Sample SYLLABUS for CLASSICS 1300, Introduction to Classical Mythology

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:             GRADING SCALE:

Quiz                          10%         90-100         A
Two in-class exams            30% apiece  80-89         B
Final exam                    30%         70-79         C
                                   60-69         D
                                   59 and below F

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:
  1) *Anthology of Classical Myth*, ed. Trzaskoma, Smith, and Brunet (Hackett 2004)
  2) *The Essential Homer*, trans. Lombardo (Hackett 2000)

TEXAS CORE CURRICULUM LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course satisfies the UT Arlington core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. As such, it emphasizes the following essential skills and values:

  **Critical Thinking Skills:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

  **Communication Skills:** To include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

  **Personal Responsibility:** To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

  **Social Responsibility:** To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT (for assessing all of the learning outcomes listed above). The final essay question on the final exam will require you to discuss a topic that concerns the ethical dilemmas faced by the characters of Greek tragedy; the choices that these characters make; and the social and political consequences of their choices.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to...

- Discuss in both oral and written discourse the major stories, characters, and themes of Classical Mythology

Relevant Core Objective

- Communication skills
  - Critical thinking skills
Recognize in Classical myths various perspectives on what constitutes ethical decision making, as manifested in choices, actions, and consequences

Critical thinking skills
Personal responsibility

Recognize in Classical myths reflections of Greco-Roman history, traditions, and values, especially socio-political values that inform Classical concepts of community

Critical thinking skills
Social responsibility

Requirements: You will demonstrate your knowledge on a quiz (Sept. 9) and two exams administered in class (Sept. 30 and Nov. 4), and on the final exam (Dec. 11). The quiz (10% of your course grade) will be entirely objective; the exams (each worth 30% of the course grade) will consist primarily of objective questions, with one short essay. I will NOT accept additional work (papers, projects, scrapbooks, blogs, whatever) for extra credit.

Please note the exam dates carefully and plan on attending. If you miss an exam, a make-up must be justified by a suitably grave and documented excuse; and unlike the original, it will be an essay exam. If you miss an exam unexpectedly, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible by phone or e-mail to explain those circumstances.

Attendance: At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.

In this course I allow students to attend class at their own discretion, with the understanding that in order to do well you will need to attend regularly, with the day’s reading assignment completed beforehand. Although attendance (or lack thereof) will not directly affect your grade in this course, the consequences of non-attendance are predictable: students who often miss class tend to get lower grades than their conscientious peers, and frequently end up dropping the course altogether—a waste of two precious commodities, money and time.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session [specifically, through Wed, Oct. 29]. It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/).
**Classroom Demeanor:** I expect that while in class you will be courteous to one another and to me. I expect you to show up for class on time and (barring unforeseen developments) to stay for the entire period: **people who arrive late and/or leave when the lights go out and the projector goes on are yet another pet peeve of mine [#4, for those of you keeping score at home].** During class you must either pay attention to me or foster the illusion that you are doing so--I won’t tolerate people who are ostentatiously reading the *Shorthorn*, for example, or doing work for another course, or creating a disturbance that distracts me or other students. If you’re doing any of these things I will ask you once (and once only) to cease and desist; if you persist, you will be invited to leave the class.

Cell phones and their ilk are—for some, and arguably—a necessary evil outside of class. During class, when you need to focus on the material presented without external interruptions, they are (in my curmudgeonly opinion) simply, inescapably, and profoundly evil. **Please turn them off, lest you distract me, yourself, and/or others.** (Instructor’s Pet Peeve #5) The use of laptop computers, Kindle readers, and the like in class is permissible FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES ONLY.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U. S. Federal Law “**Title IX**” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from*
other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review
Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

**Tentative Schedule of Events**
Reading assignments, which are given in parentheses, are to be completed *before* the class for which they are listed. (NB: *ACM* = *Anthology of Classical Myth*; readings from the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are in Lombardo's *Essential Homer*.)

**August**

- **TH 21** Defining Myth; Preview of Coming Attractions
- **T 26** Myth, History, and Interpretation (*ACM* xvi–xxiii, 439-54)
- **TH 28** In the Beginning... (Hesiod’s *Theogony, ACM* 129-60; Hymn to Dictaean Kouros, *ACM* 466-68)

**September**

- **T 2** Prometheus, Pandora, and the Fall of Man (Hesiod’s *Works and Days, ACM* 160-67; *Genesis* chaps. 1-3)
- **TH 4** Prometheus *et al.*, cont’d (*ACM* Apollodorus E1-E3 [23]; Diodorus 5.66-5.73 [96-101]; Palaephatus 34 [336]; Plato’s *Protagoras* [361-63])
- **T 9** QUIZ The Olympian Gods I: Zeus, Hera, Hephaestus (*Iliad* Bks. 1 [1-19], 14 [134-40]; in *ACM*, Cleanthes pp. 84-85; Xenophanes pp. 433-34)
- **TH 11** Olympians II: Athena, Artemis, Aphrodite, Demeter (*ACM* H. Hymns 28, 27 [both on 208], 5 [197-202], 2 [169-78], resp.; also, for Aphrodite, Sappho, pp. 385-86)
- **T 16** Olympians II (cont’d)
TH 18 Film on the Eleusinian Mysteries

T 23 Olympians III: Ares (ACM, Homeric Hymn 8 [204]; Iliad Bk. 5 [52-69]); Hermes (ACM, H. Hymn 4 [187-97]); Poseidon (ACM, H. Hymn 22 [207]; Pausanias H [349-50])

TH 25 Olympians IV: Apollo (ACM H. Hymn 3 [178-87]; Pausanias G [347-49]; inscriptions to Asclepius [461-64]) and Dionysus (ACM H. Hymn 7 [203]; Antoninus Liberalis 10 [12]; Apollodorus M1-M4 [46-49]; Fulgentius 2.12 [112-13]; inscriptions to Dionysus [464-66])

T 30 EXAM #1

October
TH 2 Hero Myth and Heracles (ACM Apollodorus K1-K21 [33-45]; Bacchylides Ode 5 [63-69]; Herodorus [121-22]; H. Hymn 15 [205]; Palaephatus 38-39 [336-37])

T 7 Theseus (ACM Apollodorus N1-N7 [54-57]; Bacchylides Dithyramb 17 [69-72]; Pausanias A [344]; Plutarch [376-77])
HANDOUT (required readings): Bacchylides Dithyramb 1; Euripides' Suppliant Women, lines 381-462

TH 9 Perseus (ACM Apollodorus J1-J2 [31-33]; Conon 40 [88]; Pherecydes [354-55]; Simonides [391])
Jason (ACM Apollodorus G1-G5 [25-30]; Palaephatus 30, 43 [334-35, 338]; Pausanias C [345])

T 14 The Trojan War and Homer's Iliad (ACM Proclus [378-82]; Iliad Bks. 1, 3, 6)
RECOMMENDED reading: introduction to The Essential Homer by S. Murnaghan

TH 16 Iliad Bks. 8, 9, 12, 14, 16

T 21 Iliad Bks. 18, 22, 23, 24 (plus clips from W. Petersen's Troy [2004])

TH 23 Homer's Odyssey Bks. 1, 5

T 28 Odyssey Bks. 9, 11, 12

TH 30 Odyssey Bks. 23, 24

November
T 4 EXAM #2

TH 6 Athenian Myth and Tragedy (ACM Hyginus 46 [231], 164 [264], 166 [265]); Aeschylus' Oresteia I: Agamemnon
RECOMMENDED reading: introduction to Oresteia by H. P. Foley

T 11 Oresteia I: Agamemnon (cont'd)
TH 13  Oresteia I: Agamemnon (cont’d)

T 18  Oresteia II: Libation-Bearers (plus film excerpt)
TH 20  Oresteia III: Eumenides

T 25  Euripides’ Medea
RECOMMENDED reading: R. Mitchell-Boyask’s introduction to Medea

TH 27  NO CLASS (Thanksgiving holiday)

December
T 2  Wrap-up

TH 11  FINAL EXAM, 8-10:30 am (alas)

PLEASE NOTE: I will make limited use of Blackboard for this course. Items I will post there include the course syllabus; the Powerpoint presentations from our class sessions (posted at the end of each week); required readings that are not found in our textbooks; and study guides for each of the exams.