AHIS1200
Myth in the Ancient World
Session 2, Online-flexible 2023
Department of History and Archaeology

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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/155712/unit_guide/print
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Eva Anagnostou
eva.anagnostou-laoutides@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
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. You will study the earliest creation myths, explore the stories of gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters, in ancient literature and art. The myths, studied in translation, will be analysed in terms of their cultural context, the genre in which they belong, their typology and as the semester progresses through certain theoretical perspectives.

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

Please, find below an introduction to the assessment tasks for this Unit. Separate rubrics for the Myth Analysis and the Essay are available via the ilearn website. Please, note that while you can use AI as a learning resource, you CANNOT submit assessments generated by AI tools. This would not be considered as your own work and therefore a breach of Academic Integrity.

Assessment Task 1 of 3:

Analysis of a Myth

Due: 23:59 10/9/23 (= Sunday midnight Week 7)

Weighting: 30%

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 in consultation with your lecturer/tutor):

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.

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 29/10/23 (= Sunday midnight Week 12)

Weighting: 35%

Length: 2000 words

Write an essay of no more than 2000 words on ONE of the topics below. Please, make sure your Essay topic is DIFFERENT to your analysis topic to avoid cases of self-plagiarism reported via Turnitin. Self-plagiarism is a breach of academic integrity.

- 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 via Turnitin

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:

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

Due: 23:59 6/8/23; 20/8/23; 3/9/23; 1/10/23; 15/10/23 (= Sunday midnight of weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10)

Weighting: 5 quizzes x 7% each = 35%

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. 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 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of ‘0’ (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.
This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

**IMPORTANT NOTE ON MARKS:** Grading decisions for each assessment task will be moderated against the set criteria and standards before task results are released.

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quizzes</strong></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11:59, 6/8/2023; 20/8/2023; 3/9/2023; 1/10/2023; 15/10/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis of a Myth</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11:59, 10/9/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Essay</strong></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11:59, 29/10/2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quizzes**

Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours  
Due: **11:59, 6/8/2023; 20/8/2023; 3/9/2023; 1/10/2023; 15/10/2023**  
Weighting: **35%**

These are short online quizzes on the material covered within the unit. 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.

**Analysis of a Myth**

Assessment Type 1: Case study/analysis  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours  
Due: **11:59, 10/9/2023**  
Weighting: **30%**
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.

**Essay**

Assessment Type 1: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 38 hours  
Due: 11:59, 29/10/2023  
Weighting: 35%

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 Writing Centre for academic skills support.

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 recorded lectures available online over 12 weeks. The lectures will be followed by an 1 hour weekly tutorial. Online flexible and OUA students will be given the chance to contribute to online forums on a weekly basis instead of attending live tutorials. In addition, 4 online, recorded zoom sessions will be offered during the term as preparation for your assessment tasks and an opportunity for students to ask questions, whether content or assessment related.

Resources

All the materials, primary and secondary, needed for this course will be uploaded in the ilearn website and are also available through the Library Reading List (Leganto). 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)

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)

Greek Myth Resources (ysu.edu)Greek Gods & Goddesses | Theoi Greek Mythology

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

DEFINING ‘Myth’:


["The structural Study of Myth," by Claude Levi-Strauss]


**Non-Greek MEDITERRANEAN MYTHOLOGIES:**


**GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY:**


**Australian Mythology**


Isaacs, J. 1980. *Australian Dreaming: 40,000 Years of Aboriginal History*. Sydney: Lansdowne
Press.


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### 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 MYTH</td>
<td>What is Myth?</td>
<td>Cosmogony: Aboriginal Traditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 COSMOGONY</td>
<td>Cosmogony: Ancient Near East</td>
<td>Cosmogony: Hesiod</td>
<td>QUIZ 1, online, submit Sunday midnight of week 2 = 6 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 KINGSHIP</td>
<td>Kingship and kinship: Aboriginal Traditions</td>
<td>Kings and Gods: Ancient Near Eastern Traditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 GENRES: EPIC</td>
<td>Homer: the Iliad</td>
<td>Homer: the Odyssey</td>
<td>QUIZ 2, online, submit Sunday midnight of week 4 = 20 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 CITY</td>
<td>Polis: Rites of Passage</td>
<td>Polis: Dionysian and Eleusinian Mysteries</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 HEROES</td>
<td>Heracles: the 13th Olympian</td>
<td>Female Heroines and Greek Drama</td>
<td>QUIZ 3, online, submit Sunday midnight of week 6 = 3 September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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**
- **Assessment Procedure**
- **Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public**
- **Special Consideration Policy**

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

### 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](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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the 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 Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
• Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
• Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries
Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

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.

Changes since First Published

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>23/07/2023</td>
<td>I forgot to edit the maths for the quizzes 5 quizzes x 7% each (not 5 as it was before) = 35% of the overall mark.</td>
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