

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

 x Transfer course x A.A. degree applicable course

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: ENG 240 - Introduction to Classical
Mythology

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:

Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

PREREQUISITE: Eligibility for English 100

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE:

A study of the meaning and function of myth in the classical literature of Ancient Greece and Rome. Read translations of representative epic, poetic, and dramatic literature of Hesiod, Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Virgil, and Ovid. An examination of the cultures which helped shape the literature and values with us today.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will:

1. Explain the meaning of myth as stories embodying universal concerns about human nature and the nature of the world.
2. Analyze specific works of Greek and Latin literature that present myth in epic, dramatic or poetic form.
3. Trace the continuing influence of mythic figures and stories on Western art and thought from the time of Homer to the contemporary era.
4. Compare and contrast individual authors' interpretations of similar myths.
5. Articulate their understanding of this cultural heritage.

- c. Comparison and contrast of the Agamemnon to Homer's Odyssey: the characters of each, the treatment of common major themes such as the justice of Zeus and the reasons for human suffering
3. Sophocles and Greek myth
 - a. Oedipus Rex: the question of the individual's responsibility for his action, the question of free will vs. destiny, comparison of Oedipus and Odysseus as seekers of knowledge
 - b. Antigone: the competing demands of state and religion, the nature of tyranny, the clash of male against female
4. Euripides and Greek myth
 - a. The Suppliants: the right use of war to insure justice, the nature of the enlightened ruler
 - b. Bacchae: youth against age, passion as opposed to conservatism, the message of a new god and its acceptance
5. Comparison and contrast of differing attitudes toward man and god as exemplified in the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides

III. Analysis of Roman myth in representative works of literature

A. Virgil's use of myth in Aeneid

1. Introduction: Virgil's relation to Augustus, Virgil's purpose in composing Aeneid: to promote the traditional cultural values of a Roman citizen.
2. Virgil's borrowing from Homer
3. Virgil's use of ancient legend about the founding of Rome: his invention in the composition of Aeneid
4. The hero of Aeneid: Aeneas as the exemplary Roman, the meaning of pietas and the quest of Aeneas
5. Major themes in Aeneid: the importance of obedience to the gods; the necessity to place the duties of religion and citizenship above personal desires; the retribution for sins against the gods, the state, or the family
6. Comparison of the Aeneid's hero and its major themes with those of the Odyssey

B. Analysis of Ovid's use of myth in Metamorphoses

1. Comparison and contrast of Ovid's cosmogony with that of Hesiod, especially of the stages of history
2. Ovid's humorous and light treatment of myth compared to the serious, reverential treatment by Virgil and the other authors
3. Ovid's enduring influence as a source for later poets and artists

IV. The continuing influence of classical myth on Western art and thought up to the present age

- #### A. Recurrence of major figures in art and philosophy: Odysseus, Orestes, Oedipus, Medea, Cassandra, Prometheus, etc., in the works of specific authors

- B. Recurring treatment of major mythic cycles: the Trojan War, the heroes' quests, the Theban cycle, the House of Atreus as interpreted by philosophers, psychologists, artists and poets

REQUIRED READING:

Hesiod. Theogony and Works and Days. Trans. Richmond Lattimore. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994.

Homer. The Odyssey of Homer. Trans. Richmond Lattimore. New York: Harper and Row, 1967 or The Iliad of Homer. Trans. Richmond Lattimore. New York: Harper and Row, 1987.

Lind, L. R. Ten Greek Plays in Contemporary Translations. St. Charles, Illinois: Houghton Mifflin, 1979.

Virgil. The Aeneid of Virgil. Trans. C. D. Lewis. New York: Doubleday, 1978.

Ovid. Metamorphoses. Trans. Rolphe Humphries. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1978.

Different editions or translations may be used at instructor's discretion.

SUGGESTED READING:

Zimmerman, J. E. Dictionary of Classical Mythology. Bantam Books, 1979.

REQUIRED WRITING:

Three or four analytical or interpretive essays (1500 words each) based on the student's understanding of the assigned reading and the class lectures. Although tests might include some objective questions, examinations mainly should elicit discussion that is written in essay form.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

Approximately 1000 pages of required reading determined, of course, by length and number of texts assigned. At least three or four interpretive essays (600-800 words). Additional project or writing assignment assigned according to instructor's discretion. Study and review of texts and lecture notes to prepare for midterm and final examinations.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
 laboratory
 lecture-laboratory combination
 directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes _____ No X

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
 mediated instruction
 computer assisted instruction

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS: (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Grading policy complies with college standards described in the Palomar College Catalog and the Faculty Manual. Grades on tests and papers are A, B, C, D, and F.

Students must complete all assigned work in acceptable form in order to earn a passing grade. Tests and papers are assigned to be completed at regular intervals during the semester.

Written work must be in expository form and indicate that the student has mastered the course material, has analyzed the assigned material, and has given evidence of his ability to think critically about it.

Tests	40%
Papers	40%
Final Exam	20%

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes _____ No X Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1 .

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

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