



**SACR  
CLASSICS  
CLAS 211/311: MYTH AND STORYTELLING  
TRIMESTER 1 2010  
1 March to 4 July 2010**

**Dates**

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010

Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010

Study week: 7 June to 11 June 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 11 June to 4 July 2010 (Students *must* be available to sit the final examination at any point during examination period.)

**Withdrawal Dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Names**

**and Contact Details**

Dr. Mark Masterson, (Lecturer/Coordinator)

OK 511 (463-6909)

**Office Hours:** 12-1 (Tues), 3-4 (Fri), and by appt.

**E-mail:** mark.masterson@vuw.ac.nz

Tutors:

Cecily Duncan, MA Hons (1st Class), GD Arts (Classical Studies) (cecdunc@gmail.com)

Christabel Marshall, BA English and Latin; BA Hons English

(madeyemama@gmail.com)

Jen Oliver, BA in Greek, Latin and Classical Studies; BA Hons (Greek, 1st class) (jenholiver@gmail.com)

**Class Times**

**and Locations**

**LECTURES:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11-12  
HM 105

**TUTORIALS:** place/time TBA, occurring in weeks 2, 4, 5,  
6, 9, and 11

(!!sign up early in week one on board  
opposite OK 505!!)

**Course Delivery**

The course will be delivered in the lecture hall and also in the form of (variably formatted) lecture notes that will be posted in “**Course Documents**” on **Blackboard**. There are substantial readings on which the student is expected to spend considerable time. There will be, in addition, six tutorials in which selected topics both central and supplementary to the lectures and readings will be discussed. The tutorials will generally have their own readings and both these readings and the tutorials themselves are to be found in the Course Materials Booklet (CB). The delivery of the course is dependent in large part on the lecturer but students’ engaged attendance at lectures, active participation in the tutorials, and careful attention to the readings are the things most important to learning. It is possible too that there may be electronic asking of questions! Fingers-crossed!!

## Communication of Additional Information

- **Lecture and Readings Schedule** and a copy of **This Syllabus** will appear will appear in the “Course Information” section on Blackboard.
- **Writing Assignments**, and **Essay Topics** will be posted in the “Assignments” section on Blackboard.
- **Bibliographies** and **Essay-Writing Guidance** will be posted in the “Course Resources” section on Blackboard.
- **Additional General Information** about the course will be posted in the “Announcements” section on Blackboard (scroll down).

The exceptions to the above are the tutorial lists and the examination timetable. These will be posted on the Classics Notice Board (situated opposite Old Kirk 505).

The Classics WWW page ([www.victoria.ac.nz/classics](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/classics)) contains useful information on Classics in general.

## Course Content and Learning Objectives

This course aims

- to examine a range of Greek, Roman, and more recent approaches to myth and storytelling, through the study of a variety of literary sources from the ancient world and more recent times;
- to stimulate interest in, and understanding of, selected topics of Greco-Roman Mythology;
- to encourage an awareness of continuities and disjunctions between ancient and modern attitudes to myth, storytelling and related phenomena.

By the end of the course, students should have increased their knowledge of the surviving literary sources from the ancient world involving myth and storytelling, and should be better equipped to offer critical evaluation of this material. The student should also be able to identify and discuss the significance of survivals from ancient myth in more recent literary works.

The assessment will measure how well you have achieved these objectives.

## Expected Workload

In order to complete the course successfully, an average student should expect to spend an *average* of about 13 hours per week on it, i.e., 3 class hours (3 lectures or 2 lectures and 1 tutorial) and the remainder for reading, tutorial preparation and essay writing. **Please note that these averages are rough guidelines only.** Some students might have to put in more time, others less. The time commitment will be greatest in the weeks immediately prior to the essay hand-in date. There should be considerable time spent preparing for the final examination also.

