



## HART 234 CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY IN ART

### **The Course**

This course is intended as an introduction to Greek and Roman mythology. The aim is to acquaint students to the major mythological characters and stories. Greek and Roman gods, goddesses, demigods, heroes and their stories have been employed and interpreted in works of art, literature, and music throughout centuries. The course offers a basic yet solid background to students who wish to have a better understanding of such reflections in various fields of cultural production.

Without disregarding the religious and ritual aspects of mythology, we will get to know the characters and their stories as well as their reflections in art. Following the trail of Homer, Hesiod, and Ovid, we will explore how myths were used in the visual arts.

### **Important Note about Course Registration:**


Special Approval is required for registration to this course. Please explain your reason for taking this course. Art Theory and Criticism Minor Program and VACD students have priority, followed by students in their graduation year.

Time Conflict requests will not be accepted for this course. For information on registration override requests, [click](#).

### **Acknowledgement**

This syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student. By taking this course, the student accepts the rules and requirements of the course.

This syllabus may be subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to follow announcements and e-mails regarding all issues related to this course.



### Instructor

N. Zeynep Yelçe ([zeynep.yelce@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:zeynep.yelce@sabanciuniv.edu))

### Course Assistant

Ahmet Zahit Ekren ([ahmet.ekren@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ahmet.ekren@sabanciuniv.edu))

### Class Schedule

Monday, 15:40-17:30 (FASS 1101)

Thursday, 12:40-13:30 (FASS 1101)

### Office Hours – FASS 2021

Wednesday, 15:00-16:00 or by appointment

### Course Requirements

Attendance and participation	20 %
In-class assignments (4 x 5 pts)	20 %
Midterm Exam	20 %
Final Exam	40 %

Exams constitute of around four essay questions as well as image identification. When answering the questions, you are expected to engage in contextual and conceptual discussion rather than citing exact dates and/or telling a story in detail. For more information, please see Course Information.

### Grading

Your letter grade, as well as exam grades, is based on your individual performance. **Requests for extra work or other compensation will not be accepted.** E-mails concerning such requests will not be replied. Letter grades are calculated according to the following letter grade scale and are not open to negotiation.

min. 59	min. 64	min. 68	min. 72	min. 76	min. 80	min. 84	min. 88	min. 92	min. 96
D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

Syllabus updated February 14, 2024.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is compulsory in this course. Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period. Attendance is taken on an hourly basis during all sessions. Failure to attend more than three hours requires points to be taken off the overall grade. Students who miss 9 hours (regardless of medical reports) in total will automatically receive 0 points for Attendance and Participation. For more information, please see Course Information on SuCourse.

Participation (contribution to class discussions, poll participation, complying with deadlines, general involvement, etc.) will be taken into consideration along with attendance in grade calculations.

## **Academic Honesty Policy**

HART 234 does not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense. Papers with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense. The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee. For information on plagiarism, please see Course Information.

## **Students with Special Needs**

It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities. To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please contact [specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu).

## **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

The classroom will be free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. The students are expected to maintain this environment.

## READING LIST

Edith Hamilton, *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, Boston: Grand Central Publishing, 2011. ([click for Homer Bookstore](#))

Robert Graves, *Greek Myths: Complete and Definitive Edition*, Penguin, 2011. ([click for Homer Bookstore](#))



Physical and/or online access to following texts is available at IC under [HART 234 Course Reserve](#):

Apollodorus, *The Library of Greek Mythology*, trans. Robin Hard, Oxford University Press, 2008. ([click for Homer Bookstore](#))

Hesiod, *Works of Hesiod and the Homeric Hymns*, trans. Daryl Hine, University of Chicago Press, 2005. ([click for Homer Bookstore](#))

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Richmond Lattimore, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Richmond Lattimore, New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2007. ([click for Homer Bookstore](#))

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. Rolfe Humphries, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983. ([click for Homer Bookstore](#))

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

### WEEK 01. FEBRUARY 15

#### Introduction to the Course

Hesiod, "Works and Days" (excerpt)

Hamilton, "Introduction" and "How the World and Mankind were Created"

*Recommended:* Hesiod, "Theogony" (excerpt); Graves, "The Olympian Creation Myth"

### WEEK 02. FEBRUARY 19 – 22

#### Contexts, Greek or Roman or Greco-Roman?

Hesiod, "Works and Days" (excerpt)

Hamilton, "Introduction" and "How the World and Mankind were Created"

*Recommended:* Hesiod, "Theogony" (excerpt); Graves, "The Olympian Creation Myth"

### WEEK 03. FEBRUARY 26 – 29

#### Olympians: Zeus and Hera

Ovid, "Jove and Io" (Book I: lines 569-750); Apollodorus, "Theogony" (Book 1.1)

