UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

GREEK MYTH AND EPIC

Key Information

Module code: ISSU0006
Taught during: Session One: Monday 1 July - Friday 19 July 2019
Module workload: 45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader: Dr Antony Makrinos
Department: Greek and Latin, Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Credit: 15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level: Level 1, first year Undergraduate
Pre-requisites: Standard entry requirements
Assessment: Presentation (30%)
            Essay (70%)

Module Overview
The Greek myths of gods, heroes and heroines have played a crucial role in the history of Western art, literature and music. This module will examine Greek myths as found in Greek literary sources and it will provide students with an introduction to the study of Greek mythology in its literary, social, historical and philosophical context.

- Week One – Introduction to Greek Myth (Definition of myth, Creation Myth: Gods and Men, the Olympians)
- Week Two – The Mortals: heroes and heroines (Greek heroes, Women in myth, Myth from Epic and Tragedy)
- Week Three – Reception of Greek Myths (Novelisations of myth – Modern Greek Poetry, Receptions of Myth: cinema and TV, Greek myth – Epilogue/Conclusions)

Module Aims
The module has two main aims. The first is to familiarize students with the major figures in Greek myth, the stories associated with them and the culture, which produced them. The second aim is to ask why myths occur in the first place – what social or psychological function(s) or needs they fulfil and how they manage to influence our modern lives.

Teaching Methods
Interactive lectures and seminars, open class and small group discussions, excursions, group work and private study. Reading lists will be available online via the UCL library site. Students will be directed towards class materials, further support and discussion forums on Moodle.

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Have been introduced to the methodology and terminology of studies in Classics. They will also have developed their presentation skills through exploring alternatives to traditional presentation techniques;
- Have familiarised themselves with the major figures and the most significant mythological cycles in Greek myth, the stories associated with them and the culture which produced them;
- Understand how classical texts have been appropriated by ancient and modern cultures;
- Have developed their independent research and critical thinking in the field of Classics relating to Greek Myth through different literary theories and in various modes of representation;
- Have engaged with interactive ways in which they can reflect on the ancient world and its reception.

Assessment Methods

- 10-minute presentation (30%)
- 3,000-word essay (70%)

Key Texts
Primary Reading
Finley, M.I., *The World of Odysseus* (Harmondsworth, 1956)

Further reading

**Hesiod:**

**Homer:**

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
William G. Thalmann *Conventions of Form and Thought in Early Greek Epic Poetry.* (Baltimore, 1984)

**Homer - Iliad:**  
Graziosi, B. *Inventing Homer.* (Cambridge, 2002)  

**Homer - Odyssey:**  

**Apollonius of Rhodes:**  
Levin, D.N., *Apollonius' Argonautica re-examined* (Leiden, 1971)

**Aeschylus:**  
Brooks, O., *Cosmos and Tragedy* (Chapel Hill, 1981)  
Herington, J.C., *Aeschylus* (New Haven, 1986)  
Rosenmeyer, T.G., *The Art of Aeschylus* (Berkeley, 1982)  

**Sophocles:**  
Bowra, C.M., *Sophoclean Tragedy* (London, 1944)  
Knox, B.M.W., *Oedipus at Thebes: Sophocles' Tragic Hero and his time* (New Haven, 1957)  
Segal, C., *Oedipus Tyrannus: Tragic Heroism and the Limits of Knowledge* (New York, 2001)  
Webster, T.B.L., *An Introduction to Sophocles* (Oxford, 1936)  

**Euripides:**  
Segal, C., *Dionysiac Poetics and Euripides' Bacchae* (Princeton, 1982)

**Greek Mythology - general:**
Kerenyi, K., Mann, T., *Mythology and Humanism: the Correspondence of Thomas Mann and Karl Kerényi* (Ithaca, 1975)
Smith, W., (ed.), *A Dictionary of Greek and Roman biography and mythology* (London, 1880)
Veyne, P., *Did the Greeks Believe their Myths?* (Chicago, 1988)

**Myth and tragedy:**
Goldhill, S., *Reading Greek Tragedy* (Cambridge, 1986)
Silk, M.S. *Tragedy and the tragic* (Cambridge, 1996)

**Myth and art:**
Agard, W.R., *Classical Myths in Sculpture* (Madison, 1951)

**Myth, religion, and ritual:**
Burkert, W., *Structure and History in Greek Mythology and Ritual* (Berkeley, 1979)

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.

**Myth and Gender:**

**The modern reception of Greek myth:**
Stanford, W.B, *The Ulysses Theme* (Dallas, 1992)

There are innumerable modern renditions of ancient myths: e.g., Joyce, *Ulysses*; Goethe, *Iphigenia in Tauris*; Anouilh, *Antigone, Medée*; Pasolini, *Edipo Re, Medea*; Walcott, *Omeros*; Heaney, *The Cure at Troy: a version of Sophocles’ Philoctetes, Burial at Thebes: Sophocles’ Antigone; Sartre, Les Mouches; Disney’s Hercules*; etc. … The list is endless. If you would like suggestions for further reading, please see me.

**Modern Novelisations:**

**General Reference:**
Boardman, J. The Cambridge Ancient History (Cambridge 1982)

**Other Resources:**
1. *The British Museum*
   An extensive collection of ancient sculptures, pots, etc.
2. *The National Gallery*
   Many paintings with mythological themes, not least Titian’s famous ‘Bacchus and Ariadne’ (1523-4).
3. All of the Greek texts which we are studying are also available on-line at:

   http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/

   Follow the link to “Classics” on the left-hand side, and then scroll down for the text you want – they are in both Greek and English.