

CLAS-C205-01 CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY
SPRING 2017
DR. DAMIAN FLEMING

RESEARCH PROJECT 1:

Both of your projects for this course will ask you to compare depictions of a mythological character or story, and will result in online projects of about 750 words + ample textual quotations.

In your first project you will compare **ancient accounts** of a myth with a **work of art**.

“Ancient accounts” are the primary texts found in our *Anthology of Classical Myth*, Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, or Ovid’s *Metamorphosis*, for example. To be considered an “ancient account,” the text must be written before 400 CE. The story summaries found in mythology textbooks and many online resources are *NOT* ancient accounts. Such summaries may be based on ancient accounts, but you may not use them unless you can locate the original texts they are drawing upon.

Your work of art depicting a mythological theme can come from any time period, from the ancient work to the present day.

Step 1: Find a Work of Art

A simple Google image search for a topic you are interested might find something worthwhile. It you will probably find more results if you search for gods' Roman names (Jupiter, Venus, etc.)

You could also browse one of my many mythological themed books.

You must be able to identify the time period of the work of art and the artist unless it is an ancient anonymous work of art. Do not do a project on a random piece of internet art.

Be sure to use Google to "search by image" to help find information about your art

Step 2: Post your work of art on our [Class Wiki](#)

Your work of Art/Book Title must be posted on our wiki before class on **Tuesday, Feb 14**.

Visit the First Project Page

- o EDIT
- o Add your Name + Topic
- o Highlight Name + Topic, click "Add link"
- o Hit Return
- o Open new page you've created
- o SAVE! your new page
- o SAVE! the Project Page

Posting your Art online:

If you have a digital image, then you could easily paste the image onto your project page or provide a link to an image.

Step 3: Research the Art and Research the Myth

There are two tasks here:

One is to learn about the work of art: who made it? When is it from? What do we know about its original purpose (is it a drinking vessel? Is it a statue from a temple? Is it a painting from a Church?). Where is it now?

The second task is to learn as much as you can about the myth or character being depicted. Summaries are a good start, but what really matters is the ***ancient sources***. Use the **index** to the *Anthology of Classical Myths*, Homer, and Ovid to find as many ancient sources as you can.

THEOI.COM is an excellent resource, but cross reference its texts with our books; if the text is in one of our books, **you must cite from our books**.

One of the primary goals of this project is to get you searching through ancient texts, and sharing your results. To show that you have done this, provide block quotations from whatever primary texts are relevant to your project. Of course, pick and choose among the possible sources to see which are the most relevant for your project, but provide full quotations from the texts that are appropriate. **If a text is included in one of our course-books, you must cite from that translation.** Don't copy and paste source texts from online translations unless you cannot find the given source in any of your books. Using an online source for something which is available in one of our texts will result in a **failing grade for the project**.

Throughout all of this, think about how your work of art compares to the ancient stories. Is there anything noticeably different? What sorts of details are present in the art that are perhaps not mentioned in any ancient sources? What sort of important details are found in ancient sources which are not in the art? You should try notice differences between ancient **Greek** texts from ancient **Roman/Latin** texts. Roman texts were widely available throughout European history, while Greek texts were not. Most European art produced between 500 CE and 1900 CE will be mostly based on Roman sources. Describing the differences between Roman and Greek sources is part of this project.

Step 4: Write your Project.

In polished, concisely written, formal prose, write a 750 word comparison of the work of art, its myth, and its ancient sources, including all the information listed in the sections above. After introducing the art and its myth, offer a detailed comparison of what is depicted in the art, and what you have found in ancient sources. **All projects MUST contain textual quotations with appropriate citations from ancient texts.** As noted above, if the ancient source is available in one of our course texts, you MUST cite that translations (rather than copy-and-pasting an online translations). Your large quotations from primary texts **do not count** toward the 750 word limit.

Step 5: Post: **Thursday, March 2**

Upload your complete project onto our wiki before class starts on **Thursday, March 2**. Late projects will not be accepted.

Step 6: Peer Evaluate: **due Tuesday, March 14.**

Read and Evaluate each other's Projects

Evaluations must be posted online in the "Comments" box on the appropriate entry before class on **Tuesday, March 14**.

Additionally, bring in a printout with all your evaluations on it.

You will read carefully and formally evaluate 10 (ten) of your peers' Projects. You will then write a review of the entry and provide a grade on a scale of your own devising. Post your evaluations onto our wiki, and also hand into me a typed collection of all your evaluations (so I can give you credit for your work).

Details:

Each student will review the 10 entries which follow their own on the wiki (looping back to the top when necessary).

You must include at least one suggestion for improvement.
End each assessment with a grade on a scale of your own invention (do NOT explain the scale)

Hand into me a printout of all your evaluations

Thoughts on Peer evaluating:

You do not need to be an expert on art or mythology to evaluate each other's work. On the contrary, everyone should write their project with their classmates in mind as an audience. You should seek clarity without condescension. When evaluating, clarity should be one of your primary criteria. Can you follow the student-author's explanations? Is the student-author providing information at a level appropriate to this class? Secondly, evaluators should feel free to consider the perceived effort put forth in preparing the project. Is it clearly written, and free from basic typographical errors? Is it interesting and well researched? Has the author seemed to minimally follow the assignment, matched the assignment appropriately, or perhaps gone above and beyond the expectations of the assignment? Feel free to mentally compare your peers' projects with your own.

Also feel free to investigate any suspicious wording. If you find that one of your peers appears to have plagiarized, let us know. It's often a good idea to directly compare a peer's work with Wikipedia to see if they have taken the easiest way out.

ESSENTIAL REMINDERS:

Mythology Project Reminders:

Remember the focus of this class:

- Spend lots of time **thinking** about the myth and the art
- Talk about the art—take time looking at, describing it, and explaining what's in the image
- Not 4th grade report time. Don't spend a lot of time on pointless summary of myths or backgrounds. Deal with the myths that are most relevant to your

DO NOT talk about the “accuracy” of anything. “Accuracy” implies that there is some true version of a given story, character, or myth, and we know this is not true. Rather, phrase all your comparisons as specifically as possible.

For example:

BAD: Michelangelo’s statue of David is inaccurate, because the bible doesn’t say that he’s naked.

GOOD: “Michelangelo’s depiction of the clothing of David differs from that described in the first book of Samuel, which states, “Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head (1 Sam 17:38).”

Format:

Make your project as web friendly as possible

Make all secondary sources **glaringly obvious**. If I cannot tell where you are citing something from, you are plagiarizing.

ALL internet resources must be HYPERLINKED directly to the **specific page** you got the source from. A link like THIS will get you a failing grade. I link like THIS will win you a place on Mount Olympus.

Remember, you are citing the TEXTS within the books you own. “ACM” is not a good enough reference; tell us, is your quotation from Hesiod’s *Theogony*? or Apollodorus's *Library*? or the *Homeric Hymn to Hermes*?

If it’s in one of our books, you must cite it from there.