AHIS1200
Myth in the Ancient World
Session 2, Special circumstance 2021
Department of History and Archaeology

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update
The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities.

Visit the MQ COVID-19 information page for more detail.
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Eva Anagnostou
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Samantha Mills
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
You will begin with the earliest creation myths, explore myths of gods and goddesses, heroes, Amazons, and monsters, and examine the development of myth in both literature and art. The unit is largely based upon Greek and Latin texts in translation as well as the representation of myth in Greek and Roman art. Egyptian, Near-Eastern and biblical texts will also be studied. The unit focuses on the relevance of key themes in myth to the cultures in which the myths were retold, investigating the role of myth in the religious, political and social life of the classical world.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts, principles and theories used in the study of myth and the content of select representative examples of myths from the ancient world.

ULO2: Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information about myth in the ancient world.

ULO3: Create clear, coherent, evidence-based exposition of knowledge and ideas about myth in the ancient world.

ULO4: Communicate critical and reflective judgements effectively with teaching staff and
peers.

**General Assessment Information**

**Assessment Task 1 of 3:**

**Analysis of a Myth**

Due: 23:59 12/9/2021 (= Sunday midnight Week 7)

Weighting: 25%

Length: 1000 words

Every week students will be introduced to a number of myths from ancient Greece, Rome, the ancient Near East (including Egypt), and some myths from the Aboriginal traditions. The myths will be analysed in terms of their cultural context, the genre in which they belong (oral tradition vs written tradition/ epic versus drama/ literature versus historiography), their typology (cosmogonical myths vs ritual myths vs cultural hero myths etc) and as the semester progresses through certain theoretical perspectives (structuralism and post-structuralism, functionalism, phenomenology).

By week 7, **both in the lectures and the tutorials** students will be exposed to analysing myths based on their cultural context, recognizing their typology and their genre. **Our analyses will combine a close reading of the ancient evidence with insights from modern scholarship.** By ‘modern scholarship’ we mean work published in academic journals or monographs. **You will find readings suggested for each lecture and tutorial in the iLearn site.** In addition to what we refer to as essential readings, there will also be an extended list of works that can be found in the library for your perusal. Do not use general or encyclopedic style websites such as WIKIPEDIA as sources.

**For this task, students are asked to analyse a myth of their choice with regard to the myth’s cultural context, its typology and/or its genre by referencing the ancient evidence and secondary literature thoroughly.**

**You are also required to submit a bibliography of all ancient and modern items consulted.**

Please refer to the guide to referencing and essay presentation, available on the unit’s website.

Submissions which exceed the prescribed length by more than 10% will not be marked.

Submission: Submission is made electronically via the ‘assignment’ link on the unit’s webpage.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of select representative examples of myths from the ancient world
- demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts and approaches used in the study of myth
Analyze source material, including ancient sources and modern scholarship; the critiquing of texts and application of knowledge
create and communicate evidence based critical and reflective judgements about ancient myths

To Help you with your first task, here are some suggestions for mythic topics to be analysed (feel free to choose a topic of your own):

The quest for immortality in Babylonian and Greek mythology.
Gods and humans in Babylonian and Greek mythology.
Vernant and the role of sacrifice in Greek Mythology.
Myth and memory (Babylonian/Greek/aboriginal)
Pandora: Explaining ancient Greek misogyny
Heracles and the Heroic Archetype in Greek Mythology.
The role of Heracles’ parerga in Greek myth
Story Telling in the time of Hesiod. The Theogony a theology.
Polis and Piety: the relation between Athenian Theatre and Athenian politics.
The Underworld before and after the Mysteries of Eleusis.
The role of katabasis in Greek mythology.
The social aspects of Dionysian cult.
Explain the character of Prometheus in Plato’s Protagoras.
Young girl interrupted: tracing initiation patterns in the story of [Medea/Electra/ Antigone/ Helen/ Iphigenia].
Defining Alexandrian poetics.
Alexander between Myth and History.
The origins of Greek pastoral poetry.
Where do the similarities between Homer and Vergil stop?
Discuss the Aeneid as a “national” epic.
Ovid as a Silver Age poet.
Explain Herodotus’ title as the Father of History.
Ritual and myth in aboriginal communities.
Kingship and Culture (Babylonian/ Greek/Aboriginal).
The value of comparative mythology.
Assessment Task 2 of 3:

Essay

Due: 23:59 31/10/2021 (= Sunday midnight Week 12)

Weighting: 50%

Length: 2000 words

Write an essay of no more than 2000 words on ONE of the topics below.

Label your work when you submit it in the following way:

§ Number of Question.Surname.Student ID number

§ (eg 4.Smith.9458767)

1. Discuss the extent to which theories of myth provide an explanation for Greek myth. Feel free to focus your essay on structuralism, post-structuralism, functionalism OR phenomenology.

