Welcome to Classical Mythology at JCCC.

Reading stories, telling stories, discussing ideas, looking at art, listening to music, having fun – it's not a bad way to spend a semester. I'm hoping that you'll enjoy your time in this class, and that, in your enjoyment, you'll learn a lot. I must emphasize that the extent to which you learn in this class will depend a lot on how much energy and effort you expend. Each person’s connection to the ideas presented in this class will be peculiar to him/her. The extent to which the information sticks depends on you. I understand just how busy you all are – me too – and I appreciate all you can do to learn the material. Give what you can, and the more you give, the more you'll get.

**Course Description:** This course serves as a general introduction to the major deities and heroes of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Students will be expected to read the myths based on the works of Greek and Roman tragedians, poets and philosophers, as presented in Harris and Platzner's *Classical Mythology* (6th edition) and to discuss their findings and impressions in class or online in Desire2Learn. The instructor will provide additional material on the myths, which will include information about the myths of other cultures, and discussions of the Nachleben of the myths in later literature, music and the arts. Through individual study, lecture and group discussion, the students should come to an understanding of the ancient myths and their relevance to the contemporary world.

**Course Requirements:** I expect students to do all readings before class and turn in all assignments on time. Student efforts will result in a greater understanding of the material and an enjoyment of the course.

**Exams:** There will be 4 exams, not cumulative, in this course. Each test will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and will be worth 50 pts. The total number of points possible in the exams is 200 pts. You can find the dates for the tests in the Schedule of Topics and Due Dates. You can find the Exams online under the Quizzes Tab during the week leading up to the due date. You will have 1 hour to complete the online test. Students may use the 5th or 4th edition. Though the material covered is largely the same, there are some differences, not least

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1 Students may use the 4th or 5th edition of Harris and Platzner, as there is little of difference in the editions other than pagination. If you do use these earlier additions, please be careful about being on the “same page” as the rest of us. So if we’re talking about Aeschylus, be sure to be in the chapter dealing with Aeschylus (ch. 15) no matter what page it starts on in your edition.
Orientation Quiz: There will be a quiz for you to take following the first class. The answers to this quiz will all be found in the Syllabus, or Open Me First documents, both of which can be found under the Content Tab. You may take it more than once if you don’t get all 20 points on the first go round. You must complete this by the end of the first week of class. This is the only quiz in the class, and the only assessment you may retake. It is worth 20 points. You can find the quiz under the Quizzes Tab in Desire2Learn. This will be available August 21. **NOTE: you must submit the Orientation Quiz, the Class Introduction, or submit the first week’s Class Discussion posts to be counted as “attending” the class. Failure to submit at least one will result in your being dropped from the class for “non-attendance.”**

Class Introductions: Rather than use up class time on this, you are encouraged to introduce yourself to the class on this bulletin board. You are encouraged to revisit these to find out more about your classmates. Your posting here (give at least three substantive bits of information about yourself and why you’re in the class) is worth 15 points. You should also post at least one response to another student’s posting. Your response should be at least 2 sentences long and say something of substance. This is worth another 5 points. This exercise, which must be completed by August 21, is worth 20 pts. in total. You can find this activity in the Discussions Tab in Desire2Learn. This will be available through August 21.

Class Discussions: Every week, students will discuss the material (I’ll provide comments and feedback as well) on their reading via an online Discussion Board. The discussions for each week will be due no later than Sunday at 11:55p before the next week begins, except for the final week’s discussion which will be due in less time. I will count the top 10 week’s discussions. Each discussion should involve a student making three postings on the reading, and two replies to fellow students. Each posting should be at least a paragraph in length (5 full sentences or more), and the responses must be at least two full sentences. Each posting and reply is worth 3 points for a total of 15 points. Postings and replies that are not substantial (say nothing or are too short) may not be counted. This is your chance to really get behind the material and what it might mean. So this section is worth 150 points (this is one area where 100% is within everyone’s grasp!).

Myth in Art/Mythic Nachleben: Each week, students will submit a discussion of 2 art works (painting, sculpture, and the like) dealing with mythological themes; the art works will parallel the material covered in the chapters under discussion that week. Each week, I’ll indicate the work for discussion. The discussion of each work is worth 10 points, and the top 10 scores will be added into an aggregate. The total points possible are, then, 100 points. Read the discussion on this topic included later in this syllabus, and the example provided. These discussions should be done in MS-Word or just type your response in the space provided in each drop box, and submitted in Desire2Learn. You’ll find a drop box for every art work listed under the Dropbox Tab. The Art Works Discussion will be due at 11:55p on the Sunday following the listing of the assignment. (You have one week, in other words.)
Close Readings. One of the key skills in learning is to be able to do close readings of text. To further your ability in this, there will be 4 close-readings in the course of the term (1) on the two Homeric Hymns to Athena; 2) on the Pandora passages from Hesiod; 3) on the story of the adulterous love affair of Ares and Aphrodite from Odyssey viii; and 4) on the choral ode on “man” from Sophocles’ Antigone). The paper will be submitted using Turn-it-in. I shall provide you with 2 examples of close reading – a close reading of Joni Mitchell’s song, “Urge for Going,” and a close reading of the opening of the Theogony, so you’ll see how to do one. I’ll also have general instructions on how to do a close reading. This information will be in the Open Me First folder. Each close reading will result in a 2 page paper (2 full pages double spaced) which you will submit for grading. The due date for each is listed in the Schedule of Topics and Due Dates. You will submit each in the Papers folder under the Dropbox Tab. Each close reading paper will be worth 50 points; I will be counting the top 3 for a total of 150 points. NOTE: PLEASE SUBMIT PAPERS IN .DOC, .DOCX (MS-WORD) OR .PDF FORMAT, AS TURN-IT-IN ONLY RECOGNIZES THOSE FORMATS.

What work is due when? Check the syllabus below, but on the Desire2Learn site there’ll be a calendar which should show you the upcoming week’s work; in addition, if you click on the Contents tab, and on Upcoming Events underneath that, you’ll see the assignments due in the next week.

Where Are You, Mr. Norcott-Mahany? Your best way to get in touch with me is through Desire2Learn. You can send me a message there, and submissions on Desire2Learn should also register on your side that they’ve been received. Next best is to email me at either (or both) of the two addresses given at the head of this syllabus. Next would be to call me at home and leave a message. Worst of all is to call the college number and leave a message – I check it only rarely.

Additional Resources: Feel free to check out the excellent web resources at the Harris and Platzner site [these are based on the 4th and 5th editions] (http://www.mhhe.com/harrismyth5 or http://highered.mcgrawhill.com/sites/0072818492/information_center_view0/). I also have a blogsite which has summary reflections on each chapter, and a .pdf of a PowerPoint presentation on each chapter. The blogsite is at http://blogs.jccc.edu/bnorcott.

Course Grades & Grading Policy
Exams: 4 @ 50 200 points
Class Discussions: top 10 @ 15 150 points
Class Introductions: 20 points
Orientation Quiz: 20 points
Myth in Art submissions: top 10 @ 10 100 points
Close Reading Papers: 3 @ 50 150 points
Total 640 points

My grading scale is: A (89.5% and better), B (79.5-89.4%), C (69.5-79.4%), D (59.5-69.4%), and F (below 59.5%).

Policies:
1. No exam may be repeated. As all tests consist of a multiple choice section done online, there is no excuse for you missing a test (you’ll have a week’s window in which to take the test, though only 30 or 60 minutes to complete the multiple choice part). If there is any reason why you cannot meet this condition, you must contact me at least a day ahead of the due date to make some arrangements.

2. All papers will be submitted in Desire2Learn. The Papers must be submitted using Turnitin, which will check the paper for originality. All material should be turned in during the window of opportunity to submit an assignment (usually a week). Otherwise, the material will be marked down a full grade for each week the material is late (and late submissions must be specially arranged with me). Items late a day or two may receive a lesser penalty.

3. Please see me during the office hour listed, or briefly after class. Any other time must be scheduled with me. Best to see me after class to arrange such a time, but contact through Desire2Learn or e-mail will also work.

4. An “I” (Incomplete) will be given only if special circumstances prevent a student from completing the class. Arrangements must be made before the final exam and a contract signed outlining the timetable for completion of the work.

5. If you need to withdraw from the course, please do so by completing a drop form in the Admissions and Records office. If you fail to fill out the paperwork, you will receive an “F” for the course. Consult the catalog regarding procedures for withdrawing from a course. The deadline for withdrawing for courses this term with a full refund is 24 August, for withdrawing without a W on your transcript is 14 September, and for withdrawing with a W on your transcript is 16 November. Dropping online must be done by 11p.

6. Cheating will not be tolerated. Each of you is capable of learning the material for this course and of doing your own work. You only learn if you do the work. A student who violates the College Honor Code will receive an “F” for the course.


**Week of August 17** – (Orientation Quiz and Class Introductions due 8-21 by 11:55p)

Introduction to Mythology – What is Myth? How Do We Look at Myth? (Read chapters 1 and 2 of Harris and Platzner (H&P); read Chapter 1 and 2 summaries and comments on my instructional blog site; post 1st week’s discussion posts and replies by August 24 at 11:55p)

**Week of August 24** – **Last day to drop a full-semester course and receive a 100 percent refund.** Hesiod’s *Theogony* – the Greek creation story and more (Read chapter 3 of H & P; read instructional blog entries on ch. 3; post 2nd week’s discussion posts and replies by August 31 at 11:55p; do first Art Discussion and submit by August 30 at 11:55p)

**Week of August 31** – Hesiod’s *Works and Days* – why life is hard? And what humans have to do now that we’re alienated from the gods (Read chapter 4 of H & P; read instructional blog entries on chapter 4; post 3rd week’s discussion posts and replies by September 14 at 11:55p; do 2nd Art Discussion and submit by September 13 at 11:55p).
USE LABOR DAY week to familiarize yourself with the 2 Homeric Hymns to Athena to get ready to do a close reading on them.

Week of September 14 -- Last day to drop a full semester course without a withdrawal "W" on the student’s permanent record. Deadline is 11 p.m. for drops completed on the Web. Homeric Hymn # 2 (“To Demeter”) – the Eleusinian Mysteries – life and death seen through the lens of vegetation; the Olympian gods – who were they? (Read chapter 5 and 6 of H & P and Homeric Hymn to Demeter; read instructional blog entries on chapters 5 and 6; post 4th week’s discussion posts and replies by September 21 at 11:55p; do 3rd Art Discussion and submit by September 20) 1st Close Reading due September 16; 1st exam (chapters 1-5) DUE September 22 at 11:55p.

Week of September 21 -- “The Love Affair of Ares and Aphrodite;” Homeric Hymn # 4 (“To Hermes”); the god Apollo (Read the readings following chapter 6 and read chapter 7; read instructional blog entries on chapter 7; post 5th week’s discussion posts and replies by September 28 at 11:55p; do 4th Art Discussion and submit by September 27 at 11:55p).

Week of September 28 – Dionysus, the god of wine and irrationality; the grim world of Hades (read chapters 8 and 9; read the instructional blog entries on chapters 8 and 9; post 6th week’s discussion posts and replies by October 5 at 11:55p; do 5th Art Discussion and submit by October 5 at 11:55p). 2nd Close Reading (“Pandora” in Theogony and Works and Days) due September 30.

Week of October 5 -- The Greek Heroic pattern and the Greek pattern for heroines (read chapters 10 and 11; read the instructional blog entries for chapters 10 and 11; post 7th week’s discussion posts and replies by October 12 at 11:55p; do the 6th Art Discussion and submit by October 11 at 11:55p). Test # 2 (covering chapters 6-10) due October 14 at 11:55p.

Week of October 12 -- The Iliad – the hero at war (read chapter 12; read the instructional blog entries for chapter 12; post 8th week’s discussion posts and replies by October 19 at 11:55p; do the 7th Art Discussion and submit by October 18 at 11:55p).

Week of October 19 -- The Odyssey – Odysseus a different type of hero (read chapter 13; read the instructional blog entries for chapter 13; posts 9th week’s discussion posts and replies by October 26 at 11:55p; do the 8th Art Discussion and submit by October 25 at 11:55p) Third Close Reading “The Loves of Ares and Aphrodite” due October 29.

Week of October 26 -- The Greek Theatre and Aeschylus’ Agamemnon (Read chapters 14 and 15 and Agamemnon; read the instructional blog entries for chapters 14 and 15; post 10th week’s discussion posts and replies by November 2 at 11:55p; do 9th Art Discussion and submit by November 1 at 11:55p. NB – there will be an additional Art Discussion [9a] which you may also submit) Test # 3 (covering chapters 11-15) is due on November 4 at 11:55p.
**Week of November 2** -- The “Heroic Temper” of Sophocles; Sophocles’ *Antigone* (Read chapter 16 and the *Antigone*; read the instructional blog entries for chapter 16; post 11\(^{th}\) week’s discussion posts and replies by November 9 at 11:55p; do 10\(^{th}\) Art Discussion and submit by November 8 at 11:55p. NB – there will be an additional Art Discussion [10a] which you may also submit).

**Week of November 9** -- The “Antihero” of Euripides; Euripides’ *Medea* (Read chapter 17 and the *Medea*; read the instructional blog entries for chapter 17; post 12\(^{th}\) week’s discussion posts and replies by November 16 at 11:55p; do 11\(^{th}\) Art Discussion and submit by November 15 at 11:55p. NB – there will be an additional Art Discussion [11a] which you may also submit).

4\(^{th}\) Close Reading (on the “Ode to Man” from Sophocles’ *Antigone*) will be due November 20.

**Week of November 16** -- Last day to request a pass/fail option or to withdraw with a "W" from a full semester course. Roman legend (not Greek myth) – Rome’s adaptations (Read chapter 18; read the instructional blog entry for chapter 18; post 13\(^{th}\) week’s discussion posts and replies by November 23 at 11:55p; do 12\(^{th}\) Art Discussion and submit by November 22 at 11:55p. NB – there will be an additional Art Discussion [12a] which you may also submit).

**Week of November 23** -- Virgil’s Roman Epic – the *Aeneid* (Read chapter 19 and *Aeneid* selections; read the instructional blog entry for chapter 19; post 14\(^{th}\) week’s discussion posts and replies by November 30 at 11:55p; do 13\(^{th}\) Art Discussion and submit by November 29 at 11:55p. NB – there will be an additional Art Discussion [13a] which you may also submit).

**Week of November 30** -- Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* – playing with myth (Read chapter 20 and the selections from *Metamorphoses*; post 15\(^{th}\) week’s discussion posts and replies by December 6 at 11:55p) **Be sure to take Test # 4 (covering chapters 16-20) by December 7 at 11:55p**

**Week of December 7** – Final Exam!
Myth in Art/Mythic Nachleben Assignment: Twice a week during the term, you should submit a description and discussion of two art works depicted in the chapters under discussion, or one of the color plates, if appropriate. For each work, you need to give the following information: 1. The artist’s name 2. The title of the work (should be underlined or italic) 3. The date of the work 4. The medium of the work 5. A description of the art work – what do you see (do not draw conclusions here – describe what you see!) 6. A discussion of the art work in connection to the myth as presented in the book and discussed in class. Each submission is worth 10 points. The points will be assigned as follows: 1 point each for the artist’s name, title (underlined or italicized), date, medium. 3 points for a description (aim at 3 to 5 sentences) – 3 excellent, 2 good, 1 poor. 3 points for a discussion of the art work (again about 3 to 5 sentences) – 3 excellent, 2 good, 1 poor. No credit will be assigned any submission missing a description or discussion. Your top 10 scores will be added together for an aggregate score. I'll provide a pair of possible works each week for discussion. If you choose a different work, you must clear it ahead of time! And you must provide a link to the work in question (or a page number in H & P) so that I can view the work myself.

