

CLCV 2500

## Classical Mythology

MW 4:05 – 5:25, Tory Building 342

Yukai Li

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Office Location

Office Hours: TBD

(123) 867-5309

### Course description

This course examines classical mythology from multiple perspectives, beginning with a solid foundation in the Homeric poems as a central point of reference. Beyond the contents of the myths, we will look at the roles myth plays in (mostly) Greek culture, including literature, religion, politics, and the construction of identity. We will also think about the way myth works from a comparative perspective, using contemporary theoretical and cultural references.

### Texts and readings

#### Required Texts

Dowden, K. 1992. *The Uses of Classical Mythology* (ISBN: 0-415-06135-0)

Morford, M. P. O., Lenardon, R. J. and Sham, M. 2014. *Classical Mythology*. (From here abbreviated as **ML**, ISBN: 0199997322)

#### Other readings (on library reserve and/or to be distributed as PDFs)

Bremmer, J. N. (ed.). 1987. *Interpretations of Greek mythology*

Calasso, R. 1993. *The marriage of Cadmus and Harmony*

Fortson, B. W. 2009. *Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction*

Lattimore, R. 1951. *The Iliad of Homer*

— 1967. *The Odyssey of Homer*

Lefkowitz, M. R. 1986. *Women in Greek myth*

Mason, Z. 2011. *The lost books of the Odyssey*

Pomeroy, S. 1975. *Goddesses, whores, wives, and slaves*

West, M. L. 1999. *Hesiod: Theogony and Works and Days*

## Grading

Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	40%

## Course Policies

- Assigned readings should be completed before the class for which it was assigned. Students should come to class prepared for discussion.
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

## Course Schedule

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sep 4th No class	6th <b>i. Introductions:</b> Why classical mythology? <i>Readings:</i> none, <b>but start reading ML chs. 19-20 and aim to finish by the 18th</b>
11th Introductions: What is myth? <i>Readings:</i> Dowden ch. 1 "Myth and mythology"	13th Introductions: The external history of myth <i>Readings:</i> Bremmer (ed.) ch. 1 "What is a Greek myth"; Fortson 1-6, 18-37 (optional: rest of chs. 1 and 2); Dowden ch. 4 "Myth and prehistory"
18th <b>ii. The centrality of Homer:</b> The singer and his tradition <i>Readings:</i> <i>Iliad</i> I, II; ML 373-4	20th The centrality of Homer: The Homeric use of myth <i>Readings:</i> <i>Iliad</i> IX
25th The centrality of Homer: The hero at war <i>Readings:</i> <i>Iliad</i> XII. 310-28, XXI, XXII; selection from lyric poetry	27th The centrality of Homer: Before the beginning and after the end <i>Readings:</i> <i>Iliad</i> VII, XII; <i>Odyssey</i> viii - ix. 38
Oct 2nd The centrality of Homer: Societies, civilisations, and their opposites <i>Readings:</i> <i>Odyssey</i> ix, x	4th The centrality of Homer: The return of the hero and the beginning of history <i>Readings:</i> <i>Odyssey</i> i, xix
9th Holiday - no class	11th <b>iii. Creating and ordering the world:</b> Beginnings according to Hesiod <i>Readings:</i> Hesiod <i>Theogony</i> ; ML chs. 3 and 4; Dowden ch. 2 "How myths work"

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
16th Creating and ordering the world: Division of the human world <i>Readings:</i> Hesiod <i>Works and Days</i> ; selection from Semonides; Dowden ch. 5 “Myth and identity” and ch. 8 “The world of myth”	18th Creating and ordering the world: The god’s arrival <i>Readings:</i> Homeric hymns to Apollo and Demeter; ML chs. 11 and 14; Dowden ch. 6 “Arrival at the cult-site”
23rd <b>Fall break</b>	25th <b>Fall break</b>
30th <b>Midterm Exam</b>	Nov 1st <b>iv. Women in myth:</b> <i>Readings:</i> selections from Euripides <i>Medea</i> ; ML ch. 24; Pomeroy ch. 1 “Goddesses and gods”; Lefkowitz ch. 13 “Misogyny”
6th Women in myth: Helen after Troy <i>Readings:</i> selections from Homer, Sappho, Stesichorus, Herodotus, Euripides <i>Helen</i>	8th <b>v. Myth and tragedy:</b> Tragedy as a myth <i>Readings:</i> Aristotle <i>Poetics</i>
13th Myth and tragedy: Tragedy between past and present <i>Readings:</i> selections from Aeschylus <i>Oresteia</i> ; ML ch. 18	15th Myth and tragedy: Oedipus and the Freudian myth <i>Readings:</i> Sophocles <i>Oedipus Tyrannus</i> ; ML ch. 17
20th <b>vi. Appropriations and parodies:</b> Plato and philosophical responses to myth <i>Readings:</i> selections from Plato <i>Phaedrus</i> , <i>Republic</i> ; Dowden ch. 3 “Greeks on myth”	22nd Appropriations and parodies: Cloud comedies <i>Readings:</i> Gorgias <i>Encomium of Helen</i> ; Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i>
27th <b>vii. Myth and Hellenistic literature:</b> Big books and little poems <i>Readings:</i> selections from Callimachus and Apollonius of Rhodes; ML ch. 24	29th Myth and Hellenistic literature: The pastoral world <i>Readings:</i> selections from Theocritus; Dowden ch. 8 “World of myth”
Dec 4th <b>viii. Myth under Rome:</b> Latecomers to Greek mythology <i>Readings:</i> Lucian <i>Judgment of the Goddesses</i> ; selections from Ovid <i>Heroides</i> and Petronius <i>Satyricon</i>	6th Myth under Rome: The republic and the empire; ML ch. 26 <i>Readings:</i> selections from Livy, Vergil
<b>FRIDAY, DEC. 8TH</b> <b>ix. Why mythology?</b> <i>Readings:</i> selections from Calasso and Mason	



## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

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Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## Grading System at Carleton University

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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System Chart](#)

## Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## Deferred Term Work

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In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Exams

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Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office **no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination;** and
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and in cases of illness by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

**NEW FALL 2017:** WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

**Dates can be found here:** <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)