

# Classics 224 Greek Mythology

## Syllabus and Prospectus – Spring 2008

**Classroom:** SOM 137 Meeting days: MWF 2:30-3:20

**Instructor** Kenneth F. Kitchell, Jr. Office location: Herter 529

**How to contact me:** E-mail [sosigenes51@yahoo.com](mailto:sosigenes51@yahoo.com) Phone 5-4249

A note on email --- I am outnumbered here by over 200 to 1. There is no earthly way I can respond to e-mails immediately. Yet I do want to be in contact with you, despite the size of the class. So I have cooked up this plan

- Only emails sent to the above address will be responded to. Emails sent to my regular U Mass account will just be deleted. This is simply how it has to be so that I can sort out Myth e-mails for more timely management.
- All e-mails will be read by a teaching assistant who will answer routine ones for me (e.g. "when is the test?" or "what chapter are we on?").
- S/he will forward along any that he can not deal with immediately.
- Do not expect an answer on an email the same day you send it. Therefore, if you have a pressing issue, you need to speak to me after class, come to my office hours, or call me at the office, phone: 5-4249. There is no answering machine there so call when the secretary can take messages. Person to person contact with me is always the best choice.

### **Office hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, 11-12 Thursday 10-11 and by appointment.

Note: I cannot stress enough that I welcome your questions and inquiries. Feel very free to come by and chat about things. If there are things you do not understand, come see one of the TAs or me. It is part of my job to help you outside of class as well as in it. Anyway, I enjoy it.

Just remember there a ton more of you than there are of me so plan ahead.

## Who is my grader?

If your last name ends in	Your Grader is	How To Contact	Office Hours	Location
A-Court	Dr K	<a href="mailto:sosigenes51@yahoo.com">sosigenes51@yahoo.com</a>	TWTh 11-12	Herter 529
Cunn-Gaw				
Gax-Mac				
Mad-Raf				
Rea-Z				

## Course Goals

There are a couple of things that are very important to my sense of what this course is all about.

- First of all, I want you to know some facts about Greek mythology.
  - But I also want you to get some insight into how myth in general works. Why do most cultures have myths? Why are so many of them the same? Do we need myths today?
  - And I am very intent on showing you how Greek myth surrounds you every day of your life. -- on the factual level (e.g. Oedipus complex or Midas Mufflers) or on the theoretical level.
- Finally....I hope you enjoy your trip into antiquity and into the mythological mind of the Greeks. Myth is EVERYWHERE!! If you don't believe it, go [here](#).

## Attendance

I don't take it. You are, as adults, able to choose where you want to be. But the course is structured to give an advantage to those who come. For example, the lectures often will correct the book, challenge what the book says, or very commonly talk about things that are not in the book. All this is fair game for the tests. And while I post the Power Points, it is not to be thought that just looking at them is a substitute for coming to class. That will not work out well for you.

## Missed Assignments, Quizzes, Tests

The grade for an unexcused absence for assignments, a test, or quiz is zero. No exceptions. Normal university approved excuses apply of course. Read about what is considered an [approved absence \(see page 28-29\)](#) in the University Academic Regulations. I require **written proof** of such absences. Always let me know ahead of time rather than after the fact. I am very dubious about “after the fact,” if not downright skeptical.

I do NOT grant make-ups for things like

- ❖ early flights home for vacations
- ❖ routine medical appointments
  - ❖ work
  - ❖ being late
  - ❖ oversleeping
- ❖ weddings of distant relatives
  - ❖ family events

School comes first. Schedule such things around your class obligations. If you have something you want to ask for permission about, do it **before** the event, not after. I almost never grant permission after the fact.

- Consult your [Academic Regulations \(p. 6-7\)](#) for all particulars on Academic Honesty These things are really there for your protection so be familiar with them. Check the [Academic Honesty site](#)
- I have and will continue to pursue plagiarism charges through proper university channels. Do not try it.
- All formal written assignments will be subject to checking on TURNITIN, a program that checks for plagiarism.

**NOTE ON MAKEUPS** They 1) have to be taken one week from the date of the missed event. If you go beyond this, the grade for that assignment/test is zero 2) are done at the times the TAs can do it and in groups. That means you may have to miss work or get up earlier than normal.

