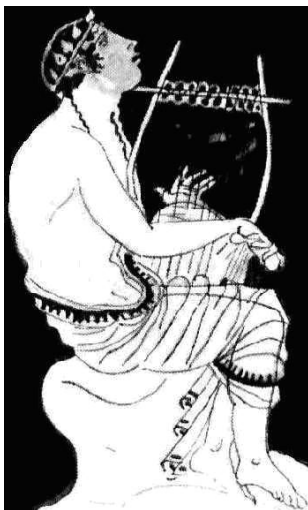


ENGL225

Classical Traditions in English Literature

Trimester 3 2009-10

20 Points



Orpheus with his lyre, from a Greek cup, 5th century BC; Venus and Adonis, engraving by Giorgio Ghisi, c.1556;
Pygmalion and his statue, caricature by Honoré Daumier, 1842.

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 16 November to 4 December 2009 **and** 5 January to 22 January 2010

Mid-trimester break: 24 December 2009 to 4 January 2010

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Geoff Miles, VZ 915, phone 463-6809, e-mail geoff.miles@vuw.ac.nz (course convener).

Tatjana Schaefer, VZ 917, phone 463-6802, e-mail tatjana.schaefer@vuw.ac.nz (lecturer and course administrator).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday and Wednesday, 3–5 pm, Thursday, 3–5.30 pm, in Hunter LT 220.

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will be taught in workshops, a combination of lecture, class discussion, and small-group work. There are no tutorials for this course, so students are expected and required to attend at least 70% of sessions.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course information (including essay topics, exam information, and updates to the course schedule) will be distributed in classes and posted on the English noticeboard, on the third floor outside Hugh Mackenzie 206; it will also be posted on the course's Blackboard online site at

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<http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>. If you have any problems accessing Blackboard, contact Tatjana Schaefer. Material on Blackboard will include some supplementary lecture material, but because the classes are largely discussion-based, lecture notes will *not* be posted on Blackboard; there is no substitute for actually attending the classes!

COURSE CONTENT

The course falls into two halves. The first half (in November–December) will deal with classical mythology in English literature; we will look in particular at the transformations of three myths (Orpheus, Adonis, Pygmalion). The second half (in January) will look at three classical genres (the epigram, the ode, the satire), and the ways in which these literary forms have been used and modified by writers in English.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to provide both specific knowledge about the classical tradition, and an ability to think about the workings of literary tradition in general. By the end of the course, you should:

- be familiar with the classical gods and the major classical myths, and able to recognise allusions to them in English texts;
- understand the generic conventions of epigram, ode, and satire;
- be able to analyse in detail the use of classical materials in texts of different periods;
- understand concepts involved in discussing a literary tradition (including such terms as *influence*, *allusion*, *imitation*, *parody*), and be able to use such concepts and terms in formulating arguments about the relationship between classical and English texts.

READINGS

Essential texts:

Classical Mythology in English Literature: A Critical Anthology, ed. Geoffrey Miles (Routledge, approx. \$80; second-hand copies may also be available), and two course readers from Student Notes, *Ode and Epigram* (approx. \$6.00) and *Satire* (approx. \$16.00).

Recommended: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*—any translation, but those of A.D. Melville (Oxford World’s Classics, 1986) or Charles Martin (Norton, 2004) are both good.

All undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. Students can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The guideline for a 20-point 200-level paper is at least 16 hours of reading and study (including class attendance) a week for 12 weeks. Since ENGL 225 is accelerated to 6 weeks, workloads must be adjusted accordingly, especially by doing much of your reading in non-teaching weeks.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The course is internally assessed. Three pieces of work will be required.

- (1) A **class test** (20%), on **Tuesday 1 December**, 4-5 pm (second hour of the class). This will test your knowledge of classical mythology as covered up to this point, i.e. the material in chapters 2–3 of the anthology and the myths of Orpheus and Adonis.
- (2) An **essay**, of 1200–1500 words (40%), due 5 pm, **Friday 11 December**. This essay will ask you to compare two or more treatments of a classical myth, and will test your ability in close analysis of texts of different periods.

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- (3) An **essay**, of 1200–1500 words (40%), due 5 pm, **Friday 29 January**. This essay will be on either ode, epigram, or satire, and will test your knowledge of these genres and your ability to construct an argument about the workings of literary tradition.

All in-term work must be presented in accordance with the minimum standards outlined in a style sheet, which will be available on Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office on level 8 of the Von Zedlitz Building.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

The deadlines for term work must be strictly observed. If you need an extension beyond the due date for any piece of work, you should apply to the course convener, Geoff Miles, *before* the due date. A simple request will suffice for extensions of a week or less; for longer or additional extensions you will need to provide supporting documentation (eg a medical certificate). Work submitted with an extension will be graded in the normal way.

Late work submitted without an extension will be penalised by one grade for every three days that it is late, and will receive minimal comments. No work can be accepted after **Friday 12 February**. Make sure you plan your work in advance to deal with competing deadlines, and be aware of the tight timetable of the summer trimester.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied include completion of all three pieces of internally assessed work by **Friday 12 February**, and attendance at **70% of classes** (i.e. at least 13 out of 18 two-hour sessions). Failure to satisfy the course requirements will leave you with a fail grade.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work. Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

The following text must be included in all course outlines.

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

COURSE PROGRAMME

WEEK ONE

Tu 17 Nov Introduction to the classical tradition. Gods: a spotter's guide.

W 18 Nov Orpheus 1: classical and medieval.

Texts: *Classical Mythology in English Literature (CMEL)*, passages O1-8. We will focus especially on Virgil, Ovid, Boethius, and *Sir Orfeo*.

Th 19 Nov Orpheus 2: Renaissance to 18th century.

Texts: *CMEL*, O9-29. We will focus especially on Shakespeare, Bacon, Milton, Pope, Finch, and Collins.

WEEK TWO

Tu 24 Nov Orpheus 3: 19th century to today.

Texts: *CMEL*, O30-52. We will focus especially on Shelley, Hamburger, Hoban, Feinstein, Atwood, Gilbert, and Heath-Stubbs.

W 25 Nov Adonis 1: classical sources and Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*.

Texts: *CMEL*, A1-5 and A7-11. We will focus especially on Theocritus, Bion, Ovid, and (obviously) Shakespeare.

Th 26 Nov Adonis 2: Spenser, Milton, and Shelley.

Texts: *CMEL*, A6 (Spenser), A7 (Milton), and A20-21 (Keats and Shelley); also read through A8-19.

WEEK THREE

Tu 1 Dec Adonis 3: modern versions. **CLASS TEST** (4-5 pm).

Texts: *CMEL*, A22-30, esp. Frazer, Eliot, MacLeish, Yeats.

W 2 Dec Pygmalion 1: classical to 18th century.

Texts: *CMEL*, P1-14. We will focus especially on Ovid, Marston, Shakespeare.

Th 3 Dec Pygmalion 2: 19th century to today.

Texts: *CMEL*, P15-29. We will focus especially on Beddoes, Hawthorne, Mary Shelley, Shaw, Graves, and Carter.

FIRST ESSAY due Friday 11 December.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR BREAK

(Read as much as possible of the *Epigram and Ode* and *Satire* coursebooks during the break.)

WEEK FOUR

Tu 5 Jan Introduction to genre. The epigram 1: definitions and history from ancient Greek and Latin to Renaissance (*Tatjana Schaefer*).

W 6 Jan The epigram 2: translation, adaptation and development from Renaissance to present (*Tatjana Schaefer*).

Th 7 Jan The ode 1: classical and Renaissance.

WEEK FIVE

Tu 12 Jan The ode 2: 18th century to the present.

W 13 Jan Introduction to satire. Classical and Renaissance satire.
Texts: *Satire* coursebook, pp. 1-72 (Horace and Juvenal; Wyatt, Marston, Donne).

Th 14 Jan 18th century satire: Pope and Horace.
Texts: *Satire*, pp.73-107. We will focus particularly on a comparison of Horace's Epistle 2.1 (pp.12-20) and Pope's 'Imitation' of it (96-102).

WEEK SIX

Tu 19 Jan 18th century satire: Johnson and Juvenal.
Texts: Juvenal, Satires 3 and 10 (*Satire*, 26-47) and Johnson's 'London' and 'The Vanity of Human Wishes' (108-118).

W 20 Jan Fantastic satire. Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.
Texts: *Satire*, pp.121-186 (Aristophanes, Lucian, More, Swift).

Th 21 Jan Satirical science fiction. Visions of judgement. Conclusion.
Texts: *Satire*, pp.187-211 (satire in science fiction) and 212-236 (Lucian, Seneca, Byron's *Vision of Judgement*).

SECOND ESSAY due Friday 29 January.