

# Classics 30: Greek Mythology DRAFT SYLLABUS

Summer Session C: August 7-September 15, 2017

MWF 1:00-2:50

**Instructor:** Ashleigh Fata

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**Office:** Dodd 2

**Office hours:** MWF 3:00-4:00 PM

## Course Description and Objectives:

Humans tell stories. Regaling the bar with your exploits, explaining what goes on the Passover offering plate, doing improv, and telling the tale of the Trojan War: in each, a social bond forms through a story. Stories—in Greek, μῦθος, muthos—are a code for exploring, explaining, and commenting on human society.

However, Greek myth is not just a series of strange tales or the background of a religious doctrine. It informed the ancient Greeks' understanding of their world, including problems of gender, violence, government, and the nature of life itself. Since this course lasts for six weeks and the mythological tradition is so rich, it would be impossible to gain an in-depth appreciation of its extraordinary variation and application in Greek society. Instead, this course will focus on the major gods and myths, the interaction between these stories and society, and the framework through which we attempt to understand the remote and ineffable.

## Grading:

Participation: 20%

Paper: 30% (total)

Abstract: 5%

Annotated Outline: 10%

Final Copy: 15%

Midterm: 20%

Final: 30%

## Required Texts:

(Please be sure to get the exact translation, since translations can vary widely.)

Hesiod, *Theogony, Works and Days* (transl. Athanassakis)

*The Homeric Hymns* (transl. Crudden)

Aeschylus, *The Oresteia* (transl. Meineck)

Sophocles, *Sophocles I* (Oedipus cycle) (transl. Grene)

Euripides, *The Bacchae and Other Plays* (transl. Davie, Rutherford)

## Class Expectations:

*Attendance and Participation:* You should come to class having read the day's assignment, bringing in questions or comments about the assigned text(s). Bring the assigned text into

class every day. Underline and make notes in your text! Reading is listed under the day on which you are expected to have completed that reading (e.g., the reading listed under Aug. 9 should be done before you come into class on Aug. 9).

*Paper:* Between 5-7 pages, and I will hand out paper topics after the midterm. The abstract and annotated outline are designed to make writing the final paper easier for you and a better product for me. More information will be given on the requirements for these assignments when the paper topics are handed out.

*Midterm and Final:* The midterm will take half of a class period; the final will take the entire class period on the last day. These exams will cover material from the readings and lectures. Exams will consist of short-answer IDs (including visual) and longer essays.

### **Class Policies:**

*Plagiarism:* DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. The university defines plagiarism as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise.”<sup>1</sup> If you wish to reference ideas that are not your own, you must include proper citation. Do not copy another person’s work in any aspect for any assignment. You may review the university’s academic honor regulations at:

<https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/portals/16/documents/studentguide.pdf>

*Late Work:* Unfortunately, because the summer session is so brief, no late work or make-ups will be accepted without a documented excuse.

*Etiquette:* I aim to maintain a classroom defined by respect. Please respect your classmates’ opinions and beliefs, both in discussion and outside. Raise your hand to speak when we are in generalized discussion. Respect goes outside the classroom, too: please use proper e-mail etiquette when messaging me and respect your classmates’ boundaries outside of class time.

