

LITERATURE 3334

MYTHOLOGY

Spring 2017 | Thursdays 4:00-6:50 PM | Student Services Bldg. 2302

Dr. Anne Marcoline

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Office Hours:

Tuesday: 2:30–6:00 pm,

Thursday: 1:00–3:30 pm,

& by appointment

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to ancient mythologies from selected traditions, as well as periodic examination of modern interpretations of selected myths. Given the significance of Greco-Roman mythology on the development of Western literature and culture, much of this course focuses on this tradition, though there will be an opportunity for you to explore non-Western creation myths as well. The remainder of the course will examine myths from the Norse tradition and their significance for the development of chivalric tales and legends in Scandinavian and Germanic literature.

You will be asked in this course to demonstrate your curiosity, creativity, and active engagement with the texts by generating reading questions and crafting detailed close readings; to develop and apply critical thinking skills as you support your interpretations of texts; to communicate your understanding and interpretation of the texts in small- and large-group discussions, as well as in proficiently written essays; and, to demonstrate effective writing processes, including organization, argumentation, rhetoric, grammar, and citation.

Required Texts (print copies of these editions)

Gilgamesh, translated by Herbert Mason, Mariner Books, 2003. (ISBN: 9780618275649)

Aeschylus. *Prometheus Bound*, translated by James Scully and C. John Herington, Oxford UP, 1975. (ISBN: 9780195061659)

Homer. *The Odyssey*, translated by Barry B. Powell, Oxford UP, 2015. (ISBN: 9780199925889)

Ovid. *Metamorphoses*, translated by Stanley Lombardo, Hackett, 2010. (ISBN: 9781603843072)

*Additional texts will be available in class and/or on Blackboard.

Assignments

Reading and Participation

As this is a discussion based course, full participation requires active reading. I expect you to complete all reading assignments per the course schedule and to come to class with the **print copy of the required text**. As you read, pay attention to detail. This course will demand your attention to detail and ask you to think about how the details in the texts generate meaning. Further, active reading involves asking questions: **not**, primarily, “What is this poem about?” *but* “How does the poem represent its subject?” Active participation begins with the questions you ask (and note down!) as you read and continues in the classroom, where there will be frequent opportunities for small and large group discussions.

Quizzes

Quizzes will consist of short, factual questions and one discussion question, all based on the reading assigned for that day. You may use your notebook during the quiz but not the text of the assigned reading. There will be six quizzes during the semester. Of these, I will drop the lowest score; alternatively, you are allowed to miss one quiz, with the understanding that all others will count towards your grade. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class period.

Papers

You will submit two 4-5 page analytical papers. Central to each will be a close reading of a passage or a motif, and a discussion of how the passage/motif contributes to, develops, or troubles the meaning of the larger work. These essays will be thesis-driven: they will begin with, and organized using, the answer to the big question: “So what?” I will provide a handout for each paper.

Exams

Exams will test your knowledge of the reading material and your ability to draw connections between texts. The final exam will be comprehensive, though with greater emphasis on post-midterm material.

Grading

Attendance and Participation:	10%
Quizzes (periodic)	15%
Paper 1 (Feb. 16):	20%
Paper 2 (Apr. 20):	20%
Midterm Exam (Mar. 9):	15%
Final Exam (May 4):	20%

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

Course Policies

Attendance

Active engagement in class is a vital component of a successful and rewarding course, and each session will offer frequent opportunities for in-class writing and group discussion. As such, you are expected to have regular and punctual attendance. I understand that unforeseen circumstances may make it impossible for you to attend class and, therefore, will let two absences pass without mention or penalty. If an assignment is due that day, you will still be responsible for turning it in on time; however, for two absences, you do not need to contact me unless we have specifically made a separate appointment to meet. Three or more unexcused absences will lower your overall grade.

Classroom Etiquette

Arrive on time to each class and, if you have to leave, please do so unobtrusively. Cellphones may only be used in cases of emergency; *please turn off your ringer before entering class*. I reserve the right to collect cell phones for the duration of class if I deem them disruptive in any way!

You are welcome to consume food and drinks during class, with the exception of crunchy/noisy food (potato chips, carrots, apples, Cheetos, etc.) or other food that disturbs the classroom-learning environment. As a class, we may decide upon further guidelines or criteria for achieving a productive and enjoyable course.

Academic Honesty

You are responsible for knowing the standards of academic honesty. Please refer to the UHCL catalog and the Student Life Handbook for the University Academic Honesty Policy. Plagiarism, that is, using research without citations, or using a created product without crediting the source, may result in a grade penalty or failure of the course.

In other words:

- You **must** use quotation marks around any words or phrases you take from someone else's text and give a parenthetical reference with the relevant information.
- You **must** give a parenthetical reference whenever you paraphrase someone else's idea.
- You **must** provide complete bibliographic information at the end of your paper for all sources you use.

