

Classics 191, Classics Capstone Seminar, Fall 2016: Dreams in Greek Culture

Instructor: David Blank; blank@ucla.edu; 260 Dodd, 310-206-8562

Class meetings W 2-4:50, Dodd 162; Office hours M 2-3, F 11-12 and by appointment

What are dreams and why do we have them? Are they messages sent by the gods or by our own minds, the result of mechanical processes within our bodies? Are they prophetic of the future, do they tell us what is happening within us, either mentally or physically? Can they affect us by causing us to change our minds or even by curing us of illness? What do the things we see in dreams mean? Such questions were often asked in ancient Greece, and the seminar will look at some of the answers. We will read texts of Hippocrates, the dream-interpreter Artemidorus, and of patients who have submitted themselves to the ministrations of the healer-god Asclepius. Students will be encouraged to research projects dealing with their own interests, from the use of dreams in Homer, Aeschylus, or Herodotus to the nuts and bolts of healing in the temple of Asclepius.

You are required to present two reports (1 article, 1 research), and to write a research paper of 10-15 pp. You will also be graded on your participation in class discussion. Students who attend class insufficiently prepared, or who do not attend, will have points deducted from their final grade. There will be no final exam. Papers must be turned in by Friday March 20th or they will receive a grade of zero. Participation: 15%; Report 1: 10%; Report 2: 25%; Paper: 50%.

Week 1: Penelope's Dream, Od. 19.503-604

Amory, Gates of Horn and Ivory

Freud's Sample of Dream Interpretation

Week 2 10/5: Herodotus—Xerxes' dreams [Add Astyages' dreams re: Electra, also Hippias' dream before Marathon 6.107]

Week 3 10/12: Aeschylus—Dreams in the Oresteia

Catenaccio on Dreams in the Oresteia

Sophocles—Clytemnestra's dream in the Electra

Bowman on Clytemnestra's dream in the Electra

Week 4 10/19: [Hippocrates] Regimen 1 on the Body and Science

Regimen IV On Dreams

Pearcy on Dreams in Ancient Medicine

Holowchak on diagnostic dreams

Week 5 10/26: Aelius Aristides, Sacred Tales (10/31: Tagliabue lecture)

Pearcy on Theme, Dream, Narrative in Aelius Aristides

Phillips on a hypochondriac and his god

Petsalis-Diomedou on Aelius Aristides before his god in body and logos

Week 6 11/2: Healing Dreams and the cult of Asclepius

Iamata texts (LiDonnici)

Meier on dream incubation

Petridou on Healing epiphanies

LiDonnici on the Compositional Background of the Epidaurian *Iamata*

Oberhelman on anatomical votives

Petridou on Healing Shrines

Week 7 11/9: Artemidorus Bks. 1-2

Choose Topic

Week 8 11/16: Artemidorus Bks. 3-5
Week 9 11/23: Aristotle, On Dreams
Harris on Characteristics of Dreams
S.R. Price, Future of Dreams

Week 10 11/30: Presentations
Finals Week:

Bibliography and Outline

Presentation; Draft 12/2
Final Paper: 12/9