2. Discuss the extent to which Greek mythology was influenced by myths from other cultures.

3. Discuss the extent to which Roman mythology was influenced by myths from other cultures.

4. Ancient Greek myth embraces religion, science and philosophy, in contrast to nowadays tendency to differentiate between these lines of enquiry. Discuss our approach(es) of Greek mythology in relation to the above statement.

5. Discuss the notion of kinship in aboriginal mythology.

6. Discuss the myth of Pandora in light of the ancient Greek view on women.

7. Discuss the main aspects of Babylonian divine kingship.

8. Motifs of cosmogony in aboriginal myths.


10. The Heroic King: Models of Kingship in Homer.

11. Explain the factors that made for Zeus’ success in winning and retaining sovereign power in the universe. How secure is Zeus’ Olympian order? Discuss with reference to episodes from Hesiod’s Theogony.

12. Examine the profile of Zeus as king of the gods in Prometheus Bound.

13. Ancient Greek gods were often attributed human qualities which distance them significantly from nowadays perceptions about the divine. What impact did this have to the sense of piety the ancient Greeks adopted towards their gods?
14. “Monsters exist in order to be killed.” Consider this remark in the light of your knowledge of the Odyssey.

15. In the light of some of the stories you have studied consider the significance of trickery and deception in Greek myth. Discuss with reference to famous bearers of these qualities.

16. In the light of some of the stories you have studied consider the significance of eating and swallowing in Greek myth.

17. Ritual patterns in ancient Greek drama: Antigone and Iphigeneia.

18. Compare Heracles and Dionysus as mystery gods. What do their similarities and differences tell us about the ideal Greek man?

19. The role of ritual in aboriginal culture.

20. Analyze rites of passage and discuss their social importance in ancient Greece.

21. Discuss male ritual rites in ancient Greece: from the Black Hunter to Hippolytus

22. Discuss the popularity of the Eleusinian rites in Greek/ Greco-Roman antiquity.

23. Discuss in what ways the legend of Alexander the Great complies with the traditional Greek myths you studied until now.

24. The Romans did not have a mythology of their own, but simply appropriated the Greek traditional stories about gods and heroes. Do you agree with this view?


26. Discuss Ovid’s Metamorphoses: is his work an epic, in your opinion?

27. The use of myth in Ovid’s Metamorphoses and the didactic tradition.

28. The use of myth in Plato’s philosophy

How to submit your essay

Your essay is to be submitted electronically through the TURNITIN submission link.

Upload your essay through the ESSAY SUBMISSION TURNITIN link in the assessment section on the unit’s main page.

For further instructions on how to submit an assignment follow this link:

how to submit a Turnitin assignment

On successful completion you will be able to:

• demonstrate knowledge of select representative examples of myths from the ancient world
• Identify theoretical approaches taken in the study of myth
• Analyze source material, including ancient sources and modern scholarship; the
critiquing of texts and application of knowledge

• create and communicate evidence based critical and reflective judgements about ancient myths
• Synthesize acquired knowledge and understanding to produce a critical analytical essay

Assessment Task 3 of 3

Online Quizzes

(= Sunday midnight of weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10).

Weighting: 5 quizzes x 5% each = 25%

Format/length: each quiz will comprise of 15 multiple choice answers and will be marked automatically. The quizzes are timed.

These are short online quizzes on the material covered in the lecture topics. Access to each quiz is through the unit’s website. You may take the quizzes at any time during the specific week, but you may take each quiz only once. Maximum time allowed for each quiz is 45 mins (for 15 questions per each quiz). These quizzes are instead of an exam: there is no formal examination for the unit. In addition, they help you keep track of your progress and your readings on a weekly basis.

You are advised to complete each quiz after listening to the relevant lectures: since the quizzes are every two weeks, they will cover material for the previous two weeks; for example, the quiz of week 2 will cover material from weeks 1 and 2. It may be useful to have the lecture notes (pdf) open while you attempt the quiz. Access to the quizzes will be given on Wednesday morning of the week each quiz is due (because Wed is when we have the second lecture of the week) and until Sunday midnight of the particular week. Please do not start a quiz until you are ready to answer the questions! In the past some students opened a quiz to see how it worked: once opened the quiz must be completed as you may take each quiz only once.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Demonstrate concrete knowledge of the myths we have studied, and the theoretical approaches used for their study.
• Practice and demonstrate your ability to exercise critical thinking about ancient when presented with multiple-choice responses.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – 10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.
## Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of a Myth</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 12/9/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 8/8/2021; 22/8/2021; 5/9/2021; 3/10/2021; 17/10/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:59 31/10/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Analysis of a Myth

Assessment Type 1: Case study/analysis  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours  
Due: **23:59 12/9/2021**  
Weighting: **25%**

A short written paper in which you analyse a myth: your word limit is 1000 words. Submit answers to the questions set through the Turnitin link in the unit's ilearn page. Further details on this task are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts, principles and theories used in the study of myth and the content of select representative examples of myths from the ancient world.
- Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information about myth in the ancient world.
- Communicate critical and reflective judgements effectively with teaching staff and peers.

