



uOttawa

Université d'Ottawa  
Faculté des Arts  
Département d'études  
anciennes et de sciences des  
religions

University of Ottawa  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Classics and  
Religious Studies

**CLA2323 A**  
**Greek Mythology**

**Fall 2016**

**Professor** David Sacks

**Contact information** Office: Desmarais 10113 (on the tenth floor)  
Email: dsacks@uottawa.ca

**Office hours** Fridays 10:15 to 11:30 am, or by appointment

**Course dates and location**  
Wednesdays 7–10 pm Marion Hall 150

**Official course description**

Introduction to the Greek myths in their religious and historical context; their impact on Western art and literature. Reading in translation of ancient sources (Homer, Hesiod, the Greek tragedians, etc).

**Course objectives**

To familiarize students not just with the narratives of the most famous myths but also with the myths' relevance to real-life ancient Greece. We will examine how the myths were retold as part of Greek religion and civic life, and how they might (distortedly) reflect the preoccupations, fears, social mores, political propaganda, Mediterranean expansion, etc., of the living Greeks, particularly for the era 800–400 B.C. This kind of approach can be called “contextual”.

**Course teaching methods**

Classroom lectures and discussions. Assigned readings for homework.

**Course evaluation methods**

- Test, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>: 70 minutes: worth 15 % of the student's course grade
  - Midterm exam, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>: two hours: worth 35 %
  - Map quiz, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>: 20 minutes: worth 5 %
  - Final exam: to be scheduled: sometime Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup>: worth 45 %
- This course involves no term paper and no written homework.

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## Grading of papers

Every student paper will be awarded a number grade, based on a detailed marking key composed by the professor for that particular test or exam. The T.A.s and prof will follow the marking key in grading papers.

## Textbook

Richard Buxton's *The Complete World of Greek Mythology*: Thames and Hudson, 2004. Reprinted in 2015  
—Available at Benjamin Books, 122 Osgoode Street: \$53  
—Please bring to every class

## E-sources

The following optional reference-sites may prove helpful:

**Theoi Greek Mythology:** <http://www.theoi.com/>

True to its name (*theoi* means “gods”), this user-friendly site offers an encyclopedia of “Greek gods, sprits, monsters” and gives links to other Greek mythology sites: <http://www.theoi.com/Links.html>.

**Greek Mythology Link:** <http://www.maicar.com/GML/>

Similar to the above, this is a complete encyclopedia of the myths' characters, places, and topics, with also maps, picture galleries, and some excerpts in translation from relevant ancient Greek and Latin texts.

**Perseus Digital Library:** <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>

A huge collection of ancient texts available in English. Includes complete versions of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Hesiod's *Theogony*, and many other original works relevant to our course.

## Some notes

### Testing

Our quiz, test, and two exams will be closed book and to be written on paper. All except the final exam will be held in our regular classroom at the start of class. None of our testing will offer multiple-choice questions.

Our final exam will be cumulative, on the whole course's content. However, the exam's choice of questions will favour post-midterm-exam material, at about 70 to 30 percent. You are strongly advised to study your November assignments, for your final exam. Each year, students flunk this course after (apparently) ceasing to study, following the midterm exam.

Any student who unfortunately misses our final exam—or who foresees a conflict—should try to arrange for a deferred exam, to be given in February. For this, you should as soon as possible contact the Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Office to explain your reasons for missing the exam and to deliver any corroborating paperwork (such as a doctor's note). The Undergraduate Office will determine whether or not the excuse is admissible and if you may take a deferred exam.

If a student misses the September test or the midterm exam, the professor will decide whether or not the student may take a **make-up** test. Acceptable excuses typically involve a medical or family emergency, documented in writing. Other excuses would not normally be accepted. If your excuse is approved, the prof will schedule a make-up test/exam for you. If your excuse is not approved, you would lose the course points. For the missed quiz with an accepted excuse, the student would just be excused the five course points.

*Please note that any make-up test or exam in this course will be composed expressly for the make-up session and will not be the same questionnaire as used previously for the mainstream class.*

### **Weekly reading assignments**

For homework for most class sessions, you'll be assigned a reading in our textbook ("Buxton") and often a supplemental reading, of texts posted on Blackboard Learn.

### **Classwork**

Class normally will include two or more lecture-topics from the prof, plus class discussion. Questions from students are welcome. Any student with a question or a point to contribute is urged to raise a hand in class.

