Please read this syllabus over in its entirety.
Classic 170 (202): Classical Mythology; Online, Summer, 2015 (June 22nd to August 1st)
Instructor: Prof. Andrew Porter, Classics, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature

- Contact Me:
  - Mundane Matters Forum/General Mythology Questions on D2L, as outlined in this syllabus
  - Email: porter@uwm.edu.
  - Telephone (email me for my number)
  - IPhone face time (by appointment: email me for my number).
  - Skype (by appointment (my name: myth170), email me.

INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTH

Welcome to the class! The course is about early classical myths, as you heard in the introductory video. I hope you find hearing, reading, and seeing a part of the vast story hoard of early classical myths as they were sung, recited, and told by the ancient Greeks (Romans, and others since). Reading early Classical myths is a journey into the past. The sources selected for your reading are the earliest in the Western world and serve to teach about myths from Homer, Hesiod, and the Greek dramatists, in particular. These stories not only constitute the web of story references in the Archaic (800-480 BC), Classical (480-323 BC), and Hellenistic (323-146 BC) Greek worlds, they also form the foundation for most of the stories told by the Romans and their inheritors. European literature and art cannot be appreciated without knowledge of classical mythology. The myths, their characters, themes, and plots still provide lively material for art, movies, and books today.

Remember to review from time to time the “official” welcome video you have already seen once. The Mundane Matters discussion forum is a really great place to point out things or to ask questions about the course, while the General Mythology Questions forum is the place to raise points or to ask me general questions about myths we are studying. Email is a great place for communication, as are Skype and face time iphone chats by appointment (set up through email).

Finally, please read over this syllabus to the VERY end. If you do not, you will miss very valuable information and instructions about what to do next.

Texts:
- Porter, Andrew. Summer, 2014. Early Classical Myths (hereafter ECM). Available at Clark Graphics on Oakland Avenue at an inexpensive price (about $28.00). They are able to mail it out, too. The material is copyrighted to me. Please do not attempt to use any earlier edition, since some elements have been changed.

Course Structure
There are 6 units for the course, with specific opening and closing dates. A unit is usually composed of:
1.) 2 brief chapter readings/audios from Early Classical Myths (ECM)
2.) 1-2 text/audios of an ancient work (hymn, drama, epic selection) or videos of iconography/movie segments. All videos have captions for those who are visual learners and for the hearing impaired (some are closed captions, so require that you turn them on by clicking on the CC on the lower right of your video player). Remember, you can stop the movie to think about it, before moving on!
   - Each of the assignments in 1.) and 2.) will be tested by a short quiz, usually of ten questions.
3.) An e-assignments/discussion posting, in units 2 and 3.

There will also be one paper idea, one paper and two tests (midterm and final). The second test constitutes the final (but only covers chapters 7-11 of ECM).
The course is not an independent study course, so it is the intention that you be involved on a regular basis in the course and in the discussion fora, with your classmates. In order to keep you involved regularly, there are definite closing dates for assignments. It is good however, to get ahead, rather than behind in your work. So, if you wish to get ahead, the whole course is open to you from the start to complete as quickly as you are able.

Grade:

1. Unit Quizzes: 40%

Quizzes are taken for each chapter of ECM, and for all other readings/audios/videos. Expect multiple choice, T/F questions, fill-in-the-blanks, match, and ordering questions. The questions are meant to vary in difficulty and complexity. All quizzes have two attempts. PLEASE WAIT AT LEAST ONE HOUR TO WRITE THE QUIZ A SECOND TIME AND UNTIL YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE MATERIAL AGAIN. The second attempt was added to make up for sudden computer problems, accidental submission of quizzes, etc. Wrongly answered questions will only be available for you to see a couple of days after a unit closes. (In cases where you feel you have been incorrectly graded, please email me after the quiz closes for the whole class, so that you can first take time to review the book chapter, text, or video, the question itself, and your answer, carefully.)

