

CLT 3510: Ancient World in Film

Aims and Objectives:

This course offers glimpses in the Ancient Greek and Roman world through the eyes of modern film and television. Since the early days of cinema the so called "toga" movies were, and remain to the present day, an important part of it. Directors and script writers sought inspiration in the rich pool of themes and topics which the mythology, history and culture of the Graeco-Roman world had to offer. Stories about gods and heroes, epic battles, tragic events, the great men and women of the past, mythological monsters, and the shiny glories of Greece and Rome have provided inspiration and have made some amazing cinema. But it was not only about the spectacle. Modern film makers have often used the ancient past as a vessel to speak to the present, and contribute to modern debates on social, economic, political and cultural issues, sometimes with subtlety and on other occasions by turning an ancient theme into an unmistakable commentary on the present. Thus, modern film makers have seen the relevance of the Graeco-Roman world for us and used to offer us new angles on our views of the present. This course emphasizes this link between the past and the present. While we will enjoy watching some amazing movies and series, and we will use them as an opportunity to study closer the Graeco-Roman world, and to sharpen our minds with the rich perspective that such comparisons open.

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Introductory Powerpoint

2. The Myth of Atlantis and the first European Civilization

Viewing:

Atlantis, S 1, E 1: The Earth Bull, and S 1, E 3: A boy of no consequence.

Optional Reading: Stylianos Alexiou, *Minoan Civilization*, 1973.

3. The Dawn of Western Civilization

Viewing: Troy

Reading: Homer Iliad, Book 22

4. The battle for the World

Viewing: Clash of the Titans (2011)

Reading: Hesiod Theogony

5. The myths and legends of the Greeks and the Romans

Viewing: Percy Jackson

Reading: Apollodorus Library 1

6. The Greek world at War

Viewing: 300

Reading: Herodotos , Book (7.201 – end of book 7)

7. An Amazon in the 20th century

Viewing: Wonderwoman (2017)

Reading: Lysias 2, The Funeral Discourse

8. The conquest of Asia

Viewing: Alexander

Reading: Plutarch Life of Alexander

9. MIDTERM: REVIEW and EXAM

10. The Hellenistic World

Viewing: Cleopatra

Reading: Plutarch Life of Marc Antony

11. The Late Roman Republic

Viewing: HBO Rome, S 1, E 12, Kalends of February

Reading: Suetonius, Life of Julius Caesar

12. The Roman Legions and the Conquest of the Mediterranean World

Viewing: Eagle

Reading: Polybius Histories 6.18-43

(Scroll down to the chapter entitled: VI. The Roman Military System)

13. Life in Imperial Rome

Viewing: Viewing: Something Funny Happened on the way to the Forum.

Reading: Juvenal, Satire 6

14. Bread and Circuses

Viewing: Gladiator

Reading: <http://abacus.bates.edu/~mimber/blood/gladiator.sources.htm>

(This is a nice online collection of sources on the gladiatorial games)

15. From Rome to Christianity

Viewing: Agora

Reading: Justin Martyr (Pseudepigraphon) Hortatory address to the Greeks

16. Review and FINAL

Assessment:

10 online quizzes = 50 %

There will be 12 online quizzes, one quiz every week, except weeks 1, 9, 15 and 16. Only 10 will count towards the final grade. Students who have more than 10 will be able to eliminate the one or two worst ones.

We do not have enough time to view the films in class. We may only view important excerpts. Students will need to view the film or tv series episodes assigned to each week in advance. TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS HAVE VIEWED THE FILM OR EPISODES ASSIGNED, THE QUIZ WILL ASK SIMPLE QUESTIONS ON THE VIEWINGS FOR THE WEEK.

QUIZZES WILL BE PLACED ONLINE ON MONDAY MORNING AND WILL STAY OPEN FOR A PERIOD OF 24 HOURS.

Each quiz will consist of 10 questions and once opened it needs to be finished within 7 minutes. No additional time can be given to online quizzes under any circumstances. Students with extra time accommodations will need take the quizzes at the DRC.

Midterm = 25 %

Final = 25 % (The final is not cumulative)

Students have unlimited time for both the midterm and the final.

Since both the midterm and the final are worth more than 10%, the University requires that they are taken in class by all students.

Make up quizzes or exams:

Make up quizzes or exams will only be allowed under exceptional circumstances, and with formal documentation.

HYBRID FORMAT:

This course was designed for Face to Face delivery, but under the exceptional challenges of our times, a Hyflex option has been made available. Students may elect to attend some or the entire course online, but in this case their ability to participate in the discussions could be diminished by technical challenges.

INSTRUCTOR INFO:

Konstantinos Kapparis, Professor of Classics

Office: 135 Dauer Hall.

Office Hours: Wed 6.30-8.00 pm, and online by appointment.

Emailing for an appointment, even during office hours, will ensure that there will be no waiting time. For online office hours email me or our TA with your availability and we will send you a link.

Mask (not scarf or bandana) covering mouth and nose is an absolute requirement for admission to my office.

For everyone's safety and convenience online appointments are highly recommended.