### **Week 1: Beginnings**

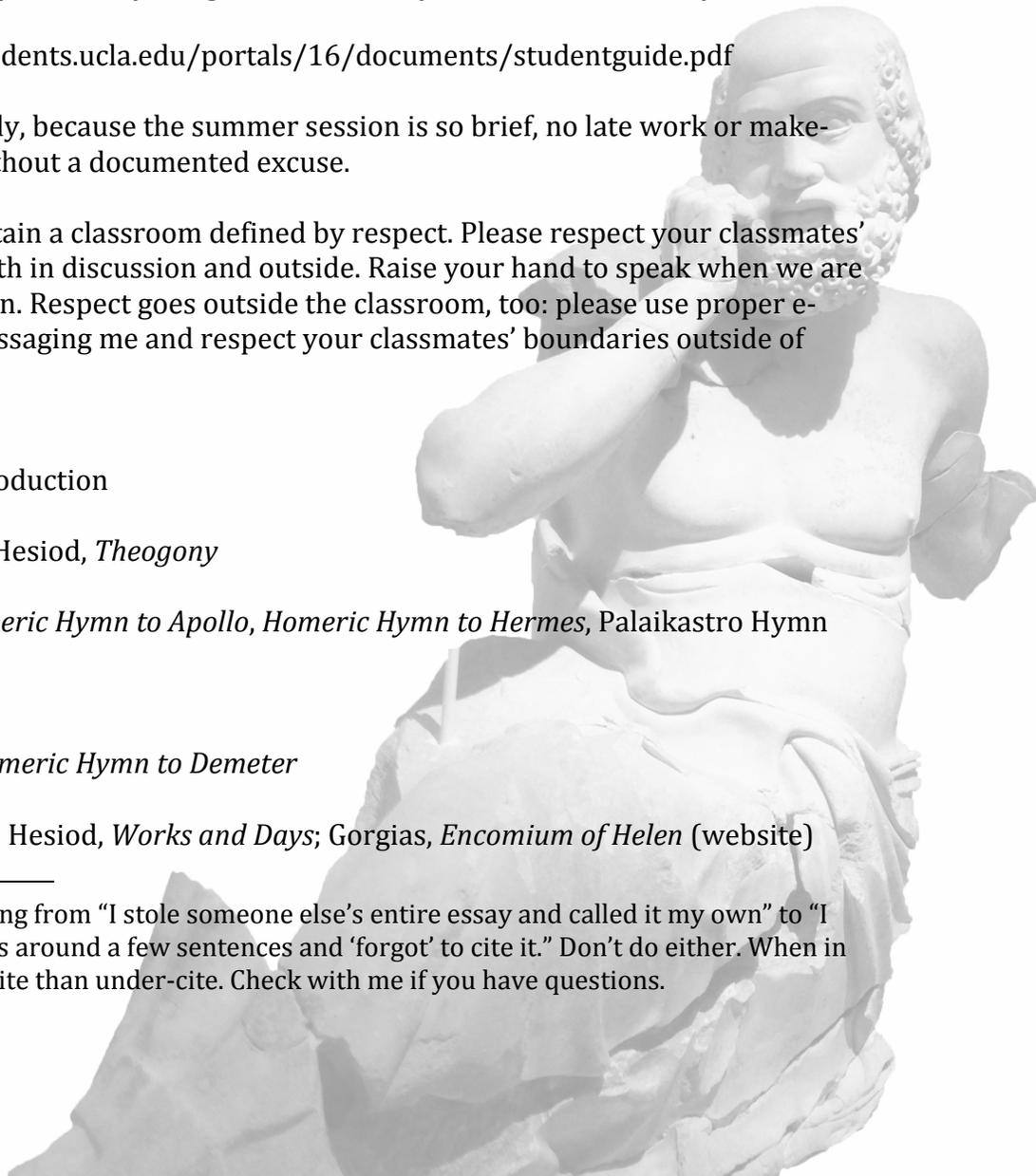
- Monday August 7: Introduction
- Wednesday August 9: Hesiod, *Theogony*
- Friday August 11: *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*, *Homeric Hymn to Hermes*, Palaikastro Hymn (website)

### **Week 2: Gender**

- Monday August 14: *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*
- Wednesday August 16: Hesiod, *Works and Days*; Gorgias, *Encomium of Helen* (website)

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<sup>1</sup> Plagiarism can be anything from “I stole someone else’s entire essay and called it my own” to “I didn’t put quotation marks around a few sentences and ‘forgot’ to cite it.” Don’t do either. When in doubt, it’s better to over-cite than under-cite. Check with me if you have questions.



•Friday August 18: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

### **Week 3: Law and Order**

•Monday August 21: Aeschylus, *Libation Bearers*

•Wednesday August 23: Aeschylus, *Eumenides*

❖Friday August 25: Midterm (first hour); Sophocles, *Antigone*

### **Week 4: Families and Fate**

•Monday August 28: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*

•Wednesday August 30: Sophocles, *Oedipus at Colonus*

❖Friday September 1: Euripides, *Orestes*; ABSTRACTS DUE by e-mail @5pm

### **Week 5: Exploration**

❖Monday September 4: Labor Day NO CLASS

•Wednesday September 6: Apollonius of Rhodes, *Argonautica* selections (website); ANNOTATED OUTLINE DUE by e-mail @ 10 am

•Friday September 8: Pindar, *Olympian 3* (website); Lucian, *True History* (website)

❖Saturday September 9: Paper due online at 10 AM

### **Week 6: Endings**

•Monday September 11: Euripides, *Bacchae*; Orphic selections (website)

•Wednesday September 13: *Odyssey* 11 (website); Plato, "Myth of Er" (website); Plato, *Phaedo* selection (website)

❖Friday September 15: Final

