

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CLASSICS PROGRAMME

CLAS 402

Art: Helen of Troy

30 POINTS

Full Year 2015



Abduction of Helen. Attic red-figure skyphos, Makron, c. 480 BC.

From left: Aeneas, Paris, Eros, Helen, Aphrodite, Peitho

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Mid-year break: 2-12 July 2015

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August – 6 September 2015

Study period: 19 – 23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October – 14 November 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Day: Thursday

Time: 12 – 1:50pm

Place: OK526

Names and contact details

Dr Diana Burton

Room: OK516

Phone: 463-6784

Email: diana.burton@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Any additional information (changes, unofficial exam results, etc) will be posted on Blackboard.

Prescription

A period or genre of ancient art for presentation, discussion and contextual analysis. In 2015, this seminar will examine the character and roles of Helen of Troy in myth and cult, primarily through art, but also through literature and other sources. Even in antiquity, she was a polyvalent and controversial figure: how did artists and writers react to her, and how - and why - did their depictions change? Particular attention will be given to discussion of different versions of the myth of Helen, of her culpability or lack of it, and the nature and effect of her beauty. We'll look at her cult and its function. The focus will be primarily on Greek sources, but modern literature and films will also be included.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the ancient debates around Helen's myths and identity;
2. identify, discuss, and contextualise important depictions of Helen in ancient art;
3. analyse different types of ancient evidence for Helen's myth in their social and religious contexts;
4. discuss a range of modern interpretations of the nature and function of Helen's myth.

Teaching format

The course will be taught in two-hour sessions, in which the first hour will consist of a lecture given either by the lecturer or by a student, and the second hour will consist of class discussion. Students are expected to read and give thought to the set texts for each week, and to come prepared to discuss them in class.

Mandatory course requirements

No mandatory course requirements.

Workload

In order to complete the course successfully, an 'average' student should expect to spend somewhere in the neighbourhood of 300 hours fulfilling the requirements of the course, i.e. 10-12 hours per week, during the term, and the rest preparing for the exam. **Remember this is a rough guideline only.** Some students may need to put in more time, others less, and the time commitment will be greatest just prior to due dates for assignments, the test, and the exam. In general, however, the following rule applies: the more you put into the course, the more you will get out of it, as measured both in terms of your learning and understanding, and in terms of your grade.

Assessment

The course will be assessed 60% internally and 40% by 3-hour exam.

Internal assessment (60%)

Slide test	15%
1 seminar (50-60 minutes)	15%
1 essay (3000-3500 words)	30%

The **slide test** will be held during the usual class hours on **1 October**. The test will consist of slides or short film clips for identification and discussion; the exact format will be discussed later in the course. This is intended to test your knowledge of individual objects, but there is also the opportunity for you to place them (briefly!) in the context of the wider themes of the course. You will be required to identify the object and place it in its context in terms of genre, characterisation, etc. If you are unable to sit the test for any reason, it is **essential** that you contact Diana in advance, if at all possible, or **as quickly as possible** afterwards, so that other arrangements can be made. Slides for revision will be made available in the Museum.

For the **seminar**, each student will research a selected topic, which will be presented to the class. You will be required to choose your topic by the second class, and should discuss it with Diana as soon as possible. This is designed to allow you to get to grips with one area in greater depth. Seminars should be between 50-60 minutes in length. Use of visual aids, handouts, etc, is expected.

Essays should be approx. 3000-3500 words in length. These are to be on a topic of your choice, and are due by **25 September**. Note that you should discuss your topic with Diana before you get started.

3 hour final exam (40%)

The exam will consist of essays designed to test your ability to synthesise what you have learnt through the course. Requirements will be discussed in more detail later in the course.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Seminar (50-60 minutes)	15%	all	tbc
2	Essay (3000-3500 words)	30%	all	25 Sep
3	Slide test	15%	2	1 Oct
4	Exam (3 hours)	40%	1, 3, 4	tbc

Submission and return of work

Essays should be 1.5 spaced with a wide left hand margin. Proofread before submission.

You must hand in two copies of your essay.

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box, or handed in personally to lecturers or the departmental administrator. No responsibility will be taken for assignments placed in open staff pigeon holes, pushed under doors etc. You should always keep a copy of your assignment until you receive back your marked assignment.

It is Classics policy that all written work received by the due date will be returned within two weeks. There may be circumstances when this cannot be achieved (e.g. sickness or heavy workload of markers), but it is our objective to provide you with the earliest possible feedback on your work.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions for the essay must be applied for **in advance of** the final date for acceptance.

Late assignments for which an extension has not been granted will be accepted up till 23 October. However, they may be penalised, and there is no guarantee that a late essay will be handed back before the final examination.

Penalties

Assignments that are submitted late without an extension will receive a penalty of 5 marks out of 100 per late working day (weekends count as one working day) and may not receive feedback.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

The test and exam are closed book and no equipment such as computers or electronic calculators will be permitted.

Set texts

No textbook is required; set readings for each week can be found on Blackboard.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz