



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SACR**

**CLASSICS**

**CLAS 211/311: MYTH AND STORYTELLING**

**TRIMESTER 2 2012**

**16 July to 17 November 2012**

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012

Study week: 22–26 October 2012

Examination/Assessment Period: 26 October to 17 November 2012 (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**

Lecturer/Coordinator:

Dr. Mark Masterson

OK 514 (463-6909)

Office Hours: 10-11 (Mon), 2-3 (Tues), and by appt.

E-mail: [mark.masterson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mark.masterson@vuw.ac.nz)

Tutors:

Jess Casbolt ([atena\\_kemet@hotmail.com](mailto:atena_kemet@hotmail.com)), OK 518

Christabel Marshall ([madeyemama@gmail.com](mailto:madeyemama@gmail.com)), OK 519

Julia Simons ([juliasimons01@gmail.com](mailto:juliasimons01@gmail.com)), OK 502

**Class times and locations**

Lectures:

Monday, 9:00-9:50, (Hunter 323)

Tuesday, 9:00-9:50, (New Kirk 301)

Friday, 9:00-9:50, (Hunter 323)

*Note the different locations for lectures.*

*In weeks when there is a tutorial, there will be no Friday lecture.*

Tutorials:

TBA; sign up for the tutorials on Scubed (<http://www.signups.victoria.ac.nz>)

### **Teaching learning summary**

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.

### **Communication of additional information**

- **Lecture and Readings Schedule** and a copy of **This Syllabus** 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).

### **Course prescription**

CLAS 211: A study of the diverse functions of myth and storytelling in Greek and Roman literature and society, and the intersection of mythical and rational modes of thought.

CLAS 311: A study of the diverse functions of myth and storytelling in Greek and Roman literature and society, and the intersection of mythical and rational modes of thought. Co-taught with CLAS 211: reading supplementary to that for CLAS 211 is required, and a deeper and more extensive knowledge of the subject is expected in in-term work and the final examination.

### **Course content**

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.

## Learning objectives

By the end of the course, students who pass this course will

1. have increased their knowledge of the surviving literary sources from the ancient world involving myth and storytelling;
2. be able to evaluate the significance of these sources;
3. be able to identify and discuss the significance of some survivals from ancient myth in more recent literary works and in current society.

The assessment will measure how well students 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

### Set 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 Vicbooks

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 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 nominated collection points at each campus. 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.

### 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

### Assessment requirements

#### CLAS 211

(a)	Tutorial Assignments (#s 1-3, 5, 6)	8% (4 x 2%)
(b)	Tutorial Assignment (#4)	1%
(c)	600-Word Writing Exercise #1	10%
(d)	600-Word Writing Exercise #2	11%
(e)	Research Essay	20%
(f)	2-hour Final Examination	50%

**(Exam period = Friday 26 October to Saturday 17 November)**

#### CLAS 311

(a)	Tutorial Assignments (#s 1-3, 5, 6)	8% (4 x 2%)
(b)	Tutorial Assignment (#4)	1%
(c)	1000-Word Writing Exercise #1	10%
(d)	1000-Word Writing Exercise #2	11%
(e)	Research Essay	20%
(f)	3-hour Final Examination	50%

**(Exam period = Friday 26 October to Saturday 17 November)**

- 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 **600 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).

600-Word Writing Exercise #1 for CLAS 211 due by **7:00 AM on Thursday, Aug 2**  
600-Word Writing Exercise #2 for CLAS 211 due by **7:00 AM on Thursday, Aug 23**

For **CLAS 311** there will be two writing exercises. Each will be **1000 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).

1000-Word Writing Exercise #1 for CLAS 311 due by **7:00 AM on Thursday, Aug 2**  
1000-Word Writing Exercise #2 for CLAS 311 due by **7:00 AM on Thursday, Aug 23**

### **Research Essay:**

- a) For CLAS 211 there is a research essay, 1500-2000 words (20%)  
**Due Date: on or before Friday, October 12 [Note: there is no particular due time on 12 Oct]**  
**\*\*\*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 Friday, October 12 [Note: there is no particular due time on 12 Oct]**  
**\*\*\*You must submit this paper electronically prior to the deadline on BlackBoard in the “Assignments” section.\*\*\***

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

Go to “Course Resources” on Blackboard for bibliographies, writing guidance, and a rundown on electronic resources.

### **Final Examination:**

#### **CLAS 211 (2 hours)**

**(Exam period = Friday 26 October to Saturday 17 November)**

**There will be two sections to this examination. All sections are of equal value (200 points in total).**

In section A, you will answer 50 multiple choice questions covering the work of the entire trimester. (2 marks each)

In section B, 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. (100 marks)

#### **CLAS 311 (3 hours)**

**(Exam period = Friday 26 October to Saturday 17 November)**

**There will be three sections to this examination. All sections are of equal value (300 points in total).**

For sections A and B, see CLAS 211 exam description above.

In Section C, you will be asked to provide an analysis of a primary text in essay format that demonstrates mastery of content learned/taught and techniques practiced throughout the course. (100 marks).

## **Penalties**

Late work will more than likely be penalized 5% per day it is late. Work that is excessive in length is liable to incur a penalty also. Students wishing to avoid penalties for late work will have to present documentation and are best advised to make arrangements before hand (if at all possible). **Students are to apply to their tutor in the first place if they need an extension.** If you hand in late work, you can anticipate considerable delays in having your work returned to you and you are also liable to receive minimal comment. **The final due date for all work exclusive of the final examination is October 19.**

## **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.

## **Statement on legibility**

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

## **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.

### **Where to find more detailed information**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study). Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>. Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).