

**UNIVERSITY of GUELPH**  
**SCHOOL of LANGUAGES and LITERATURES**  
**SUMMER 2021**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**<sup>1</sup>

**CLAS\*2000 Classical Mythology**  
LEC MWF<sup>2</sup>  
02:30PM–3:20PM  
via Zoom

Instructor: Dr John Walsh  
Office: N/A  
Extension: N/A  
e-mail: [waljo@uoguelph.ca](mailto:waljo@uoguelph.ca)<sup>3</sup>  
**Office Hours:** TBA (via Zoom)

---

**Objective:**

The course will study the Greek myths as traditional tales which, in addition to their narrative interest, convey attitudes of the early Greeks to their natural environment, the institutions of their society and dominant forms of thought (of any of which no prior knowledge is expected). Ancient and modern interpretations of these myths will be studied. The myth-making of Plato will be shown to elucidate some of the functions of the earlier myths and Lévi-Strauss' comprehensive theory of myth will illuminate further functions. Myths which are basic to later works of poetic and plastic art will be given special emphasis.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, an assiduous student will be able to:

1. connect specific myths to the cultures that produced them;
2. identify the histories and functions of the gods and heroes of classical myth;
3. identify the literary and the visual iconography of major gods, heroes, and legends of classical myth;
4. discuss the ways in which morality deconstructs the idea of absolute interpretation or objective reading;
5. identify the ways in which collection, transcription, and scholarship constantly reinterpret an oral tradition for new generations;
6. examine the ways in which variant versions of a story focus attention on the invariant elements;
7. explore a variety of scholarly approaches to mythology in discussion and writing;
8. develop an appreciation for the range and diversity of mythology and folklore;
9. identify recurring mythological themes and motifs, and
10. recognise the role of myth in the arts.

---

<sup>1</sup>Please note: this is a preliminary web course description only. The School of Languages and Literatures reserves the right to change, without notice, any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

<sup>2</sup>This course will deliver the material via a hybrid model (i.e. a mix of synchronous lectures and asynchronous activities). All lecture material will be recorded and posted to Courselink for students to reference as needed until classes conclude.

<sup>3</sup>To facilitate efficient communication, please include on **ALL** email correspondence the course code and number (i.e. CLAS\*2000). Emails that do not identify the course may not be answered.

**Learning Resources Required:**

All readings (including ancient sources in translation) will be provided free as open-access electronic sources. Students will be able to purchase the texts if they prefer through on-line vendors. Full reading list to be provided. Students will be required to purchase an app in order to engage fully with the course.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Quizzes	weekly (Weeks 1-12)	12.5%
Weekly Engagement Activities	weekly (Weeks 1-12)	12.5%
Preliminary Research Assignment	Friday, Week 4	10%
Preliminary Bibliography	Friday, Week 6	5%
Analysis of Contemporary Myth (video)	Friday, Week 8	10%
Research Paper (Draft)	Friday, Week 11	10%
Research Paper (Final)	Friday, Week 12	35%
Research Paper Abstract (video)	Friday, Week 12	5%
Total		100%

**Office Hours:**

In light of the special circumstances of Summer'21, there will be **no in-person Office Hours**. I will reserve times for us to consult on matters pertaining to this course (see above) through remote means. Our TA will also be available to discuss the course content and evaluations (contact information TBA).

**Late Work:**

Except in the case of situations addressed in the University Regulations (see Undergraduate Calendar), no work will be accepted or graded after the Due Date. All parts of this course (including late policies) are subject to a student's accommodation needs as registered by SAS.