

## CL CV 1550-001: Classical Mythology: Course Description

Fall 2020

John Wynne · john.wynne@utah.edu

### Description

Hercules! The Minotaur! Venus and Mars! The Trojan horse, the golden age, Pandora's box.... This lecture class leads students through highlights from the ancient tales, and how those stories have been told and interpreted so fruitfully for so long and around the world. Prof. Wynne's version will give some extra emphasis to how ancient philosophers, scientists, and even Christian theologians, used the myths to help make sense of life.

(In Fall 2020, due to COVID-19, this will be an 'asynchronous' online class. 'Asynchronous' means that rather than tuning in to live events like Zoom lectures, you will be able to do the work through Canvas according to your own schedule. For this class, a new module will be posted each week, featuring readings, pre-recorded videos on the readings, scope for discussion, a study guide, and a quiz. There will be weekly deadlines for each of your tasks, but you will be able to complete them on your own schedule before the deadline.)

### Books

The books below are available in the Campus Store and from most booksellers.

**Mark Morford, Robert J. Lenardon, & Michael Sham, *Classical Mythology* (11th edition), Oxford University Press, 2019. ISBN: 9780190851644.**

This is our big textbook for the semester. You *do* need the 11th edition, in order to have the right material and page numbers. You do *not* need a new copy. The publisher offers various 'extras' with the purchase of a new copy, but these are not required for the class.

We will also read selections from some ancient mythological poems, translated into modern English. These will be Hesiod's *Theogony* and *Works and Days*, and Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. You will need good translations of these texts to read, but not necessarily the three I have ordered:

**M. L. West (translator), *Hesiod: Theogony and Works and Days*, Oxford World's Classics, reissued 2008, ISBN: 9780199538317.**

**Richmond Lattimore (translator), *The Iliad of Homer*, University of Chicago Press, 2011, ISBN: 9780226470498.**

**Emily Wilson (translator), *Homer: The Odyssey*, Norton, 2018. ISBN: 9780393356250.**

**Draft schedule (subject to revision)**

Reading for the week in **bold**. **MLS** refers to Morford, Lenardon, & Sham (see above):

Available from Monday:	Module:
Aug 24	1: Welcome. What is Classical Mythology? <b>MLS ch. 2.</b> , Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 1–34*
Aug 31	2: Creation of the world. <b>MLS ch. 3.</b> Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> 35–506†
Sep 7	3: Creation of people. <b>MLS ch. 4,</b> Hesiod, <i>Works &amp; Days</i> 1–292‡
Sep 14	4: The Olympian gods and Greek religion. <b>MLS chs. 5 &amp; 6</b>
Sep 21	5: Aphrodite and Artemis. <b>MLS chs. 9 &amp; 10</b>
Sep 28	6: Apollo and Dionysus. <b>MLS chs. 11 &amp; 13</b>
Oct 5	7: Religion at Athens: Athena, Demeter, and the Mysteries. <b>MLS chs. 7 &amp; 14</b>
Oct 12	≤ 1 hr midterm exam available to take between Oct 4th and 10th.
Oct 19	8: The afterlife. <b>MLS ch. 15</b>
Oct 26	9: The Theban cycle. <b>MLS ch. 17</b>
Nov 2	10: The <i>Iliad</i> . <b>MLS ch. 19,</b> Homer, <i>Iliad</i> selections.
Nov 9	11: Perseus and Heracles. <b>MLS ch. 21</b>
Nov 16	12: Theseus, Jason, and the Argonauts. <b>MLS ch. 23</b>
Nov 23	12.5: Rome. <b>MLS ch. 26</b>
Nov 30	13: The <i>Odyssey</i> . <b>MLS ch. 20,</b> Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> selections.
Dec 7	Exam week: ≤ 2 hr final exam available to take between Dec 7th and 11th.

\* In West’s translation, *Theogony* line 34 ends “always to sing of themselves.”

† In West’s translation, *Theogony* line 506 ends “lord of mortals and immortals.”

‡ In West’s translation, *Works & Days* line 292 ends “for all the difficulty.”