**SCALE:** I grade on the University Scale for this course.

A = 93 & above  
B+ = 87 – 89

A- = 90 - 92  
B = 83 – 86

B- = 80 - 82

C+ = 77 – 79  
D+ = 67 – 69

C = 73 – 76  
D = 60 – 66

C- = 70 - 72  
F = 59 & below

Test 1: February 24 tentative date	20%
Test 2: April 12 tentative	25%
Test 3: On day final is scheduled. Covers last remaining material and a select amount of review material.	35%
<b>Writing</b>	
Various small writing assignments ..... three in class writing assignments. Notice will be given as to when they are do. There will be three and you get to drop the lowest grade.	10%
Larger creative paper, submitted in two parts via Spark: The first is a rough draft and is due XXXXXX. You will receive suggestions for improvement but no markups for this version. It is worth 40%. The finished paper is due XXXXXX and is worth 60%. <b>Note:</b> Late papers are lowered in grade. No exceptions. So plan well.	10%
	100.00%

**Web Page:** Spark is the official home of the course and all information flows through this. Check it daily for assignments (on the calendar) and updates. Play the review games on another site frequently to help you solidify what you learn. URL:

<http://www.quia.com/pages/kitchellmyth.html>

**Posting Grades:** Grades may be posted on Spark if I can learn how! Otherwise I'll use a separate program for which you will receive a password. If you lose the password **I can not, by law** send you the password via email. You have to come to my office.

**Tests:** Two occur during the semester and one on the day scheduled for the final. This one is selectively inclusive and you will have access to a study guide on what is included comprehensively. They are all They are multiple choice and do not include an essay. The writing component of the course is addressed with the writing assignments.

**Writing Assignments:** This is a Gen Ed course. I take the fact that college students should be able to communicate effectively in writing very seriously.

- One large (3-4 pages) writing assignment will be assigned

- Three short ones throughout the semester, done via Spark, done in class. You get to drop the lowest grade, which includes a zero if you cut the class.
- All papers are subject to being checked for academic honesty through TURNITIN.
- **Note:** Spelling, proper use of grammar, and being able to write effective sentences and paragraphs are all expected and failure to do so will cost you a significant number of points. At my web site I have several exercises designed to help you learn to spell the gods' names, tricky technical terms, and the like. So if you pass in "Zues" instead of "Zeus" expect to lose points.

**Textbook:** Available at Annex *Greek Mythology: Myths of the Ancient Greeks* Richard Martin New American Library 0-451-20685-1

## **COURTESY**

The Curse of Big Classes -- Expectations

Let's face it -- big classes are a pain. They preclude a lot of meaningful discussion, are impersonal and clumsy.

BUT that does not mean they need to be bad. I take a great deal of pride in my teaching and in reaching out to every student. In a small class I can control that better. In a big class I need more help from you.

It is your job

- to pay attention
- not distract me or those around you
- It is rude to sit in front of me and
  - eat your lunch,
  - read something
  - listen to music
  - chat
  - yawn in my face
  - sleep or the like

- It is rude to come in late and to make a big ruckus when you do. If you are late, enter **by the back door** and come in with a minimum of fuss.

It is my job to give you the best possible education possible for the money you spend and part of this job involves creating an atmosphere conducive to learning. It might be a big classroom but it is still a classroom.

So..... if we have to, the TAs and I will remind you of your responsibilities to treat the process with respect. And if you force us, you will be asked to leave. I hate the confrontation, but I hate even more allowing those who don't come to learn to rob those who do of their opportunity.

So..... DON'T MAKE ME USE THIS THING!!!!



## **Helpful Courtesy Hints**

If you are coming in a bit late, do so quietly and from the rear of the room. Sit in the back.

Do not start packing up before class is over. I dismiss the class. If I start running over, though, the TAs are instructed to let me know. I really dislike profs who hold students over and don't want to be one of them.

Do not get up and leave early unless you are really sick. If on a given day you have to leave early for a good reason sit at the back and near an aisle and let me know ahead of time.

Turn your phones and pagers and whatever else you have OFF. As in NOT ON. If you do not, then I am not responsible for what Fluffy might do.....



ring.....

Fluffy when she hears a phone

## Study Helps

You get to the class page (it is not on Spark) by using this link: <http://www.quia.com/profiles/kkitchell> This web page will really help you do well in the course. Here you will find the

- full syllabus
- lists of important terms
- practice games and quizzes
- useful links

It is certainly not mandatory that you do the activities here or follow the links. But it is recommended heavily. **It is mandatory** that you check the calendar associated with Spark well in advance of every class as this contains announcements, assignments, and the like. Just looking at it on the morning of class can leave you behind the curve.

Note that before class there will be announcements on overheads or computer display. Pay attention to them when you come in.