

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	Stand alone course not associated with a degree programme
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Myths of Ancient Greece and Rome
Course Code:	LIT 5820
Course Leader:	Rosanna Graziani (Rome)
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	<i>Fall/Spring/Summer</i>
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. This interdisciplinary course explores the classical myths from Greek and Latin literature and considers their historical and cultural contexts. Students will read passages in translation from major Greek and Roman authors, including Homer, Hesiod, Aeschylus, Euripedes, Sophocles, Ovid, and Virgil, and analyse the use of mythology in classical literature and how it has changed through the ages. Visits to museums and archaeological sites illustrate how the Greeks and Romans represented and worshipped their gods and how classical mythology was used in the visual arts of later centuries.

Prerequisites: GEP 4180 Research and Writing II

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to enable students to:

- Develop a critical understanding of Greek and Roman mythology by studying the main myths of gods, goddesses and heroes, their development over time and their interpretations in modern scholarship.
- Develop a detailed knowledge of the ways in which ancient authors used and adapted mythological stories from Greek and Roman literature
- Explore the use of classical mythology in art from ancient Greece and Rome until the present.
- Develop an analytical understanding of ancient Greek and Roman religious practices and of the relationship between religion, mythology and philosophy.
- Critically assess the development of the Greek and Roman civilizations.

Programme Outcomes:

This is a standalone course that is not associated with a degree programme.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the main gods, goddesses and heroes of Greek and Roman mythology
- demonstrate an analytical understanding of Greek and Roman literature and the different ways in which ancient authors used and adapted mythological tales.
- identify the gods, goddesses and heroes of classical mythology in art works (incl. paintings, sculptures, mosaics, vase paintings) from antiquity until the present day.
- demonstrate a detailed knowledge of Greek and Roman religious practices and of the relationship between religion, mythology and philosophy.

Indicative Content:

- Site visits
- Overview of ancient Greek history and religion
- Greek creation myths and Zeus' rise to power; his children; Hera
- Poseidon and the main sea deities; sea monsters
- Other key Greek gods and goddesses
- Homer's *Iliad* and the Trojan Saga
- Homer's *Odyssey* and the journey home
- Aeschylus and the Mycenaean Saga
- Sophocles and the Theban Saga
- Overview of Roman history and mythology.
- The foundation of Rome and Virgil's *Aeneid*

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course is conducted through lectures and discussions of set texts. Site visits to museums and archaeological areas give students hands-on experience in identifying mythological figures in ancient and more recent art works and gain a sense of how the Greeks and Romans worshipped their gods. Students prepare for class through a mixture of independent readings (course text-book) and guided readings (set texts in course reader) using the reading guides provided.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

IndicativeText(s):

Morford, M., Lenardon, Robert J. and Sham, M., 2014. *Classical Mythology*. 10th ed., Oxford University Press.

Journals

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete list

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry