



CLA2323 final exam questionnaire.Spring 2021

Greek mythology (University of Ottawa)

[end]

## Abisola Fadoju

**Question 3.** Our textbook comments on the “morally ambiguous role” of the hero Theseus: how he seems to act sometimes nobly, sometimes foolishly or irresponsibly, in the course of his long, eventful myth. And how some of his worst actions come later in life, when he is supposed to be wise.

Write **four** paragraphs. For your first paragraph, use point-form to deliver **six** items: Briefly describe three noble actions and three contemptible actions by Theseus. Keep your two categories clearly separated. **Don't** give more than three each.

Next, write three (or more) paragraphs to explain a modern “contextual” theory that looks to real-life ancient Greek history to account for Theseus’ **dual personality**.

Be thorough in your explanation. Give any relevant real-life place-names and **dates**. *Don't answer this question with reference to Theseus having a medical disorder.*

### **Answer**

#### **Noble actions**

Theseus performed different acts that were both noble and contemptible. He stopped Athens from paying children tributes by killing the minotaur. He also saved the Athenians captives.

He ruled Athens wisely after defeating the minotaur.

He unified the surrounding countryside under the Athenian rule

#### **Contemptible actions**

He kidnapped a 12-year-old spartan princess

He was known as the Don Juan of Greek Myth because of his sexual passion for women

He ended of marrying two Cretan royal sisters, Ariadne and Phaedra and ended up divorcing Ariadne despite everything she did for him

He kidnapped Persephone and was punished by Hades but later freed by Hercules

### **Contextual approach**

There are various ways you can view the contextual approach for Theseus dual personalities in real life Greek ancient history. This is because the myth had been manipulated in Athens around the 500 - 400 BC, in order to add some good guy features to the myth. Which was previously known to have a more negative tone in the older story versions. They also wanted a good hero from theirs like the famous Hercules and others .

**Question 4.** *The Phoenicians who immigrated with Cadmus to Greece introduced a number of technologies, the most important being that of writing—which previously, I think, had been unknown to the Greeks... And for many years after, certain of the Greeks would habitually use the word Phoinikeia (“Phoenician items”) to mean the letters of their own Greek alphabet, because these letters had come from the Phoenicians.* —Herodotus, Greek historian, circa 440 B.C.

Write at least **four** paragraphs, (a), (b), (c), (d), plus one sentence (e). For (a), briefly identify

(b) In a substantial paragraph, explain who were the Phoenicians in real-life ancient history, including their function as “middlemen” and their contact with the Greeks. Give a **date** or date range. Is Herodotus’ story **true**? Or true to what extent?

For (c) and (d), explain the Phoenician influence on Greek mythology and religion. Be specific: What different aspects on the Greek side can we identify as coming from Phoenicia—or if not originally from Phoenicia, from where? For (c)-(d), you may use point-form if you wish.

For (e), just in one sentence or so, answer this: What one important purpose of Greek mythology does Herodotus’ story demonstrate?

A) Cadmus was known to be Hero of the city of Thebes he was also Phoenician prince who immigrated as a result of the search for his sister

B) The Phoenicians were from Phoenicia and they were called the Canaanites. They were also known as the masters of navigation and trade with their specialty being that of long distance sea trade, lasting from the bronze age to the classical period . Yes, Herodotus story was true because he and his colleague Plato wrote similar stories

C).

1. The Greeks were impressed with the Phoenician god (Astarte) that they decided to worship her and called her Aphrodite for a more Greek sounding name

2. They lived side by side on the coast of the island of Cyprus , which eventually led to intermarriages which encouraged for cultural exchange (bilingualism)

3. They also luxury products like purple/ strong coloured textiles

E) Herodotus is credited as the first Greek historian and known for writing

**Question 5.** Write at least **four** paragraphs, (a), (b), (c), (d), to answer all the questions below. Along the way, mention any relevant Greek myths.

If you were living in ancient pre-Christian Greece, what steps would you take to be eligible for paradise after death? (a) Where exactly would paradise be located? What would it be like?

Question 5, continued

(b) Which Greek deities might help you gain admittance to paradise? Please name no more than **three**, or else your (b) answer is disqualified. Explain briefly why these deities would be relevant.

(c) What secret doctrine would help prepare you for the afterlife? That is, what **secrets** would you know, about any gods or heroes of Greek mythology? Also, what material items (charms or tokens) might be involved?

(d) How would you avoid forgetting your past life, in the afterlife?

a. It can be done by accomplishing great things when you're alive. However, Some greek religion followers believed that they had assured admittance to paradise.

They were often known as mystery religions

- The place of paradise is located in the underworld called Elysium. It's a place to reward the people who have accomplished huge achievements during their life. it's an ideal place for an ancient Greek aristocrat because of the sports contests, banquets, music and poetry.

b. Minos, Aeacus and Rhadamanthys.

- These deities would be responsible because they are the judges listed by the Athenian philosophers that would help decide whether the person goes to Elysium, general netherworld and Tartarus.

c. There were two secret doctrines that were believed to help prepare one for the afterlife.

They were the Mysteries of Eleusis and the Orphic mysteries. The Mysteries of Eleusis worshiped the Goddess Persephone in order to gain her favour when you die while the Orphic mysteries would give their followers/initiates secret passwords and knowledge in order to assure them of paradise

*Answer both questions below:*

• Answer in one or two sentences: Name two myths where Zeus commits adultery, by the ancient Greek interpretation. Explain.

- In ancient Greece it was believed that adultery was committed only when a man slept with a married woman and Zeus did this by sleeping with Leda and Alcmena

• Answer in one or two sentences: Presumably Xenophanes didn't believe the stories of gods misbehaving. But how might a more religious-minded person in ancient Greece have explained the stories?

- This is because he thought leaving everything to the Gods were shameful and theftful, which is part of the human nature

He believed that the story was written by a human who could also swear and lie under an oath so he didn't trust it