

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

Lecturer: Susan Sandul

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Email: [suzysandul@rogers.com](mailto: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:**

*Classical Mythology*, Mark P. O. Morford and Robert J. Lenardon (7<sup>th</sup> ed., Oxford University Press, 2003)

*Goddesses in Everywoman*, Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D. (Twentieth-Anniversary Edition, Harper, 2004)

*Gods in Everyman*, Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D. (Harper, 1989)

#### **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 – *Bibliotheca*

**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 Kerényi – *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*