

Myth

Weeks 1-5: NON-ASSESSED TOPICS FOR THE 1,500 WORD ASSIGNMENT

Unit 1

- 1) Critically discuss how 'oral tradition' affects our analysis of the Homeric epics.
- 2) Analyse the role of bards in the Homeric epics.
- 3) Focusing on either the myth of Meleager or Niobe, analyse the use of mythology in the Iliad.

Unit 2: Odysseus at Phaeacia

- 1) What is the function of the Phaeacian episode?
- 2) Choosing one mythological episode from the Apologoi, analyse its mythological and literary role in the Odyssey.
- 3) Analyse the importance and function of the Nekyia for the Odyssey, approaching this question from various angles including a mythological one.

Unit 3: Medea: Love and the Female in Epic

- 1) Write a detailed analysis comparing the Apollonius' Medea with that of Euripides.
- 2) Write a detailed analysis of the Homeric influences on Apollonius' Medea.
- 3) In what ways does Apollonius subvert epic conventions in books 3 and 4 of the Argonautica?

Unit 4: Revisiting the Ancient Heroes: Heracles and an Argonautic Odyssey

- 1) Focusing on either the Hylas or Lemnian episodes, analyse the role of Heracles and portrayal of heroism in the Argonautica.
- 2) Analyse the ways in which Apollonius recasts his Homeric influences in the Argonauts' returns.
- 3) Write an analysis of the role of the Circe episode in Apollonius Rhodius' Argonautica both in relation to the epic and in relation to its Homeric predecessor.

Unit 5: Catullus 54: Grand Myth on a Small Scale

- 1) To what extent can we classify Catullus 64 as neoteric?
- 2) Analyse Catullus' treatment of ecphrasis in the poem.
- 3) Focusing on either the myth of Peleus and Thetis or that of Ariadne and Theseus or that of Jason and Medea or that of Achilles, explore how and why Catullus uses and recasts his mythological predecessors in this poem.