## Readings (Essential and Required Texts)

*Aeschylus I* (ed. Grene/Lattimore, Chicago)

*Sophocles II* (ed. Grene/Lattimore, Chicago)

Seneca, *Four Tragedies and Octavia* (trans. Watling, Penguin)

O’Neill, *Three Plays: Desire under the Elms, Strange Interlude, Mourning Becomes Electra* (Vintage)

Course Materials Booklet (CB) - available from the Notes Shop

## Recommended Reading:

If you have little or no background in the history and society of the Greeks and Romans or in their myths, the following books are a good place to start. They are all available on **3-Day Issue**:

Arnott, P.D.	Introduction to the Greek World
Cartledge, P.	The Greeks: a Portrait of Self and Others
Christ, K.	The Romans
Easterling, P.E. and Muir, J.V.	Greek Religion and Society
Grant, Michael	Myths of the Greeks and Romans
Grimal, P.	The Dictionary of Classical Mythology
Joint Assoc. of Classical Teachers	The World of Athens
Tripp, E.	Meridian Handbook of Classical Mythology
Vernant, J.-P.	The Origins of Greek Thought

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two 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.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers 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.

### Assessment Requirements (Out of 100%)

#### CLAS 211

(a)	Tutorial Assignments (#s 1-3, 5, 6)	8% (4 x 2%)	
(b)	Tutorial Assignment (#4)	1%	
(c)	300-Word Writing Exercise #1	11%	
(d)	300-Word Writing Exercise #2	12%	
(e)	Research Essay	20%	
(f)	2-hour Final Examination	48%	<b>(Exam period = 11/6/ – 4/7/ 2010)</b>

#### CLAS 311

(a)	Tutorial Assignments (#s 1-3, 5, 6)	8% (4 x 2%)	
(b)	Tutorial Assignment (#4)	1%	
(c)	500-Word Writing Exercise #1	11%	
(d)	500-Word Writing Exercise #2	12%	
(e)	Research Essay	20%	
(f)	3-hour Final Examination	48%	<b>(Exam period = 11/6/ – 4/7/ 2010)</b>

- The goal of these items of assessment is to establish the extent to which students can demonstrate understanding of myth and its uses through critical response both to an individual topic as researched and written up over a period of time (essay) and to a range of topics covered in the course as a whole as written on a specific occasion within a fixed time limit (test/exam/writing exercises).
- Each piece of assessed work will be given a grade only, not a percentage mark.
- Students in CLAS 311 will be required to display a wider range and more intensive level of knowledge in the essay and final exam than students in CLAS 211.
- The final grade in this course will be expressed via a letter (A, B, C, etc.) and not in a percentage.

### **Tutorial assignments**

There are brief exercises associated with five of the six tutorials (1-3, 5 and 6) that will be graded on a pass+/pass/fail basis (i.e., 2 pts., 1pt., or zero pts.). Choose any one of the questions that are set for discussion in each tutorial and write a one-paragraph response (150-250 words). Each exercise is worth 2% of your final mark, and you will be marked on the best four out of five. These assignments are to be passed in at the beginning of the tutorial. You must turn them in at the beginning of the tutorial and attend the tutorial. If you cannot attend the tutorial, you will not be able to turn in the assignment. Exceptions may be made in the case of late assignments which are accompanied by a medical certificate or other document demonstrating hardship of some kind that kept you from attending class on the specific date in question. Keep in mind that if you cannot do an assignment or have to miss a tutorial, you do have a “freebie”, as it were.

For tutorial 4, you will be asked to write down what topic you have chosen for your Research Essay, what the general shape you think your essay will have and what sources you have been (or will be) consulting (at least 3). This assignment will be graded on a pass/no pass basis.

### **Writing Exercises:**

For **CLAS 211** there will be two writing exercises. Each will be **300 words** in length. They will be based on material contained in the readings AND lectures. Students who elect not to come to lecture may find themselves at a disadvantage. Each assignment will be posted on BlackBoard in the “**Assignments**” section and students **must** submit it there **electronically**. I will not accept hard copies and there will be no extensions granted (unless there are genuine medical grounds supported by a doctor's certificate, or some other necessary and demonstrable reason). Students will have about one week to complete each of these assignments. I will discuss the mechanics of turning in these assignments in lecture. Note that these assignments are not meant to be research essays. They are instead an opportunity for students both to show me that they are thinking about the course content and to try out constructing an argument (without the stress of doing additional research).

