

**Cleveland State University, Department of Modern Languages, Fall 2008**  
**MLA 230/330/REL 280 - INTRODUCTION TO MYTHOLOGY**  
MWF 9:45-10:50, MC 332

*Instructor:* Dr. K. Wrenhaven  
*Office:* Rhodes Tower 1629  
*Office Hours:* Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 or by appointment  
*Email:* via the course Blackboard page

*Course Description*

This course provides an introduction to Greek mythology and religion and considers their roles in the context of Greek culture and thought. Literary and material sources, such as epic, drama, architecture, sculpture, and vase painting, will be examined in order to establish the nature and function of myth and religion in Greek society. Topics include the gods, heroes, cult, local mythic traditions, religious festivals and the political function of myth and religion.

*Required Texts*

- ◆ Barry B. Powell (2007) *Classical Myth*, 5th edition (henceforth *CM*)
  - ◆ Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* (2005) (Literary Touchstone Edition)
  - ◆ Euripides, *Medea* (2005) (Literary Touchstone Edition)
- \* Additional sources will be on reserve in the library and may also be provided via Blackboard. **Please note: Lectures will include a *significant* amount of material that is not in the textbook, so regular attendance is essential.**

*Assessment*

MLA 230	Attendance and Participation (10%) and 4 tests ( <b>each</b> worth 22.5%)
MLA 330	Attendance and Participation (10%), 4 tests ( <b>each</b> worth 15%) and 2000 word research essay (must use at least four secondary sources) (30%)
REL 280	Attendance and Participation (10%), 3 tests ( <b>each</b> worth 20%) and 1500 word research essay (must use at least two secondary sources) (30%)

*Notes*

The dates of the assignments are non-negotiable. In no case will lecturer notes be provided to students (so please do not email me asking for them). If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to borrow notes from one of your classmates. Except in cases of verified illness (meaning you must provide a medical note) or grave personal hardship (which I define), you will not be permitted to make up assignments. Quizzes will be based upon lecture material *and* the required reading, so regular attendance and keeping up with the reading are essential. Please make sure to contact me *asap* if you are having difficulties during the course of the term. If you are unable to come by during my office hours, we can set up another time to meet. It is essential that you check your

university email and the blackboard page regularly, as this will be my main form of communication with you outside of class. Cell phones must be turned off during class and lateness will not be tolerated, as it is disruptive both to me and to your classmates.

### *Research Papers*

Information sheets will be provided at least four weeks prior to the deadline.

### *Academic Honesty*

Appropriate sanctions will be exercised for any dishonest academic behavior, such as plagiarism, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. This code can be found in the Student Handbook published by the Department of Student Life, available online at: <http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/StudentCodeOfConduct.pdf>, section 3.1.2

Plagiarism includes:

- \* Passing off one's ideas or words as your own
- \* Failing to cite your sources of information (sources must be given due credit in, for example, footnotes/endnotes and bibliography)
- \* Downloading and passing off as your own papers and discussions found on the internet
- \* Copying and pasting internet resources to create a paper
- \* Faking a citation

### *Disability Policy*

'Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at 216.687.2015. The Office is located in UC304. Accommodations must be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.' *MLA Policies and Procedures Notebook*

### ***Course Outline***

\* Aside from the test and assignment dates, this is a tentative guideline and is subject to change.

Week 1 (Aug. 25-29): *Introduction: What is Myth?* - Reading: *CM 1.1-3*

Week 2 (Sept. 1-5): *Creation Myths: Titans, gods, and mortals* - Reading: *CM 2.4-5*  
**NO CLASS Monday, September 1**

Week 3 (Sept. 8-12): *Gods, Oracles, and Magic* - Reading: *CM 2.6-7*

Week 4 (Sept. 15-19): *Goddesses and Festivals* - Reading: *CM 2.8*  
**TEST #1 Friday, Sept. 19**

Week 5 (Sept. 22-26): *Asklepios and Healing Cults*

Week 6 (Sept. 29-Oct. 3): *Death and the Underworld* - Reading: *CM 2.11*

Week 7 (Oct. 6-10): *Herakles and Hero Cult* - Reading: *CM 3.12-14*  
**TEST #2 Friday, Oct. 10**

Week 8 (Oct. 13-17): *Monsters and Mayhem*  
**NO CLASS Monday, October 13**

Week 9 (Oct. 20-24): *Theseus, Athens, and the Akropolis* - Reading: *CM 3.15*

Week 10 (Oct. 27-31): *Crete: Minos, the Minotaur, and Knossos* - Reading: *CM 3.16*

Week 11 (Nov. 3-7): *Oedipus and the Theban Cycle* - Reading: *CM 3.17*  
**TEST #3 Friday, Nov. 7** Soph. *Oedipus Rex*

Week 12 (Nov. 10-14): *Homer's Iliad: Trojan War* -Reading: *CM 3.19-20*

Week 13 - 14 (Nov. 17-28): *Jason, Argonauts and Medea* - Reading: *CM 3.18*  
**NO CLASS Friday, November 28** Eur. *Medea*

Week 15 (Dec. 1-5): *Reception and Interpretation of Myth* - Reading: *CM 3.24*  
**TEST #4 Wednesday, December 3**

Week 16 (Dec. 8-12): *Exam Week*

**REL 280 and MLA 330: RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE Wednesday, December 10th at noon**