### **Posting of lecture notes**

Brief lecture notes will often be posted on Blackboard after the relevant class. However, not every single fact, lecture topic, or discussion topic from class can realistically be included. Your test and exams will reflect the class sessions and will not be confined in content to the posted lecture notes. *Please plan to come to class*, to get full benefit from the course.

### **Attendance**

Attendance will not be taken in class. If you are absent on a day with no test, your absence technically would go unnoticed. However, obviously, you would miss first-hand the day's lecture and discussions.

If you are absent from a class, please *do not* email the professor to ask what you missed. Rather, look for the day's lecture notes on Blackboard. Also you could try to get the in-class notes from a classmate.

### **Laptops**

Use of laptops is allowed in this class, but please stick to notes-taking and try not to "wander off" online. Emailing and online browsing are not just a total waste of your class time but can be distracting to students sitting behind you. Similarly, phone texting wastes your time—and (frankly) annoys the prof, who can easily notice a student doing it.

### **Doctors' notes**

To excuse a class absence, a doctor's note must be delivered by the student to the professor directly. The professor will not contact any third party to acquire a student's medical note.

Medical notes will be accepted **only** if they come from **University of Ottawa Health Services** or can be verified by University of Ottawa Health Services. See Academic Regulation 9.5.1 (c): <http://www.uottawa.ca/about/academic-regulation-9-evaluation-of-student-learning>

### **Chatter**

Ours is a no-chatter classroom. Once a class session starts, side conversations between students cannot be allowed. This is regrettable, but with perhaps 400 students in the room, the potential for disruption is too high; the only effective procedure is that one person speak at a time.

### **Questions about marking**

If you have questions on how a paper of yours has been marked, or wish to dispute the mark, please contact the professor to arrange a meeting. *However*, if a T.A. marked your paper, please meet first with the T.A. After that meeting, if you are not satisfied, you may contact the prof.

**To all students:** *Please hold on to all of your returned, marked papers, through mid January.* Teacher errors can happen: If the professor has no grade on the spreadsheet for your midterm exam (for example), your midterm grade will be zero unless you can produce the marked paper.

## Course calendar

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments due
Week 1	7 September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions we will try to answer</li> <li>• The “contextual” approach</li> <li>• The land of Greece</li> <li>• Greece in the Bronze Age: 2100–1150 B.C.: the birth of Greek religion</li> </ul>	Bring course outline to class. Buy our “Buxton” textbook; start reading for next week. Check for postings on Blackboard.
Week 2	14 September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Olympian gods</li> <li>• Greece in the Dark Age: 1150–800 B.C.: the birth of Greek mythology?</li> <li>• The poets Homer and Hesiod</li> <li>• Stories and personalities of the gods</li> </ul>	For today’s class: Read Buxton to page 85 and pp. 178–193. Check for postings on Blackboard, this and every week.
Week 3	21 September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test: 70 minutes. <i>After the test</i>—</li> <li>• The Near Eastern influence. The goddess Aphrodite</li> </ul>	For today’s class: Study for the test.
Week 4	28 September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The afterlife and the Underworld</li> <li>• The boundary between gods and humans. The god Apollo</li> <li>• Homosexuality in Greek myth and in ancient Greek society</li> </ul>	For today: Read Buxton pp. 85–101, 174–177, 194–199, and 206–213.
Week 5	5 October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some early heroes: Perseus, Bellerophon, Cadmus (Kadmos)</li> <li>• The myth of the Amazons</li> <li>• Jason and the Argonauts. Medea</li> <li>• The Boar Hunt of Calydon (Kalydon)</li> </ul>	Read Buxton pp. 102–113 and 160–161. Other readings on Blackboard.
Week 6	12 October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heracles (Herakles)</li> <li>• Greece in the 600s–400s B.C.</li> <li>• Review for the midterm exam</li> </ul>	Read Buxton pp. 114–123.
Week 7	19 October 2016	Midterm exam: two hours. <i>No class session afterward</i>	Study for the midterm.
<b>Reading Week</b>			
Week 8	2 November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theseus</li> <li>• The twins Castor and Polydeuces (Kastor and Polydeukes). Their sisters, Helen and Clytemnaestra</li> <li>• The <i>katabasis</i> (journey to the Underworld): Odysseus, Theseus, Heracles, Orpheus, and Psyche</li> </ul>	Read Buxton pp. 124–129 and 170–173. Other readings on Blackboard.
Week 9	9 November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tales of Thebes: Oedipus, the Seven against Thebes, Antigone</li> <li>• Tales of Troy: its founding, the Judgment of Paris</li> <li>• The start of the Trojan War. Helen, Achilles, Hector, Odysseus, Ajax</li> </ul>	Read Buxton pp. 130–169 and 200–205. Other readings on Blackboard.
Week 10	16 November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The end of the Trojan War</li> <li>• The homecomings: Odysseus, Agamemnon. Orestes. Aeneas</li> <li>• Tales of metamorphosis</li> </ul>	Readings on Blackboard.