Example of an Art Discussion: Color Plate 5 (in the 6th edition)

Artist: Peter Paul Rubens  
Title: The Judgment of Paris  
Date: 1633-35 Medium: Oil on canvas  
Description: In a clearing in a wooded area, three naked women on the left side of the picture stand facing two men, both clad, on the right. On the far right is a winged cherub figure crouching on the ground and looking at the viewer. In the field behind the two men there are sheep grazing. The leftmost woman stands fully forward and faces the viewer. Behind her hangs a red garment of some sort, and on the ground there is a shining shield with an horrific face as an emblem upon it. The woman (a blonde) to her right stands in profile, and looks towards the young man seated on a rock underneath a tree. She appears to be in the act of disrobing. The third woman in the exact center of the painting, her back towards us, is also facing the young man. She is taking some brownish colored cloak off. At her feet is a peacock which appears to be hissing at a dog sitting at the feet of the seated young man. The seated young man is beardless, has long hair, and is wearing a white tunic hanging from one shoulder, and a darker outer garment about his lap. He holds a curved stick in his hand. Behind the tree, standing, is another beardless youth, fairer in color, wearing a red cape and wearing a winged hat. Finally, in the skies above there appears to be a storm cloud with an angry female figure looking down on the scene. [NOTE: I AVOIDED NAMES IN THE DESCRIPTION – I SIMPLY DESCRIBED WHAT I SAW AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW THE TITLE OF THE WORK]  
Discussion: In the account told by the satirist, Lucian, three goddesses, Athena, Hera and Aphrodite, are sent by Zeus to a Trojan prince, Paris, now working as a shepherd, to be judged on their beauty. The winner will be given a golden apple, inscribed “To the Fairest.” Each of the goddesses bribes Paris – Hera with a great kingship, Athena with great military smarts, and Aphrodite with Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world. Paris chooses Aphrodite. The artist here has chosen to depict the beginning of the beauty contest – the prize has not yet been awarded. The figure on the left with the shield behind her is clearly Athena, though the Gorgon’s head is usually on her aegis (a cloak) than on her shield. The blonde in the middle is Aphrodite, who holds Paris’ gaze – she will be the winner. The other female in the contest is
Hera, as her peacock indicates. The young man seated is Paris, who looks appropriately like a shepherd, while the figure behind him, identified by the winged hat is Hermes, who brought the goddesses for judgment. The angry female in the clouds may be Eris (who started the whole mess, or some Fury like Allecto, indicating the carnage to follow). The cherub figure is clearly Eros (or Cupid). [NOTE: HERE I DO THE FOLLOWING: 1) I BRIEFLY TELL THE STORY WHICH IS BEING DEPICTED; 2) I INDICATE WHAT MOMENT IN THAT STORY THE ARTIST DEPICTS (JUST BEFORE THE JUDGMENT IS MADE); 3) I IDENTIFY THE FIGURES IN THE WORK, AND HOW YOU KNOW – YOU CAN SEE HOW I DID THAT; 4) I NOTE THINGS THAT DON’T SEEM PART OF THE STORY – THE ANGRY FIGURE IN THE CLOUDS; HAD THE ARTIST CHosen TO DEPICT THE FIGURES IN MODERN DRESS OR SOME SUCH THING I WOULD ALSO HAVE MENTIONED THAT]. If you don’t have the 6th edition, you can see this piece on the following website: http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/peter-paul-rubens-the-judgement-of-paris/26781

A few more things … Students with Disabilities. If you are a student with a disability or handicapping condition, and if you will be requesting accommodations, it is your responsibility to contact Access Services. Access Services will recommend any appropriate accommodations to your professor and his Academic Director. The instructor and director will identify for you which accommodations will be arranged. JCCC provides a range of services to allow persons with disabilities or handicapping conditions to participate in educational programs and activities. If you desire support services, contact Access Services, 253 Student Center by visiting them, or by phone at 913-469-8500, ext. 3521 or 913-369-3885 TDD. What if JCCC closes? If the college closes down because of weather or other emergency and class is cancelled on a day when a test would be given, please assume that the test will take place on the next class day following the cancellation. If the college closes on any other day, please assume responsibility for all reading as set forth in the syllabus. The instructor will make an attempt to combine classes to cover the material in abbreviated form.