Your own notes taken from the readings, not the quizzes you write, are to be the source of your review for exams. (FYI, This course is not set up like the game “Trivial Pursuit” ;), where, after playing a few times, you can basically memorize the answers. I want you to think.) Note: Out of state/country students, all D2L times are based upon Chicago time.

2. Discussion Post E-Assignments (2): 14%

In two units (2 and 3) there will be a short, but significant e-assignment with a marking rubric to guide your postings to the class. These assignments will have you doing a number of things, including learning how to conduct research in the humanities and critiquing your peers’ posts. Discussion posts must be completed within the time the unit is open. Note: Grades for a Disc. forum will not be posted before the forum closes. Your grade will appear within six days.

3. Paper Idea (4%) and Final Paper (18%): 22%

The Paper Idea is due in the D2L Dropbox no later than the time marked in the course schedule, and the Paper is due as marked in the course schedule. A mark for your Paper Idea and feedback will take place within a few days days of receipt of your Paper Idea and an email from you to me, saying that you have submitted it. The sooner you submit your idea and email me, the sooner you will receive feedback. Paper Ideas and Paper Requirements are available under course Resources on the course Content page.

Tests (each of equal value): 24%

The two Tests (each having the same format) will be based only upon ECM. Each test will also be in the same format as the quizzes, except that each will only have 1 attempt. The first test (the “midterm”) will cover chapter 1-6, the second test (the “final”), chapters 7-11. For dates see the course schedule. The final exam, although requiring knowledge gained earlier on in the course, is not cumulative, since it only covers chapters 7-11.

Course Schedule: Assignments, Tests, Etc.

Assignments are divided up into six units. Each unit begins with a checklist which should be read and followed. Please complete all quizzes in their numbered order unless given the option to do otherwise in the unit checklist, although it is fine to read and view anything open at any time. The course is meant to be a progression.
Also note, you may start your class Paper Idea at any time. You may want to read over the paper idea and paper requirements early, but also look through all of ECM, at any time, to think about or get inspired with ideas.

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Course Schedule: Unit Open/Closing dates.

Unit 1: Open June 22 to June 29; ECM Chs 1, 2
[To be read: “Unit one opens on June 22, but it closes on June 29th, at 11:59 p.m.; will cover Early Classical Myths, chapters 1 and 2, plus other assignments as listed on the Unit Checklist (See Checklist!)]

Unit 2: Open June 29th to July 6; ECM Chs 3, 4; E-assignment;

Unit 3: Open July 6 to July 13; ECM Chs 5, 6; E-assignment; Midterm, open July 9th to July 14th

Paper Idea: Due July 13th, at latest

Unit 4: Open July 13 to July 20; ECM Chs 7, 8

Unit 5: Open July 20 to July 27; ECM Ch 9, 10

Unit 6: Open July 27 to July 31st (note this shorter time frame for this smaller unit); ECM Ch 11

Paper Due, July 29th, at latest

Class Survey open July 27th to July 31st

Final Exam: open July 29th to Aug. 1st

(All quizzes and assignments close at 11:59 p.m.)

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[Why not print out this schedule and tape it to your computer, refrigerator, or work space to avoid missing important dates, or, put it in your electronic date book?]

DO NOT STOP READING; THERE IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION JUST AHEAD!!

Reopening quizzes, tests, or extensions policy: From time to time students have computer problems. It is important that if you have problems with a computer that you avoid using it. Also avoid slow or unstable internet connections. To allow for such problems, I am dropping the two lowest quiz scores from my final calculation, and I have given you a second opportunity on every quiz. These will appear as O’s to you, so do not be alarmed (and they can move around!). Since there is a generous amount of time allowed for the assignments, unit items cannot be reopened or extended, except in cases of prolonged, documented emergencies or serious and sudden health problems. Military personnel with exceptional circumstances should inform me of what their situation is in the first two days of the course. I am sympathetic to sudden combat requirements. Other full time employment situations may be considered, but please contact me within the first two days of the course. Some leniency may be allowed in cases of severe and documented change.