If you are uncertain whether a writing practice counts as plagiarism, **stop writing** and verify whether you are using quotation marks and parenthetical references correctly, whether your paraphrase is actually in your own words, and, basically, whether you are writing your idea or someone else's and then proceed with your writing while using proper citation practices. However, if you are certain that a writing practice counts as plagiarism and you are about to do it anyway, **stop writing** and contact me for assistance.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Houston System complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, each University within the System strives to provide reasonable

academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact your University's student disability services center.

First, consult the Coordinator of Health Disabilities Services, SSB 1.301, telephone 281-283-2627, and **then** discuss the accommodation with me. This must be done before the first formal assignment is due.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted without penalty *only* in exceptional cases and with prior approval. All other late work will be marked down a letter grade step (A to A-, or B+ to B, for example) for each day it is late, starting with the day it is due and including weekends. *N.B. All work for this class must be turned in by April 27th.

Withdrawals

The last day to drop the class is **April 11th**. Please be advised of the **Six Drop Rule**: Dropping this or any other course between the first day of class and the census date for the semester/session does not affect your 6 drop rule count. Dropping a course between the census date and the last day to drop a class for the semester/session will count as one of your 6 permitted drops. You should take this into consideration before dropping this or any other course. Visit www.uhcl.edu/records for more information on the 6 drop rule and the census date information for the semester.

Incompletes

A grade of "I" is given only in cases of documented emergency after the withdrawal date but before the end of the semester, provided that you have been making satisfactory progress in the course.

Email Communication

You are welcome to email me at **marcoline@uhcl.edu**. Please make sure to set up your **UHCL email account** and to check it regularly (or set up email forwarding), as I may send out messages to the whole class. To avoid the disappearance of your email in the abyss of my spam folder, please ***send me messages only from your UHCL account***. Before writing an email, make sure your question cannot be answered on the syllabus or on the course Blackboard site. Please err on the side of formality in your writing. Of course, grades will not be communicated or discussed by email, and lengthy questions are better discussed in person during office hours. *Expect a turn-around time of 24 hours during the work week; weekend messages will be processed on Mondays.*

Office Hours

Come to office hours as often as you like to discuss questions you may have about the readings, lectures, or assignments!! No appointment is needed for the set hours. **If you cannot meet with me during my office hours, email me or see me in class to set up a meeting.** *To cancel or change an appointment that is not during office hours, please email me at least 24 hours in advance.*

Course Schedule

(**Note:** This schedule is subject to change as we progress through the readings. It is your responsibility to keep updated on course information if you are absent. *Prepare all readings prior to the class for which they are scheduled.*)

Class One: January 19

- Introduction to the Course
- Sappho, “Ode to Aphrodite”
- Homer, from *Iliad* and from *The Odyssey*

Class Two: January 26

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 1-8 (**Quiz 1**)

Class Three: February 2

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 9-16
- Heine, “Die Lorelei” (Blackboard)
- Goethe, “The Fisherman” (Blackboard)
- Plath, “Lorelei” (Blackboard)

Class Four: February 9

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 17-24 (**Quiz 2**)
- Tennyson, “Ulysses”

Class Five: February 16 (Paper 1 due by 4 pm [in class and on Blackboard])

- Hesiod, *Theogony* (Blackboard)
- Creation Myths Research

Class Six: February 23

- Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*, all (**Quiz 3**)

Class Seven: March 2

- Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*
- Goethe, “Prometheus” (Blackboard)
- Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*, Act One (Blackboard)
- Byron, “Prometheus,” “Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte” (Blackboard)
- Shelley, *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*, excerpt (Blackboard)

Class Eight: March 9

- **Midterm Exam**

Spring Break: March 16

Class Nine: March 23

- Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Books 1-5 (**Quiz 4**)

Class Ten: March 30

- Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Books 6-10 (**Quiz 5**)

Class Eleven: April 6

- Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Book 11-15
- Monteverdi, *L'Orfeo*, excerpts (in-class listening)
- Gluck, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, excerpts (in-class listening)
- Rilke, "Orpheus. Eurydice. Hermes" (Blackboard)
- Atwood, "Orpheus (1)" from her *Orpheus and Eurydice Cycle* (Blackboard)

Class Twelve: April 13

- *Gilgamesh* (**Quiz 6**)

Class Thirteen: April 20 (Paper 2 due by 4 pm [in class and on Blackboard])

- Colum, *The Children of Odin*, Parts One and Two (Blackboard)

Class Fourteen: April 27

- Colum, *The Children of Odin*, Parts Three and Four (Blackboard)
- Norse mythology in modern pop culture; Wagner, *The Valkyrie*, *Götterdämmerung* (*Twilight of the Gods*), excerpts (in-class listening)
- Conclusions
- Take-home portion of final exam (handout)
- Evaluations

Class Fifteen: May 4

- **Final Exam**