

## C C 303: Introduction to Classical Mythology

**Course Format:** Online, Self-Paced

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**Course Instructor:** Andrea Pittard, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

**Course Credits:** 3

**Prerequisites:** None

### How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at [uex@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu) with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

## Course Overview

Greek and Roman mythologies comprise some of the most durable, well-known, and dynamic stories across all human history and cultures. From the earliest of periods of recorded history to the present day these tales of gods, monsters, heroes, and battles have provided ceaseless inspiration for art, literature, politics, and culture; rarely a year passes that a movie, tv show, or video game not does appear featuring a character or saga from Greek and Roman antiquity. Yet for all their familiarity, these myths continue to elicit debate: how did the ancient Greeks and Romans relate to these stories? How did they shape Greek and Romans' interactions with each other and the world around them? And what of us – do we still live with, in, and through myths? How do we understand our own lives, communities, and cultures through the lens of sacred, oral narratives?

In this introductory-level online class, we will survey the literature, art, and historical contexts of Greek and Roman mythology from antiquity to the present day. Our primary focus will be Homer's great epic, the *Odyssey*, which we will read in Emily Wilson's stunning translation from start to finish. We will also survey a range of themes arising from our readings – introductions, gods, monsters, heroes, and identity – through which we will explore the significance of Greek and Roman mythologies both through ancient literature and art, and modern cultural "receptions" of these stories.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Relate and understand major event, characters, motifs, and contexts of Homer's *Odyssey*.
- Articulate a sophisticated understanding of "myth" as a category of thought and expression.
- Critically analyze modern receptions and reinventions of ancient Greek and Roman mythologies.
- Provide interpretations of myths that account for the rich history of mythological interpretation in the modern period.
- Consider the power relations embedded in myths and their appropriation (e.g. patriarchy, colonialism)

## A Note on Course Content

Greek and Roman myths contain many stories depicting violence, including sexual violence. Many students understandably find these topics disturbing and should be forewarned that we will be discussing violent subject matter throughout the course. In recognition of the potentially traumatic material in this course, and the diverse experiences of its participants, this course carries an opt-out policy, which students may avail themselves of for any assignment and for

any reason. If you feel that an assignment, lecture, reading, or other course material is not suitable for you, simply contact the instructor to state that you are availing yourself of the opt-out policy and would like an alternate assignment. The alternate assignment will be worth exactly the same amount of credit as if you had completed the original assignment. Students who do wish to discuss these episodes should do so in full awareness of the course etiquette policy, displaying respect and sensitivity towards other course participants at all times.

## **Required Materials**

Homer's *Odyssey*, translated by Emily Wilson (Norton, 2018). All other course readings and materials will be made available within Canvas.

## **Required Internet-Enabled Device**

All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Computer Hardware & Software Requirements:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- 2GB memory/RAM
- Modern (last 2-3 years) and updated operating system (MacOS or Windows)
- Chrome (highly recommended), Safari or Firefox
- 5Mbps internet connection speed

## **Course Organization**

The course is organized into modules, which are units of course material that cover specific topics. Most modules contain an overview and study guide, readings, lecture slides, lecture videos, and one or two graded assignments. There is also a final project and a final exam. You must receive a grade on all assignments in a module (with the exception of the Reflection Exercises) before the next module will open.

## **Computer-Graded Assignments**

### **Lecture Quizzes**

Students will take multiple choice, computer-graded quizzes after completing readings and watching lectures for every other module. These quizzes will focus primarily on topics covered in lecture, which will be based on the assigned readings for the module.

## **Instructor-Graded Assignments**

### **Mythical Pathway Quizzes**

Every other module, you can choose one of two topics to explore further through a learning quiz. Each quiz will introduce you to a topic with a mix of readings, video and audio, and other forms of media to learn more, interspersed with comprehension questions to review the material. Your instructor will need to record your score, so when you have finished, please submit the assignment "Mythical Pathways" to let your instructor know you are ready for your grade. If you like, you can do both mythical pathways, and your recorded score will be the higher of the two.