Week 11	23 November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The gods withdraw. The Age of Heroes ends</li> <li>• Greek myth and the ancient Romans</li> <li>• Greek myth in some modern retellings</li> <li>• The ten biggest themes in Greek mythology?</li> </ul>	Read Buxton pp. 214–245.
Week 12	30 November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map quiz: 20 minutes. <i>Afterward</i>—</li> <li>• Review for final exam</li> </ul>	Study for map quiz. Last questions before exam?

## Regulation on plagiarism and academic fraud

**Academic integrity** means being responsible for the quality of your work, preparing it honestly, and respecting the intellectual community you are part of as a student. It is a core value in all scholarly work.

**Academic fraud** refers to “an act by a student that may result in a false academic evaluation of that student or of another student” ([Regulation 14 - Academic Fraud](#)). Here are some examples:

- Submitting work prepared by someone else or for someone else
- Using work you have previously submitted for another course, without your professor’s permission
- Falsifying or making up information or data
- Falsifying an academic evaluation
- Submitting work you have purchased on the Internet
- Plagiarizing (see below) ideas or facts from others

**Plagiarism** means using words, sentences, ideas, and facts you have gotten from others and passing them off as yours, by failing to quote or reference them correctly. Plagiarism comes in many forms, including the following:

- Failing to place words or sentences you have taken from other authors in quotation marks (“...”)
- “Copying and pasting” information found on the Internet without providing a reference
- Translating texts without providing a reference for their sources
- Not providing a reference for a paraphrase or a summary

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Academic integrity is a value that is fundamental to all scholarly activity. Every member of the University community has the moral obligation to learn and share knowledge with honesty and integrity. Students should be proud to show their diploma, knowing that they’ve earned it honestly and by respecting the principles of academic integrity.

<http://www.uottawa.ca/vice-president-academic/academic-integrity>

### Academic regulation 14: academic fraud and other information

<http://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-14-other-important-information>

## Free services available to students

### Student Mentoring Centre: Faculty of Arts academic support

Run by the Faculty of Arts. You can meet with a mentor, take workshops, get involved in university life. Visit the website for info on writing, studying, time management, and many other helpful, fun topics.

<http://arts.uottawa.ca/en/mentoring>

**Writing Centre: Faculty of Arts academic support** (service in English only)

During the fall and winter terms, graduate assistants from the Department of English are on hand to assist students with everything from style to grammar and the structure of their writing assignments. In addition, computerized dictionaries and databases complement the Centre's small library of print material. Internet access is restricted to academic learning activities only.

<http://arts.uottawa.ca/writingcentre/>

\*\* For service in French, see *SASS Centre d'aide à la rédaction*.

<http://sass.uottawa.ca/fr/redaction>

**SASS: Student Academic Success Service**

A free network of services and programs designed to give you the tools and information you need to succeed. From their website you can access the *Aboriginal Resource Centre, Academic Writing Help Centre, Access Service, Mental Health & Wellness, Counselling and Coaching Service, and Mentoring*.

<http://sass.uottawa.ca/en>

**Academic essentials**

Information on everything you need to do throughout your studies is available on this webpage—admissions, events and activities, fees, student guides, deadlines, financial aid, and much more.

<http://www.uottawa.ca/strategic-enrollment-management/>

**Good2talk**

Free, **confidential, and anonymous** helpline, providing professional counselling on any issue and information and referrals for mental health, addictions, and well being, for post-secondary students in Ontario, 24/7/365.

<http://www.good2talk.ca/> or 1-866-925-5454

**Sexual violence: support and prevention**

The University of Ottawa does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to any act of a sexual nature committed without consent, such as rape, sexual harassment, or online harassment. The University, as well as student and employee associations, offers a full range of resources and services allowing members of our community to receive information and confidential assistance and providing for a procedure to report an incident or make a complaint.

[www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention](http://www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention)