

**CLA 2323 : GREEK MYTHOLOGY**  
1st midterm: February 3rd, 2011  
Total marks: 100 (20% of final grade)

**A. Multiple Choice : 60 points, ( 12%)**

1. Which of the following is among the words used as a widely accepted definition of myth? a. Legendary b. traditional c. etiological d. literary
2. What does the Greek term *aition/etion* mean?  
a. cause or reason b. folktale c. true myth d. ritual practice
3. In Homer, the word *mythos* refers to:  
a. a true story b. a strong statement c. a ritual d. a fictional character
4. Which of the following is a correct ordering of the major periods of Greek history?  
a. Hellenistic, Archaic, Iron/Dark, Classical, Bronze  
b. Bronze, Iron/Dark, Archaic, Hellenistic, Classical,  
c. Bronze, Iron/Dark, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic  
d. Iron/Dark, Bronze, Classical, Hellenistic, Archaic,
5. The name that Homer uses to describe all the Greeks that went to fight at Troy:  
a. Graikoi b. Achaians c. Hellenes d. Mycenians e. Myrmidons
6. Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides are: a. Epic poets of the Bronze Age  
b. Dramatic poets of the Hellenistic Period c. Lyric poets of the Archaic Period  
d. Dramatic poets of the Classical period
7. The major Bronze Age Civilization which developed on the Mainland of Greece is known as: a. Mycenaean b. Minoan c. Athenian d. Dorian e. Archaic
8. Who questioned the educational value of Hesiod's and Homer's stories?  
a. Plato b. Aristotle c. Pindar d. Aristophanes e. Ovid
9. The main theme of the *Iliad* is  
a. the beginning of the Trojan war b. The story of Troy c. the siege of Troy  
d. the anger of Achilles e. Achilles' victory over the Trojans
10. The *Iliad* ends with  
a. the funeral of Hector b. the death of Achilles c. the destruction of Troy d. the return of Agamemnon to his wife

11. The epic poems of Homer and Hesiod start with  
a. an invocation to Mother Earth for prosperity b. an invocation to the Fate for long life c. an invocation to Zeus for protection d. an invocation to the Muse for inspiration
12. According to the popular view, ancient Greeks imagined the earth as a flat disc encircled by: a. Chaos b. Ouranos c. Okeanos d. Sea e. stars
13. Cosmogony means a. the creation of the universe b. The study of the universe c. A story involving tremendous destruction and vast consequences for the humankind d. a multi- racial place
14. He was the Titan who overthrew his father Ouranos  
a. Kronos b. Typhoeus c. Okeanos d. Iapetos
15. One is NOT correct about the Furies  
a. Their other name is Erinyes b. they were born as the result of castration c. they determine the time of death d. their brothers are the Giants
16. Which of the following was NOT produced by Gaea?  
a. Cyclopes b. Eros c. Hecatoncheires d. Typhoeus
17. According to the standard accounts, which two Titans were the parents of the gods known as the Olympians?  
a. Okeanos and Tethys b. Hyperion and Theia c. Gaea and Ouranos d. Kronos and Rhea
18. The infant Zeus was rescued and raised secretly in a cave in ...  
a. Crete b. Mount Olympos c. Athens d. Olympia e. Aitna
19. They forged Zeus' weapons (lightning bolts and thunder):  
a. Cyclopes b. Hecatoncheires c. Giants d. Titans e. Gorgons
20. The 6,000 children of Okeanos and Tethys were:  
a. trees b. mountains c. bodies of water d. winds
21. Selene was the goddess of the... :  
a. night b. dawn c. moon d. stars e. morning star
22. One of the things the myth of Eos and Tithonos tries to explain is why...  
a. Dawn has a pink color b. the Aethiopes have dark color c. the cicadas buzz continuously d. grasshoppers jump
23. Helios is the god of: a. upper air b. sun c. underworld d. fire e. universe

24. Much needed help was given to Zeus during the Titanomachy by ...  
a. Themis and Thetis b. the Hecatoncheires and the Cyclopes c. Mnemosene and the Muses d. The Curetes and the Nymphs

25. Kronos has NOT been connected to the one of these  
a. The horn of Plenty b. Father Time c. The Grim Reaper d. agriculture

26. The Greek term *hieros gamos* means:  
a. the highest order b. a sacred place c. a divine appearance d. holy union

27. Of the following, only this deity is NOT one of the first six Olympians  
a. Hera b. Demeter c. Ares d. Zeus e. Hestia

28. Chthonic means:  
a. of the sky b. of the upper air c. of the earth d. of the fire

29. In *Theogony*, Tartaros is also described as:  
a. a jail in the depths of Earth b. son of Earth c. the underworld river d. all these

30. "Zeus gave her honor and unequalled gifts: For she was made the great oath of the gods" Hesiod is talking about: a. Fate b. Victory c. Earth d. Metis e. Styx

31. The Roman name for Kronos:  
a. Jupiter b. Vulcan c. Mars d. Saturn e. Juno

32. Etymologically the name Zeus means  
a. bright b. the thunderer c. the lightning bringer d. the storm cloud

33. Metamorphosis means: a. history of gods b. change of shape c. sacrificial act  
d. a battle between gods e. creation

34. The usual "food" of gods:  
a. amber b. burned bones c. dew d. honey e. none of these

35. Ichor was: a. the ointment that gave immortality b. the wine of the gods c. the divine blood  
d. the chthonic residence of the gods e. an offering to the gods

36. The aegis was : a. Hades' cap of invisibility b. a goat skin worn by Zeus and Athena  
c. the horn of plenty d. Zeus' symbol as a lord of the universe e. none of these

37. One of the following did NOT happen as a result of the swallowing of Metis  
a. Zeus gained wisdom b. gave birth to Athena c. avoided the birth of a powerful son  
d. defeated Typhoeus

38. Atlas: a. was punished and was sent to Tartaros b. was the brother of Zeus  
 c. **was supporting the sky on his shoulders** d. was an old sea god e. none of these
39. What action triggered the final punishment of Prometheus?  
 a. The sacrifice of Zeus' sacred ox b. the unequal split of the meat c. **the theft of fire**  
 d. teaching skills of survival to humans
40. The secret that Prometheus is not revealing to Zeus in *Prometheus Bound* : a. Io's future  
 b. Hera's lover c. that he will be freed by Hercules d. **the name of the goddess that will bear a mighty son that will overthrow him**  
 e. that the eagle will die
41. One of the following divinities did **NOT** participate in the creation of Pandora according to Hesiod: a. **Ares** b. Aphrodite c. Hermes d. Hephaestos
42. According to Ovid, Pyrrha and Deucalion asked Mother Earth: *By what art our race now lost, may be restored?* The goddess gave her answer: *Leave my temple, veil your heads, loosen your robes and cast behind you your great mother's bones.* What is the hidden meaning of her answer? They have to: a. ... throw seeds found in the ground  
 b. ... find the bones of those killed in the flood c.... to throw the bones of their grandmother Themis d... **throw rocks** e... cover themselves and mate on the ground
43. According to Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Narcissus was punished by goddess Nemesis because a. He did not feel compassion for Echo b. **of his arrogant behaviour towards those who loved him** c. not offering the sacred daffodil to the goddess d. she was jealous of his great beauty e. refusing to sleep with her
44. Hera is especially associated with: a. **marriage** b. the moon c. justice d. crafts
45. Zeus, in order to seduce Hera, transformed himself into :  
 a. **a cuckoo bird** b. golden rain c. a peacock d. a cloud

IMAGES
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46. This image depicts  
 a. Mother Earth pleading with Father Sky not to eat her newborn baby  
 b. Gaia presenting her child to Ouranos  
 c. **Rhea offering a bundle to her husband**  
 d. Rhea presenting a rock to Ouranos
47. This image depicts a scene from the..  
 a. Titanomachy on the temple of Zeus in Olympia  
 b. **Gigantomachy on the altar at Pergamus**  
 c. the battle against the monster Typhoeus on a temple in Sicily  
 d. Athena's birth on Parthenon

48. Who are the warrior figures in this image?

- a. Might and Violence showing their support to Zeus
- b. The Giants about to attack Zeus
- c. The Curetes protecting Zeus from Kronos
- d. The divine smiths who forged Zeus' weapons

49. In this image one is **NOT** correct according to the myth

- a. They are both the sons of Iapetus
- b. They are both tormented by animals as part of their punishment
- c. Their torture is taking place at the extremities of the world
- d. They were both punished by Zeus

50. In this image the goddess on the left is

- a. Aphrodite
- b. Grace
- c. Athena
- d. Fate

51. One of the following statements is **NOT** relevant to the myth showing in this image:

- a. The figure with the sword is Hermes
- b. Because of this incident the peacock enriched its plumage
- c. Because of this incident the cow will be bothered by a gadfly
- d. Because of this incident a new cluster of stars will be added to the sky

FROM THE EPICS
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52. *This is a disastrous manner when you set me in conflict with Hera and she troubles me with recriminations. Since even as things are, forever among the immortals she is at me and speaks of how I help the Trojans in battle.* This is spoken by...

