From Human to Divine: The Archetypes of the Greek Pantheon – A Closer Look

Lecturer: Susan Sandul

Email: suzysandul@rogers.com

Session:
Dates: November 1 - December 6, 2019
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Room 17, Dominion-Chalmers Centre (355 Cooper Street)

In this six-week lecture series, we will closely examine the archetypes of the major gods and goddesses of the Greek pantheon, drawing from the myths, images and poetry of Classical art, history and literature. The stories, symbolism and cult practices associated with each week’s selection of deities will be explored as we view images of the temples and art they inspired. Finally, we will discuss the ways in which these archetypes relate to us today, and what we can learn about ourselves from them.

Schedule of topics:

Week 1
Introduction and overview of topic; definitions of myths, symbols and archetypes
Greek and Roman history; context of Greek mythology (for applicable texts, see below)

Week 2
Creation myth of the Olympian pantheon
Zeus and Hera – King and Queen of the gods
Poseidon – God of the sea

Week 3
Hades – King of the Underworld
Demeter – Mother-goddess of the grain and the Eleusinian Mysteries
Persephone – Kore, Queen of the Underworld

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Week 4

Hestia – Goddess of the hearth
Athena – Goddess of war, crafts and wisdom
Artemis – Goddess of the moon and the hunt

Week 5

Apollo – God of the sun, music and prophecy
Hermes – Messenger god
Hephaestus – God of the forge

Week 6

Ares – God of war
Aphrodite – Goddess of love and beauty
Dionysus – God of wine and ecstasy

Conclusion; short discussion: With which of the gods and goddesses do you most identify?

Recommended readings for continued learning:


Other interesting resources:

Greek Mythology – Literary Sources:

*Homer – Iliad and Odyssey (trans. Richmond Lattimore)
*Hesiod – Theogony, Works and Days
*Homeric Hymns
*Tragedians – Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides
Pindar – Odes
Historians – Herodotus, Thucydides
Apollonius of Rhodes – Argonautica
*Virgil – Aeneid
*Ovid – Metamorphoses
Apollodorus – Bibliotecha
Greek Mythology – Further Reading:

Walter Burkert – *Greek Religion*
Thomas Bullfinch – *Bullfinch’s Greek and Roman Mythology: The Age of Fable*
Richard Buxton – *The Complete World of Greek Mythology*
Michael Grant – *Myths of the Greeks and Romans*
Robert Graves – *The Greek Myths* (not recommended by scholars)
W.K.C. Guthrie – *The Greeks and Their Gods*
Edith Hamilton – *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*
Karl Kerenyi – *Gods of the Greeks*
G.S. Kirk – *The Nature of Greek Myths*
Alexander Murray – *Who’s Who in Greek Mythology*
*Oxford Dictionary of Classical Myth and Religion*