Hamilton, "The Titans and the Twelve Great Olympians"; Graves, "Zeus and Hera"

*Recommended:* Hesiod, "Homeric Hymns" (To Hera and To Zeus)

### WEEK 04. MARCH 04 – 07 (Reflection Slide 1 due March 10, Sunday, 23:00)

#### Olympians: Poseidon, Hades, Demeter

Ovid, "Ceres, Pluto, and Proserpina" (Book V: lines 341-661)

Graves, "Poseidon's Nature and Deeds" and "Demeter's Nature and Deeds" and "Gods of the Underworld"

*Recommended:* Hesiod, "Homeric Hymns" (To Demeter and To Poseidon)



**WEEK 05. MARCH 11 – 14**

**Olympians: Athena, Hermes, Hestia**

Ovid, “Minerva and Arachne” (Book VI: lines 1-144)

Graves, “Athena’s Nature and Deeds” and “Hermes’s Nature and Deeds” and “Hestia’s Nature and Deeds”

*Recommended:* Hesiod, “Homeric Hymns” (To Athena and To Hestia)

**WEEK 06. MARCH 18 – 21**

**Olympians: Aphrodite, Ares, Hephaestus**

Ovid, “The Story of Mars and Venus” (Book IV: lines 170-193) and “The Story of Adonis” (Book X: lines 519-739)

Graves, “Hephaestus’s Nature and Deeds” and “Ares’s Nature and Deeds” and “Aphrodite’s Nature and Deeds”

*Recommended:* Hesiod, “Homeric Hymns” (To Aphrodite, To Ares, and To Hephaestus).

**WEEK 07. MARCH 25 – 28 (Reflection Slide 2 due March 31, Sunday, 23:00)**

**Olympians: Apollo and Artemis**

Ovid, “Apollo and Daphne” (Book I, lines: 450-568) and “The Story of the Raven” (Book II: lines 539-636) and “The Story of Actaeon” (Book III: lines 138-249) and “The Story of Apollo and Hyacinthus” (Book X: lines 162-220)

Graves, “Apollo’s Nature and Deeds” and “Artemis’s Nature and Deeds” (pp.76-86)

*Recommended:* Hesiod, “Homeric Hymns” (To Apollo and To Artemis)

**WEEK 08. APRIL 01 – 04 (Midterm Exam on April 04 during class hour)**

**Olympians: Dionysus**

Ovid, “The Story of Semele” (Book III: lines 250-315) and Apollodorus, “Dionysus” (Book 3.1)

Hamilton, “Dionysus or Bacchus”

*Recommended:* Hesiod, “Homeric Hymns” (To Dionysus)

**WEEK 09. APRIL 08 – 11 SPRING BREAK**

**WEEK 10. APRIL 15 – 18**

**Stories of Mortals and Immortals: Heracles and Orpheus**

Ovid, "The Story of Orpheus and Eurydice" (Book X: lines 1-110) and "The Death of Orpheus" (Book XI: lines 1-83)

Hamilton, "Hercules" and "Orpheus and Eurydice"

*Recommended:* Apollodorus, "Heracles" (Book 2.5); Hesiod, "Homeric Hymns" (To Heracles); Graves, "Labours" and "Orpheus"

**WEEK 11. APRIL 22 – 25 (Reflection Slide 3 due April 28, Sunday, 23:00)**

**Stories of Mortals and Immortals: Perseus and Theseus**

Ovid, "The Story of Perseus" (Book IV: lines 605-803)

Hamilton, "Theseus"

*Recommended:* Apollodorus, "Perseus" (Book 2.4) and "Theseus" (Book 11); Graves, "Perseus"

**WEEK 12. APRIL 29 – MAY 02**

**The Trojan War**

Homer, *The Illiad*, Book III (The Duel Between Menelaos and Paris) and Book V (The Glory of Diomedes) Hamilton, "The Trojan War"

*Recommended:* Apollodorus, "The Trojan War" (Book 3.13); Graves on Troy I

**WEEK 13. MAY 06 – 09**

**Trojan War and its Heroes I**

Homer, *The Illiad*, Book I (The Rage of Achilles) and Book VI (Hector and Andromache Say Goodbye) and Book XXII (The Killing of Hector) and Book XXIV (The Ransom of Hector)

*Recommended:* Graves on Troy II

**WEEK 14. MAY 13 – 16 (Reflection Slide 4 due May 19, Sunday, 23:00)**

**Trojan War and its Heroes II**

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Book IX (Odysseus in the Cave of Cyclops) and Book XI (Odysseus in the Underworld)

Hamilton, "The Adventures of Odysseus"

*Recommended:* Apollodorus, "The Return of Odysseus" (Book 3.14)

**WEEK 15. MAY 20 – 23**  
**Conclusion and Discussion**

**WEEK 16. MAY 29**  
**General Review**