This course is an online, asynchronous course, please access material and assignments via Canvas starting January 20, 2021. There will be an optional, drop-in session via Zoom each Thursday from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Taught by Prof. Alexis M. Christensen. Contact via email alexis.christensen@utah.edu

This course is designed to introduce you to some of the major myths from the Graeco-Roman tradition and the theories that have been developed to study them. Our focus will be on the relationship between gods and men, in particular how and why was man created? How does man view and propitiate his gods? How and why do the gods reward and punish man?

Throughout the course we will discuss various theoretical approaches to myth and determine which of them, if any, provide a means of understanding the larger questions of mythology such as: What are myths? Why do people create them? Are myths still a force in our lives today? How do we adopt and adapt Graeco-Roman myths? This will require you to think critically, which involves the ability to analyze texts and other kinds of aesthetic objects with an eye to their multi-level complexity.

Course time will be devoted to lecture and discussion of assigned materials.

Learning Outcomes: Through the successful completion of this course you should acquired:
• a familiarity with the Greco-Roman gods and heroes, and the ability to recognize them and major narrative patterns in art and literature;
• an understanding of theoretical approaches to mythology and the ability to apply them to new material;
• a familiarity with primary myth sources (literature, art, and architecture) and the ability to analyze them;
• the ability to analyze modern interpretations and retellings of myths in relation to their ancient and modern contexts; and
• the ability to synthesize and present mythological narrative and theory.

Required Textbook: *Classical Mythology*, 11th edition by M.P.O. Morford, R.J. Lenardon, & M. Sham, Oxford University Press, 2019. You can acquire this text through the University Book Store or at any preferred bookseller. There is an ebook edition if you prefer that format. Please note the edition (11th). Additional materials will be available on Canvas.