

## Classical Mythology (A000619)

**Course size** *(nominal values: actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

Study time 150 h

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Sels, Nadia

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

crdts

offering

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)  
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))  
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)  
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures  
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology

Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Myth, mythical thinking, mythology, mythography, classical culture and its inheritance, Greek and Roman gods

### Position of the course

Introduction to the functioning of myths in past and present times - more specifically (but not exclusively) the cononical stories from Greek and Roman antiquity. A number of methodological approaches will be discussed.

### Contents

The lessons start with important (clusters of) myths, i.e. the actual stories: the birth of the gods and creation of man; Persephone and Hades and other fertility myths, the connection between life and death; Prometheus; Orpheus, Eurydice and other journeys to the underworld; the Trojan war and the role of women; Iphigeneia and other hunt and sacrifice stories; Heracles and other great heroes; Jason and the Argonauts - and Medeia; Oidipous; Theseus; With these figures, motives and themes three important points of interest of mythology as a discipline are illustrated:

- (1) the, mostly literary, sources of our knowledge of classical myths;
- (2) the importance of those myths in the classical world;
- (3) the modern reception of those myths, in the creative field (figurative art, literature, performing and audiovisual arts), as well as in the scientific (philosophical, anthropological, psychological, historical) theories (the most important interpretative and explanatory models of the 19th and 20th century)

### Initial competences

Elementary and general foreknowledge of (art) history.

### Final competences

- 1 Students should be able to express the meaning of the concepts 'myth' and 'mythical thinking' and to explain what problems and questions these concepts may pose.
- 2 Explain the different sorts of myths and their function in several aspects of the classical world (religion, art, politics, literature)
- 3 Know the most important mythological figures and the stories in which they figure
- 4 Be able to recognize and explain popular mythological scenes in figurative art
- 5 Explain and interpret mythological allusions and references in modern literature
- 6 Be acquainted with the most influential schools in the modern study of mythology, together with their most important representatives
- 7 Be able to use the standard reference works for the study of classical mythology
- 8 Acknowledge the importance of stories and perceive how mythic narratives and images keep structuring and steering human acts and thoughts, even in modernity.
- 9 Reflect critically upon the positive or negative impact of certain myths on the individual and society.
- 10 To appreciate the beauty and cultural value of mythical images and stories.

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

### Teaching methods

Lecture

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures with power point presentations. Discussion of a number of movie fragments. Some plenary exercises.

### Learning materials and price

- Reader: mostly primary sources, also some pieces of secondary literature
- Presentations (extended powerpoints will be put on Ufora)
- Lists with concepts, mythological figures and other names that have to be learned
- Students are expected to reread the myths discussed in class in a decent anthology. This book can just as well be borrowed from the library and doesn't need to be bought. If the student chooses to do so, however, this could cost about 16 to 30 euro.
- Recommended (available in the Story bookshop at student prices):
  - Ovidius, *Metamorphosen*, translated by M. d'Hane-Scheltema: Athenaeum - Polak en Van Gennep (1993, many reprints)
  - Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer - De Griekse Mythen, Prometheus (2010, many reprints)

### References

- *Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae* (LIMC). (1981). Artemis.
- Bremmer, J. N. (1987). *Interpretations of Greek mythology*. Croom Helm.
- Coupe, L. (1997). *Myth*. Routledge.
- Csapo, E. (2005). *Theories of Mythology*. Blackwell Publishing
- Dowden, K. (1994). *The uses of Greek mythology*. Routledge.
- Dowden, K., & Livingstone, N. (2011). *A companion to Greek mythology*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Hansen, W. (2004). *Classical mythology: a guide to the mythical world of the Greeks and Romans*. Oxford university press.
- Moormann, E. M., & Uitterhoeve, W. (1995). *Van Achilles tot Zeus: thema's uit de klassieke mythologie in literatuur, muziek, beeldende kunst en theater*. SUN.
- Morford, M. P. O., & Lenardon, R. J. (2007). *Classical mythology*. Oxford University Press.
- Powell, B. B., & Howe, H. M. (1998). *Classical myth*. Prentice-Hall.
- Roscher, W. H. (1884). *Ausführliches Lexikon der griechischen und römischen Mythologie*. Teubner.
- Woodard, R. D. (2007). *The Cambridge companion to Greek mythology*. Cambridge University Press.

### Course content-related study coaching

During class and through Minerva.

### Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

### Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

### Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with open and closed questions

### Calculation of the examination mark

100% exam (periodical evaluation)

### Facilities for Working Students

1. Attendance is advised for successfully completing the course but not obligatory
  2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
  3. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