- a. Hera's son, Ares, to Aphrodite when the latter asked him to save her son.
- b. Zeus to Thetis when the latter asked him to honour her son
- c. Zeus to Apollo when he asked Zeus to protect the body of Hector
- d. Apollo to Zeus when the latter asked him to encourage the Trojans to fight harder

53. *... the son of Kronos caught his wife in his arms. There underneath them the divine earth broke into young fresh grass.... There they lay down together and drew about them a golden wonderful cloud and from it the glimmering dew descended*

This part of the myth clearly shows an example of : a. *hieros gamos* b. looking taboo  
c. *autochthony* d. *cornucopia* e. *metamorphosis*

54. *There are two urns that stand on the door-sill of Zeus... an urn of evils, an urn of blessings.* These words in the *Iliad* were spoken by

- a. Hera on the occasion of Sarpedon's destiny
- b. Apollo before he punished the Achaeans
- c. Achilles when he speaks to Priam
- d. Hector speaking to Achilles
- e. Prometheus speaking to the chorus

MAP QUESTIONS

You want to visit Greece and see some of the places where mythic or factual events took place: These are the places you have in mind, but at the end you will only visit 5 of those: Crete, Olympia, Athens, Argos, Sparta, Ithaca, Mt. Olympus, Delphi, Dodona, Mycenae

That's your itinerary: You first fly to ATHENS and from there you take a trip to visit AGAMEMNON'S PALACE as well as the area where the ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES took place. You return to Athens and you take another trip to visit the place where the MINOAN CIVILIZATION WAS DEVELOPED. After returning back to Athens, you decide that the final destination of your trip will be the most adventurous: the place where the OLYMPIANS HAD THEIR PALACES.

55. ATHENS on the map is number:

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| a) 1. | b) 2. | c) 3. | d) 4. | e) 5. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

56. AGAMEMNON'S PALACE on the map is number:

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| a) 1. | b) 2. | c) 3. | d) 4. | e) 5. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

57. THE AREA OF THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES on the map is number:

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| a) 1. | b) 2. | c) 3. | d) 4. | e) 5. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

58. The place where the MINOAN CIVILIZATION was developed on the map is number:

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| a) 1. | b) 2. | c) 3. | d) 4. | e) 5. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

59. THE PLACE WHERE THE OLYMPIANS HAD THEIR PALACES on the map is number:

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| a) 1. | b) 2. | c) 3. | d) 4. | e) 5. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

60. After coming back to Canada you realized that while in Peloponnese and although you came close, you forgot to visit one of Hera's favourite cities, with a great temple dedicated to her and where Io served as her priestess. Incidentally Hera's watchman had that name as well!

That was the city of a. Sparta b. Argos c. Thebes d. Samos e. Dodona

**B. Brief Essay question: 40 points \* ( 8%)**

You should choose **ONE topic only** and write your answer in the **exam booklet**.



Please be sure you write your **name** and **student number** on the exam booklet and that you write **the title of your topic** in **the front cover of the booklet**. Please, use **double space** and approximately (more or less) 2 pages. The answer should be as concise as possible, but not in point form.

Justify your answer with few examples from the myths, but do not narrate the whole myth. The purpose of this brief essay is to show that you have some understanding of the ideas expressed in the myths and that you are able to offer explanations. If you only describe the myths you will not get full marks.

**\* For correcting purposes the essay will be marked out of 20 points.**

1. **SUCCESSION OF POWER TYPE OF MYTH**  
Discuss some of the common motifs that are shown in the myths concerning the succession of power from the very first Sky god to the establishment of Zeus' kingdom. What interpretations do you suggest?
2. **APHRODITE'S BIRTH: A CASE OF SEX AND VIOLENCE**  
How do details surrounding Aphrodite's birth illustrate her essentially sexual nature? Is it a paradox that the goddess of beauty was born out of an act of sexual mutilation and violence, or is it part of a common theme? Discuss
3. **THE GIFT AND GURSE OF KNOWLEDGE**  
Discuss the significance of Promethean fire to humans and how it changed their life in positive and negative ways.
4. **PROMETHEUS' CHARACTER**  
Discuss how Hesiod portrays Prometheus and how his character is shown in a different light by Aeschylus in *Prometheus Bound*.
5. **PANDORA'S DUAL NATURE**  
Explain why Hesiod portrays Pandora as a "beautiful but evil gift".
6. **DIVINE FERTILITY**  
Explain how the continuous cycle of life is expressed in the myths.
7. **TRICKY MINDS**  
Discuss why cunningness is a very central and significant theme in the myths.