### Quizzes

Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours  
Due: **23:59 8/8/2021; 22/8/2021; 5/9/2021; 3/10/2021; 17/10/2021**  
Weighting: **25%**

These are short online quizzes on the material covered in the lectures and tutorials. Access to the quizzes is through links in the ilearn page.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts, principles and theories used in the study of myth and the content of select representative examples of myths from the ancient world.

Essay

Assessment Type: Essay
Indicative Time on Task: 30 hours
Due: 23:59 31/10/2021
Weighting: 50%

This is a longer written assessment task: your word limit is 2000 words. You will be given a choice of topics in the Essay section of the unit's iLearn site. Submit your essay through the Turnitin link in the unit's ilearn page. Further details on this task and how to complete it successfully are on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts, principles and theories used in the study of myth and the content of select representative examples of myths from the ancient world.
- Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information about myth in the ancient world.
- Create clear, coherent, evidence-based exposition of knowledge and ideas about myth in the ancient world.
- Communicate critical and reflective judgements effectively with teaching staff and peers.

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

The unit will be delivered via 2 online, live lectures over 12 weeks. Each lecture will be followed
by an 1 hour weekly tutorial. Most tutorials are face to face (Tues 2-3 and 3-4; Friday 10-11, 11-12, 12-1, 2-3 and 3-4) but there is also an online tutorial (Wed 11-12).

**Resources**

All the materials, primary and secondary, needed for this course will be uploaded in the ilearn website. You will have access to this material from the start of the semester and you will be able to pace your progress. If, however, you wish to make a head-start, feel free to consult the following:

- **Classical Myth: Homepage (uvic.ca)**
- **Handouts and Weblinks for Classical Mythology (CLAS230 Monmouth College)**
- **Classical Mythology, Ninth Edition (oup.com)**
- **Classics Unveiled - Main Page**
- **Encyclopedia Mythica (pantheon.org)**
- **Greek Mythology (mythweb.com)**

The best source for classical texts on the Internet: [Perseus Digital Library (tufts.edu)](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/

The texts are available here in English translation and in the original Greek with links to online lexical and grammatical aids. All Perseus texts are linked to explanatory notes, maps, images, and other resources. There is also a searchable hypertext encyclopedia: [Perseus Encyclopedia, Abacus, Abacus (tufts.edu)](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/

**Greek Myth Resources (ysu.edu)**

A Useful and Long Bibliography on Myth (not to scare you, hopefully, but enthuse you preferably!)

**DEFINING ‘Myth’:**


**Non-Greek MEDITERRANEAN MYTHOLOGIES:**


**GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY:**


**Australian Mythology**


### Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LECTURE 1 (TUES)</th>
<th>LECTURE 2 (WED)</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>What is Myth?</td>
<td>Cosmogony: Aboriginal Traditions</td>
<td>QUIZ 1, online, submit 23:59 8/8/2021 = Sunday midnight of week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cosmogony: Ancient Near East</td>
<td>Cosmogony: Hesiod</td>
<td>QUIZ 2, online, submit 23:59 22/8/2021 = Sunday midnight of week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Homer: the Iliad</td>
<td>Homer: the Odyssey</td>
<td>ANALYSIS OF MYTH DUE 23:59 12/9/2021 = SUNDAY MIDNIGHT OF WEEK 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Polis: Rites of Passage</td>
<td>Polis: Dionysian and Eleusinian Mysteries</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Heracles: the 13th Olympian</td>
<td>Female Heroines and Greek Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>After the Polis: Text as Ritual</td>
<td>Alexander and the Successors: Myth and History</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Myth in Philosophy I</td>
<td>Myth in Philosophy II</td>
<td>QUIZ 4, online, submit 23:59 3/10/2021 = Sunday midnight of week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Roman Myths I: Aeneid</td>
<td>Roman Myths II: Ovid</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Theoretical Approaches Structuralism</td>
<td>Theoretical Approaches Poststructuralism</td>
<td>QUIZ 5, online, submit 23:59 17/10/2021 = Sunday midnight of week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Theoretical Approaches Functionalism</td>
<td>Theoretical Approaches Phenomenology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>REVISION I</td>
<td>REVISION 2</td>
<td>ESSAY DUE 23:59 31/10/2021 = SUNDAY MIDNIGHT OF WEEK 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study
strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au
If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/. When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.