Special Learning Needs: If you have special learning needs, including special accommodations, please communicate these with me in the first week or two of the course. It is my goal to help you succeed! The course is specifically created to also be supportive of different learning styles, but also dhh students.

Survey: You are asked in unit 6 to take a few minutes to give end of course feedback in a class survey. If over 90% of the class does so, I will add 1 point directly onto the end of term mark.

Syllabus Policy: This syllabus is subject to change. Notice of change will normally be posted in the course “News” on the homepage on D2L, through email, or in the unit checklist. You are required to check your UWM email regularly to participate in this course.

Other Policies: For policies governing participation by students with disabilities, accommodation for religious observances, academic misconduct, complaint procedures, grade appeal procedures, sexual harassment,
incompletes, and financial obligation, please see the Classics bulletin board outside the offices of the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, eighth floor, Curtin Hall, or the full explanation maintained by the Secretary of UWM at http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Why not consider Classics as a major, minor, or career? Speak with me (portera@uwm.edu) to find out about all the possible ways you can study ancient Greek and Roman society in more detail. The study of classics can include a major or minor in Classics or Classical Civilization, Greek, or Latin. The department also participates in the Certificate Program in Ancient Mediterranean Studies (CAMS), designed to encourage students to pursue a serious interest in the ancient Mediterranean world in a structured way. Why not speak with Prof. Elisabetta Cova, Asst. Professor of Classics Curtin 814 covae@uwm.edu.

READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AND DO WHAT IT SAYS:

Now that you have finished reading this syllabus over carefully, next:
READ 1. D2L Help, 2. Frequently Asked Questions, 3. How to Prepare for Quizzes, 4. Paper Requirements, AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS UNDER COURSE RESOURCES found under Course Resources; then, WRITE the short practice quiz, found under Quizzes (for practice, not points. Unlike a normal quiz, you do not need to study for it. It simply reviews things about the course you have read). When you have done these things, you can begin Unit 1 with confidence!

KEEP THIS SYLLABUS HANDY, AND REFER TO IT OFTEN!! A WISE STUDENT WILL READ IT OVER AGAIN IN ABOUT 1 WEEK AND BE SURE TO REVIEW ALL THE COURSE RESOURCES.

The following is Optional Reading

Course Goals: By taking and completing this course you may expect:

1. To acquire a better ability in group discussion, the presentation of your ideas, and academic writing, including the structured presentation of your analysis of information and ideas. Assessment: Discussion Fora, Paper

2. To consider classical myths through the “critical use of sources, and evaluation of the evidence”1 from mythologies presented in the course, and exercise judgment and display logical analysis in your interaction with the central cultural heritage of the classical world. Assessment: Quizzes, Tests, Discussion Fora, Paper

3. To become familiar with “substantial and coherent bodies of historical, cultural”, and “literary” knowledge form ancient sources, as a means of increasing your “understanding of the complexities and varieties of human events” in the ancient world, and by thoughtful comparison, to the modern world. Specifically we will consider together, after initial myths of the origins and ordering of the gods and world, the myths of the Olympian gods and of mortal heroes and heroines, their personalities, biographies, interactions, and escapades. Assessment: Quizzes, Tests, Discussion Fora, Paper

4. To “Enhance and extend” your response to myths from the ancient world by “thoughtful and systematic analysis” and “and appreciation of” the distinctive culture and tradition of the Greeks and Romans, who provide for us the earliest mythologies of Western Civilization. It is hoped that you will see mythology, like the ancients did, as a world of interesting stories, but also, as “stories that exemplify themes, dilemmas, and human characteristics still very much a part of our present day world”,2 and “of universal concern”. Assessment: Discussion Forum, Paper

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1 Unless otherwise indicated, all Excerpts in this syllabus’s course goals are from section V.5.b.2.a., p.11, of “The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Academic Program and Curriculum Committee GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES”, accessed Jan. 2011, at http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/academic /ger.pdf.

2 Excerpt from p. 8 of Porter, Early Classical Myths (the written text for the course).