes per week based on the readings and PPt lectures on Sakai. 10 questions per quiz, lowest quiz grade dropped. Fifteen (15) quizzes total, the two (2) lowest grades will be dropped. Quizzes due at the end of the week on Friday, at midnight. Two (2) attempts, one (1) hour time limit. During first week of the course all materials are due on Sunday, midnight so that students in the drop/add period may participate in the first week’s assignments without penalty.

Forum Posts (35%)

○ The class will be divided into three (3) groups with 6-7 students in each group. You will receive your group assignment by Monday, May 21 (if you register late, you will receive a group assignment within 24 hours). For each due date, two groups will be active, and one group will be passive. The groups will rotate through the week so that two groups will always be active and participating on the forums, and the third group will be passive. I will note in each forum which groups are responsible for posting.
• For example, this is the Monday schedule:
Group A – active – posts the initial post using the forum prompt which I will provide. Minimum 200 words. Graded on a 10 point scale.

Group B – active – responds to at least two (2) of Group A’s initial posts. Minimum 50 words. Graded on a 10 point scale.

Group C – passive – responsible for reading all the forum posts (this information is available to the instructor in Sakai – so I know if you have read the posts or not). No grade.

N.B. This course is five (5) weeks long with three (3) posts per week, therefore there are a total of fifteen (15) weekly posts. Each group will post first five (5) times, respond five (5) times, and read five (5) times as we rotate through the schedule.

Forums will be open throughout the week, from Monday at 8:00am until Friday at 11:59pm (midnight).

The weekly forum posts will assess the following criteria

- **Knowledge** of the assigned readings, relevant terms and concepts necessary for understanding and interpreting Ancient Roman Myths.
- **Recognition** of concepts and tools relevant for appropriate analysis of Ancient Greek Myths.
- **Discussion** of issues of **Global Identity, Global Language, and Global Impact**, as they relate to Ancient Roman Myth.

No personal make-ups or extensions are allowed for the forum posts.

**Final Paper (25%)**

- 4-6 page paper (1200-1800 words)
- due at the end of the course (see Sakai for details)
- Late submissions will incur penalty.
- A grading rubric is attached to the Paper Assignment on Sakai.
- Topic: Discuss the relationship between gods and men as you see it in the texts which we have read this session. What is myth? How does myth aid men and women in their understanding of the gods? Do myths bring people closer to the gods? Choose one scene from the three mythological texts we have read – Vergil’s *Aeneid*, Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, Apuleius’ *Golden Ass* – and analyze it, given the anthropological tools we have acquired from Scheid’s *An Introduction to Roman Religion*. Examples provided in the Assignment tab.

**Paper Grading Criteria:**

The final paper will be graded upon the following criteria:

- **Spelling & Grammar** – There is no excuse for poor spelling and grammar. All Word programs highlight mistakes and the Turnitin program has an additional filter you can use to check for mistakes. Also try [www.paperrater.com](http://www.paperrater.com) for spelling and grammar assistance. Proofread!
- **Thesis statement** – Provide a clear thesis statement in your introductory paragraph. I should know in the first paragraph exactly what you intend to discuss in your paper. I should not have to search for it.
- **Structure** – Every essay, even the shortest, should have a clear introduction, body and conclusion.
- **Clarity** – Do you make your points clearly? I should not be confused. Eschew obfuscation!
- **Support** – Any claim you make in an essay should be well grounded and include direct references to the text, including quotes.
- **Citations** – Cite everything. Everything. Every essay you turn in should have an attached works cited page. MLA format preferred. Classical texts have a special citation format which is a modification of MLA. An explanation is provided in the paper assignment description.

**Plagiarism Warning!**

I take plagiarism very seriously. If I discover that you have plagiarized, either in your final paper or on the discussion boards, the following policy will take effect:
- **First Offense** – student will receive a grade of ZERO for the assignment and will be notified in writing. The grade will not be eligible to be dropped (if it is a forum post or the final paper), but will be factored into the final grade.
- **Second Offense** – Student will FAIL the course and the appropriate chairs and deans will be notified in writing, along with the student.

If you are uncertain whether or not you have plagiarized, use this handy flowchart from Curtis Newbold, “The Visual Communication Guy” to identify different forms of plagiarism.
- [https://lifehacker.com/this-flowchart-explains-the-severity-of-different-types-1637797055](https://lifehacker.com/this-flowchart-explains-the-severity-of-different-types-1637797055)

**Additional Writing Assignment Expectations**

- Please make your essay is **no longer than the specified length**. If you exceed the word count, I will return the paper to you unread and ungraded and require you to edit it to the appropriate word count.
- Do not make up your own writing assignment. I will not accept an off-topic paper.
- Please turn in your essays on time. There will be a penalty for late papers. This will allow me time to read and grade your essay and return it to you in time.
- Use a consistent writing format. I prefer MLA format. There is a special type of citation format for classical text, which is a modified form of MLA. Details provided in the paper assignment on Sakai.
- Carefully proofread all papers before submitting them.

**Useful websites for paper writing and proofing (also, FREE!)**

- The Owl at Purdue – assistance with general writing and citations
  - [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/)
- Paper Rater – assistance with proofing a paper for proper grammar and structure
- Grammarly – assistance with grammar, has a Chrome extension
  - [https://www.grammarly.com/](https://www.grammarly.com/)