### **Reflection Exercises**

In every other module, you will submit a short reflection assignment on the preceding two modules. This activity is completion-based, which means that you will typically receive full credit for your submission, and can choose to write on any topic you choose.

### **Discussion Responses**

Every other module, you will post a response on the class discussion board addressing a prompt that will cover the material from that module.

### **Final Project**

Your final assignment for this course will be completing a final project. You will be able to choose your own topic, as well as whether you would like to do a written or creative project. You will also be asked to begin planning for your project with a reflection exercise and by submitting a project proposal.

### **Final Exam**

This course will also have a proctored, comprehensive final exam. This exam will cover the lecture and reading material for the course. All questions will be multiple choice or drop-down questions.

**You must pass the final exam to pass the course.**

## **Course Outline**

| Module | Topics | Assessments |
|--------|--------|-------------|
|--------|--------|-------------|

|                                                              |                                                                     |                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                            | Introduction, Part 1<br>Books 1-4 of Homer's Odyssey                | Computer-Graded Assignment 1<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 2     |
| 2                                                            | Introduction, Part 2                                                | Instructor-Graded Assignment 3<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 4   |
| 3                                                            | Gods, Part 1<br>Books 5-8 of Homer's Odyssey                        | Computer-Graded Assignment 5<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 6     |
| 4                                                            | Gods, Part 2                                                        | Instructor-Graded Assignment 7<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 8   |
| Blanton Museum of Art: Experience 1<br>The Battle Casts      |                                                                     | Instructor-Graded Assignment 9                                     |
| 5                                                            | Monsters, Part 1<br>Books 9-12 of Homer's Odyssey                   | Computer-Graded Assignment 10<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 11   |
| 6                                                            | Monsters, Part 2                                                    | Instructor-Graded Assignment 12<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 13 |
| Final Project Reflection                                     |                                                                     | Instructor-Graded Assignment 14                                    |
| 7                                                            | Heroes, Part 1<br>Selections from Books 13-18<br>of Homer's Odyssey | Computer-Graded Assignment 15<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 16   |
| 8                                                            | Heroes, Part 2                                                      | Instructor-Graded Assignment 17<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 18 |
| 9                                                            | Identity, Part 1<br>Books 19-24 of Homer's Odyssey                  | Computer-Graded Assignment 19<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 20   |
| 10                                                           | Identity, Part 2                                                    | Instructor-Graded Assignment 21<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 22 |
| Blanton Museum of Art: Experience 2<br>The Myth of Narcissus |                                                                     | Instructor-Graded Assignment 23                                    |
| 11                                                           | Tragedy, Part 1<br>Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i>                       | Instructor-Graded Assignment 24                                    |

|               |                 |                                                                  |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12            | Tragedy, Part 2 | Computer-Graded Assignment 25<br>Instructor-Graded Assignment 26 |
| Final Project |                 | Instructor-Graded Assignment 27                                  |
| FINAL EXAM    |                 |                                                                  |

## Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Computer-Graded Quizzes   | 15% |
| Mythical Pathways Quizzes | 15% |
| Reflection Exercises      | 10% |
| Discussion Responses      | 15% |
| Final Project             | 25% |
| Final Exam                | 20% |

**You must pass the final exam to pass the course.** You must also earn an overall passing grade:

|           |           |           |           |         |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| A 100-93% | B+ 89-87% | C+ 79-77% | D+ 69-67% | F 59-0% |
| A- 92-90% | B 86-83%  | C 76-73%  | D 66-63%  |         |
|           | B- 82-80% | C- 72-70% | D- 62-60% |         |

## Getting Help

- Technical Support: [gatewaytechsupport@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:gatewaytechsupport@austin.utexas.edu).
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

## University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

## **Scholastic Dishonesty**

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

## **University Extension Contact Information**

[uex@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu)

512-471-2900