Lecture: MW 10:30-11:20

Section 1: F 10:30-11:20
Clifford Ando
cando@uchicago.edu
T 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Section 2: F 10:30-11:20
Evelyn Richardson
ecegrichardson@uchicago.edu
Monday 11:30-12:20

Course objectives

What makes a story a myth? What gives myths their power? And why has that power been so bitterly contested? How shall we narrate the beginnings of the world? Why do we need heroic violence, and why does it repel us? Can the world accommodate new gods? How did human societies come to be? Can they be just? Whom may we kill, and when, and why?

The class will survey mythological traditions of the ancient Mediterranean: Hebrew, Greek and Roman. We will explore the power of myth to convey and contest religious, political and social truths, and will engage the most famous ancient critics of myth, notably Plato and Saint Augustine.

Readings will include complete texts or selections from: Genesis, Hesiod's Theogony, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Gilgamesh, Homer's Iliad, Vergil's Aeneid, Plato's Republic, Aeschylus' Agamemnon, Livy's History, Augustine's The City of God, Euripides' Bacchae, and the Gospel of John.

Assessment

Performance in the class will be assessed in three areas above all: two essays, which will constitute the bulk of the grade; and posted comments and discussion questions, whose format, number and medium will be discussed in section with the instructor. While students will not be penalized for not participating in class discussion, engaged and informed contributions to class discussion will benefit one's final grade.

Paper #1: 30%
Paper #2: 40%
Academic regulations

To quote the College website, "all students in the College are expected to adhere to the University's expectations of good citizenship and to abide by its standards for academic integrity." The website provides links to the regulations of the Committee on College Discipline as well as an electronic version of the Student Manual of University Policies and Regulations. The section on "Academic honesty and plagiarism" is naturally of the highest relevance.

Students with disabilities

If you require any accommodations for this course, please provide your instructor with a copy of your Accommodation Determination Letter (provided to you by the Student Disability Services office) as soon as possible so that you may discuss how your accommodations may be implemented in this course.

The University of Chicago is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the University's programs or services, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. To receive reasonable accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with Student Disability Services. Please contact the office, located at 5501 S. Ellis Avenue.
Tel: 773-702-6000
TTY 773-795-1186
e-mail: disabilities@uchicago.edu

Readings

Readings for the course are made available through Canvas (canvas.uchicago.edu). As many of these are listed below as could be compiled: a revised version of the syllabus may be issued if amendments to the assignments are made.

Allow us also to point you in the direction of two reference works that can answer many basic factual, historical and interpretive questions: the Oxford Classical Dictionary (available here) and Brill's New Pauly (available here). They have slightly different designs and different scales, and you can choose to look at both to compare the information you get.

Calendar

Every attempt has been made to finalize the Calendar before the start of term. We reserve the right to make changes during the Quarter: all such changes will be discussed in class and announced via Canvas.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
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| Week 1 | Introduction. Myth and history; the creation of the world | Lecture 1 Introduction  
Lecture 2 Genesis chapters 1-3  
Hesiod, *Theogony*, lines 1-210  
Ovid, *Metamorphoses* book 1 (excerpt) |
| Week 2 | History, theology and narrative                            | Lecture 1 Genesis chapters 4-9  
Lecture 2 Genesis chapters 18-22 |
| Week 3 | Kings and heroes, 1                                         | Lecture 1 Gilgamesh and Achilles (and Enkidu and Patroklos)  
Lecture 2 Homer, *Iliad* 22-23 |
| Week 4 | Kings and heroes, 2                                         | Lecture 1 Gilgamesh and Achilles (and Uta-napisht and Priam)  
Lecture 2 Homer, *Iliad* 24  
Vergil, *Aeneid* 8 (excerpt) |
| Week 5 | The critique of myth, the first generation: rationalization and allegory | Lecture 1 Democritus and Prodicus  
Lecture 2 The Derveni papyrus |
| Week 6 | Myth in democratic Athens                                   | Lecture 1 Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*  
Lecture 2 The problem of warfare; the myth of Pelops  
Whence justice? |
| Friday 10 May | First paper due at 12pm                                      |          |
| Week 7 | The arrival of new gods                                     | Lecture 1 Euripides, *Bacchae*  
Lecture 2 The Gospel of John |
| Week 8 | Roman mythistory: primordialism and contractualism          | Lecture 1 Cicero, *On the Commonwealth* books 1-2  
Lecture 2 Livy, *History of Rome*, 1.1-22, 2.1, 6.1 |
| Weeks 9-10 | The problem of poetry                                      | Plato, *Republic* book 10  
Augustine, *City of God* (selections) |
| Week 9 | |          |
Lecture 1  Poetry and mimesis

Week 10
Lecture 1  *Muthos* and *logos*
Lecture 2  The view from late antiquity

**Friday 7 June:** No discussion (College Reading Period)

**Sunday 9 June**  2nd paper due at 12pm