



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Classical Myths In Visual Arts - 5216

Last update 09-03-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History of Art

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Irina Chernetsky

Coordinator Email: irina.chernetsky@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Irina Chernetsky

Course/Module description:

We will learn how the Olympian gods were depicted in visual art from ancient to modern times. We will learn to identify the gods and the main myths. We will get to know literary sources for Greek and Roman mythology and see how the figures of the gods and myths were received in the ancient world, the Christian world and the modern world.

Course/Module aims:

To grant basic knowledge about Greek and Roman myths that became classical because they were recounted in texts and represented in art. To know main literary sources for Greek and Roman myths. To learn how gods and myths were received in different times. To learn how gods and myths were represented in different times.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To recognize the established formulas in the representation of major Gods and myths; to understand the relationship between visual interpretation of the myth, known only from texts, and their intended viewer, who knew also their allegorical meanings, especially in Renaissance and Baroque.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lecture accompanied by power point presentations which combine images and texts.

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction: Chronology; Explanation of the visual sources (unlike biblical and Christian themes based on unified literary sources, Greek myths are known from many sources; urn paintings, for example, show that they existed before the written sources); Explanation of the literary sources; What are the Greek myths? Myth in context of religious worship. Why were the Greek myths depicted in different periods? Greek myth as a cultural layer and cultural language in Western history. It is impossible to understand art without knowledge of the myths in literature and art.

2. Creation of the world. Uranus and Gaea; Giants, monsters, cyclops, titans. The Titan Cronus swallows his children. The Titan Prometheus - the creation of man. The

creation of woman - Pandora.

3. The Olympian gods. The fight against the titans. Zeus (Jupiter) and Hera (Yuno).

4. Loves of Zeus: Io; Dana Danae's son - the hero Perseus. The Myths of Perseus: Medusa Gorgona and Andromeda.

5. Loves of Zeus: Alcmene. Alcmene's son - the hero Hercules in pagan and Christian culture

6. Loves of Zeus: Europa. The cult of the island of Kiyakim. Minos, Minotaur, Theseus, Daedalus and Icarus

7. Loves of Zeus: Ganymede; Nativity. Descendants of Leda - Dioscuri and Helena (including the Paris trial)

8. Trojan War. The perception of Odysseus and Achilles from antiquity to the present. The image of the goddess Athena.

9. Aphrodite (Venus). The figure of Venus Pudica from ancient art to contemporary art: literary and visual sources. Venus through Christian eyes. The figure of Venus, the goddess of beauty, in feminist artistic interpretations

10. Venus Vulcan (Vulcan as the archetype of an artist); Venus and Mars (Mars, the god of war - one of the main gods in ancient Rome). Venus and Adonis

11. Dionysus (Bakchos); Birth of Bacchus; Bacchus' retinue; Bacchus and Ariadne. The drunken Bacchus - the worship in the Roman world, the Christian adoption and the descriptions until modern times

12. Apollo; Apollo and Daphne; Contests of Apollo: Marsyas and Pan. the muses

13. The world of water: Poseidon (Neptune) and the river god. Poseidon and Amphitrite; Poseidon and Amymone; marine figures, such as Triton, Nereids, ichthyocentaurs; Galatea

14. The underworld: Hades (Pluto); Kerberos; Hades and Persephone; Orpheus and Eurydice

Required Reading:

Reference:

Grafton, A., Most, G. W., and Settis, S., eds. *The Classical Tradition* (Cambridge, MA, 2010) DE 60 C55 2010 – 7 days

Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae (LIMC) (Zurich, 1981-1999)
N 7760 A1 L4 – Art Reference

Reid, J. D. The Oxford Guide to Classical Mythology in the Arts, 1300-1990s (Oxford, 1993), 2 vols. NX 650 M9 R45 – Circulation desk

Basic Reading:

Barolsky, P. Ovid and the Metamorphoses of Modern Art from Botticelli to Picasso (New Haven and London, 2014) N 8224 M46 B37 2014 – 7 days

Bober, P. P. and Rubinstein, R. O. Renaissance Artists and Antique Sculpture (London, 1986) NB 85 B62 – Not for loan The 2010 edition: NB 85 B62 2010 - Not for loan

Bull, M. The Mirror of the Gods: How Renaissance Artists Rediscovered the Pagan Gods (Oxford, 2005) N 7760 B86 2005 - Not for loan

Carpenter, T. H. Art and Myth in Ancient Greece: A Handbook (London, 1991)
N 5633 C26 – 7 days (4 copies)

Freedman, L. Classical Myths in Italian Renaissance Painting (Cambridge, 2011)
ND 1422 I8 F74 2011 - 7 days

Kilinsky, K. II. Greek Myth and Western Art: The Presence of the Past (Cambridge, 2013) N 7760 K555 2013 - 7 days

Panofsky E. and Saxl, F. "Classical Mythology in Mediaeval Art," Metropolitan Museum Studies, 4/2 (1933), 228-80 (JSTOR)

Rose, H. J. A Handbook of Greek Mythology (New York, 1959) BL 781 R65 1959 – 7 days (4 copies)

Seznec, J. The Survival of the Pagan Gods; The Mythological Tradition and Its Place in Renaissance Humanism and Art (New York, 1953) N 6370 S52 1961 - 7 days (5 copies)

Additional Reading Material:
Recommended Reading:

Barkan, L. The Gods Made Flesh; Metamorphosis & the Pursuit of Paganism (New Haven and London, 1986) PN 56 M53 B27 – 7 days

Panofsky, E. *Studies in Iconology; Humanistic Themes in the Art of the Renaissance* (New York, 1972) N 6370 P3 – 7 days (5 copies)

Verheyen, E. "Correggio's *Amori di Giove*," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, 29 (1966), 160-92 (JSTOR).

Wind, E. *Pagan Mysteries in the Renaissance* (New York, 1958) N 6915 W53 – 7 days (2 copies) 1967 edition: N 6915 W53 1967 (6 copies)

Recommended Viewing:

Bailey, C. B. *The Loves of the Gods: Mythological Painting from Watteau to David* (Fort Worth, TX, 1992). ND 1422 F84 B35 – Not for loan

Friedlaender, W. F. *Nicolas Poussin: A New Approach* (New York, 1966) ND 553 P868 F78 – Not for loan

Himmelmänn, N. *Antike Götter der Mittelalter* (Mainz, 1985) N 5975 H54 – 7 days

Koortbojian, M. *Myth, Meaning and Memory on Roman Sarcophagi* (Berkeley and Los Angeles and London, 1995) NB 133.5 S46 K66 – Not for loan

Martin, J. R. *The Farnese Gallery* (Princeton, 1965) ND 623 C233 M36 – Not for loan

Woodford, S. *Images of Myths in Classical Antiquity* (Cambridge, 2003) N 7760 W66 2003 – Not for loan

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 60 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 40 %

written paper

Additional information:

Details of assignments:

- 60% - submission of short exercises based on reading passages from literary sources. The passages will be uploaded to the moodle website.

- 40% - writing a short paper up to 7 pages including footnotes. The paper will discuss two works of art that depict a classical myth. In the paper, the works of art will be studied on the basis of comparison with the textual sources and within the historical context of their creation and intended location as well as in context of the myth's reception in the discussed period.