**300-Word Writing Exercise #1 for CLAS 211 due by 7:00 AM on Tuesday, March 16**

**300-Word Writing Exercise #2 for CLAS 211 due by 7:00 AM on Tuesday, May 4**

For **CLAS 311** there will be two writing exercises. Each will be **500 words** in length. They will be based on material contained in the readings AND lectures. Students who elect not to come to lecture may find themselves at a disadvantage. Each assignment will be posted on BlackBoard in the “**Assignments**” section and students **must** submit it there **electronically**. I will not accept hard copies and there will be no extensions granted (unless there are genuine medical grounds supported by a doctor's certificate, or some other necessary and demonstrable reason). Students will have about one week to complete each of these assignments. I will discuss the mechanics of turning in these assignments in lecture. Note that these assignments are not meant to be research essays. They are instead an opportunity for students both to show me that they are thinking about the course content and to try out constructing an argument (without the stress of doing additional research).

**500-Word Writing Exercise #1 for CLAS 311 due by 7:00 AM on Tuesday, March 16**

**500-Word Writing Exercise #2 for CLAS 311 due by 7:00 AM on Tuesday, May 4**

### **Research Essay:**

- a) For CLAS 211 there is a research essay, 1500-2000 words (**20%**)  
**Due Date: on or before Monday, May 31**

**\*\*\*You must submit this paper electronically prior to the deadline on BlackBoard in the “Assignments” section.\*\*\***

b) For CLAS 311 there is a research essay, 2000-2500 words (20%)

**Due Date: on or before Monday, May 31**

**\*\*\*You must submit this paper electronically prior to the deadline on BlackBoard in the “Assignments” section.\*\*\***

**For Essay Topics, see “Assignments” section on Blackboard.**

- A booklet entitled *Classics Study Guide* that will aid you in preparing written assignments is available from the Student Notes Shop.
- Go to “Course Resources” on Blackboard for bibliographies, writing guidance, and a rundown on electronic resources.

**Final Examination:**

**CLAS 211 (2 hours) (Exam period = 11/6/ – 4/7/ 2010)**

**There will be three sections to this examination. All sections are of equal value (180 points in total).**

In section A, you will answer 20 multiple choice questions covering the work of the entire trimester. (3 marks each)

Section B will consist of two sets of two passages taken from the readings of the course.

Choosing one from each pair, you will provide detailed commentary, which reflects deep knowledge of the readings and lectures, on a total of two of these passages. (30 marks each)

In section C, you will choose one essay topic out of a choice of two. The lecturer is looking to see if you are able to comment on a topic of importance to the course with knowledgeable reference to readings and lectures. (60 marks)

*Students who have not been attending lectures may be certain that they will be at a distinct disadvantage when it comes time for them to sit the examination.*

**CLAS 311 (3 hours) (Exam period = 11/6/ – 4/7/ 2010)**

**There will be four sections to this examination. All sections are of equal value (240 points in total).**

For sections A, B and C, see CLAS 211

In Section D you will be asked to write an essay that specifically compares a number of different texts. The question will specify which three or four texts you have to discuss.

The lecturer considers any text on which he has lectured as being able to play a role in this question. (60 marks).

*Students who have not been attending lectures may be certain that they will be at a distinct disadvantage when it comes time for them to sit the examination.*

**Penalties**

**Late work will not be accepted in this class** in the absence of a compelling and documented reason. In the case of a compelling and documented reason, another due date for the work in question will be mutually agreed upon by the coordinator and student. If that date is missed, the coordinator reserves the right to mark the work down (5% a day) or even not to accept the work at all. In any case, the **final due date** for all written work (exclusive of the final examination) is 4 June at 5:00 P.M. No work will be accepted after that time in the absence of a compelling and documented reason. **All variances must be approved by Dr. Masterson.**

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

There are no mandatory requirements.

## **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

## **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>

## **Use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

Students 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 for students 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\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)