

CLA 3930

CLA 3930: Heroes, Gods and Monsters (3 credits)

Fall 2014, T 4-5 10:40-12:35/R 10:40-11:30

FLG 270

Professor Jennifer Rea

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Office Hours: T/R 3rd hour (9:35-10:25)

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Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to explain the influence of classical literature on monster studies and also to study the origins of monster theory in Greek and Roman literature and Greek mythology.

Students Will Learn To:

- Define Monster Theory
- Assess the thematic connections between Greco-Roman literature and modern literature
- Critically evaluate the relationship between the ancients' hopes and fears for the future and our modern societal concerns
- Gain an appreciation for Greco-Roman literature's influence on our modern understanding of civilization and progress

Course website on SAKAI: The e-learning support services homepage contains the SAKAI system entry link. The course site provides more detailed information on the assigned readings, announcements, and access to lecture outlines and power points. You may also check your course grade on SAKAI.

Course Grading : Your final grade will be based on how well you do on **three equally weighted exams** which will each be worth 1/3 of your final grade. In addition, during the course of the semester you will be given **two opportunities to participate in an extra credit "minute paper"** where you will write an answer to a question based on the day's lecture and each essay you complete will have the ability to raise your final grade one full point. You must be present to participate and hand in your essay at the end of the class period. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussion is expected. You should therefore plan to be present every week and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. It is extremely difficult to be involved in the

learning process unless you participate fully in class activities. Thus, your participation in class discussion is especially critical. You cannot make an effective contribution to the class if you come to class unprepared, are chronically late, or fail to attend class.

Classroom Policy :

Laptops and other mobile electronic devices are permitted in the classroom only for the purpose of note-taking. Use of mobile phones, electronic devices and computers is prohibited during class for any other reason and students who violate this policy will immediately be dismissed from the class. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and students will have one full percentage point deducted from their final grade each time they are dismissed from class.

Late Assignments : You will be allowed to hand in or make up work late only for excused absences, such as required student participation in a university-sponsored event (you must submit official documentation to the professor from the appropriate faculty or staff member before the event); religious holidays (notify the professor within the first two weeks of class); medical emergencies (with documentation from a health care provider); family emergencies (with valid written documentation). Regarding medical and family emergencies, it is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible that you will need accommodations. Students with a valid excuse have **one week** after a missed assignment (or one week after recovering from an illness) to hand in the work.

Grading Scale :

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A = 90 or above | C = 70-73 |
| A- = 87-89 | C- = 67-69 |
| B+ = 84-86 | D+ = 64-66 |
| B = 80-83 | D = 60-63 |
| B- = 77-79 | D- = 57-59 |
| C+ = 74-76 | E = 56 or below |

Grading Scale with GPA Equivalencies

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|-----------|
| A = 4.0 |
| A- = 3.67 |
| B+ = 3.33 |
| B = 3.0 |
| B- = 2.67 |
| C+ = 2.33 |
| C = 2.0 |
| C- = 1.67 |
| D+ = 1.33 |
| D = 1.0 |
| D- = 0.67 |
| E = 0.0 |

- A C- grade will **not** qualify for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit. UF does not consider C- to be a passing grade.

This course is in compliance with all UF policies regarding attendance, special needs and academic honesty. For details, see <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> (attendance); <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> (special needs); <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php> (academic honesty).

ADA Requirements:

If you have any disability or special concern, it is your responsibility to notify me at the start of the semester so that your needs may be accommodated. You will also need to give me a letter from the Dean of Students Office indicating that you need academic accommodations *at the start of the semester*.

Counseling and Mental Health Services at UF:

Students who have difficulty completing the course or who have need of counseling should contact the UF Counseling and Wellness Center at (352) 392-1575 or www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc

Students will be expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online and students will be given specific instructions as to when the online link will be available. Generally the evaluations are offered online during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRO TO MONSTER THEORY

T August 26 Course Introduction/Definitions of the Divine/Heroic/Monstrous

R August 28 Monster Theory, Part I (Viewing: *I, Claudius*)

T September 2 Monster Theory, Part II (Viewing: *Prometheus*)

Reading : Aeneid 1-2 (<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.htm>)

R September 4 Odysseus and the Cyclops (Viewing: *The Odyssey*)

Reading : (<http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/homer/odysseytofc.htm>) *Odyssey* Book 9

T September 9 Jason/Viewing: *Jason and the Argonauts*

Reading: *The Argonautica* (posted in SAKAI)

R September 11 Theseus and the Minotaur

Reading: (posted in SAKAI)

T September 16 The Monster on the Threshold

(Viewing: TBA)

R September 18 Monsters in Vergil

Reading : Aeneid 3-4 (<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.htm>)

T September 23 **Exam #1**

GOOD GREEKS AND ROMANS VERSUS MONSTERS

R September 25 Visual Monstrosities (Images from Rome)

Reading : *Aeneid* 5-6 (<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.htm>)

T September 30 Ovid (Perseus)/ Viewing: *BtVS*: “The Zeppo”

Reading : (Ovid – posted in SAKAI)

R October 2 Hercules in Vergil and Propertius

Reading : *Aeneid* Books 7-8 (<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.htm>) + Propertius poem 4.9 (http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/PropertiusBkFour.htm#_Toc201112563)

T October 7 Female Monsters (Viewing: *BtVS*: “The Wish”)

Reading: Horace 2.20, Cleopatra Ode, and Ars Poetica (excerpts) and Odes 3.4 (reading in SAKAI)

R October 9 Gigantomachy (Bill’s Lecture)

Reading : TBA

T October 14 Aeneas and his companions

Reading : *Aeneid* Books 9-10 (<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.htm>)

R October 16 Aeneas’s Shield/The S.H.E.I.L.D?

T October 21 Viewing: *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*

R October 23 The Minotaur, Part II

T October 28 **Exam #2**

EVERYDAY HEROES IN GREECE & THE ROMAN EMPIRE

R October 30 *Medea*

Reading : <http://records.viu.ca/~Johnstoi/euripides/medea.htm>

T November 4 Viewing: *Blade*

R November 6 Heroes and the Divine in *The Ara Pacis Augustae*

T November 11 – **No Class (Veteran’s Day)**

R November 13 Aeneas and Turnus

Reading : *Aeneid*: Books 10-12 (<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.htm>)

T November 18 Viewing: *Pan's Labyrinth*

R November 20 *Oedipus the King*

Reading : (<https://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/sophocles/oedipustheking.htm>)

T November 25 Viewing: *Gladiator*

R November 27 **No Class (Thanksgiving)**

T December 2 *The Passio of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas*

Reading : <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua.asp>

R December 4 St. Perpetua of Carthage/Gladiators

T December 9 **Exam #3**