

Myth: Weeks 1-6: Non-assessed topics

Unit 6: The Renewal of Epic: Vergil's *Aeneid*

- 1) Why do you think Vergil chose the Aeneas legend for his epic?
- 2) What is the significance of the Hercules-Cacus episode to Vergil's epic?
- 3) In what ways does Vergil play with and utilise epic genre conventions?
- 4) What role does the ecphrasis of Dido's temple play in the *Aeneid*?
- 5) Analyse the purpose and role of the Shield of Aeneas in the *Aeneid*.

Unit 7: Vergilian Women and Underworlds

- 1) Analyse how and why Vergil uses Medea as a model for his Dido.
- 2) Discuss the role of Dido in book 4 of the *Aeneid*.
- 3) Analyse Vergil's uses and recasting of his mythological predecessors in his description of the descent to the Underworld in book 6.
- 4) Analyse Vergil's interweaving of myth and history in either book 4 or book 6 of the *Aeneid*.

Unit 8: Flavian Treatment of the Argo Myth

- 1) Analyse how Valerius Flaccus' uses and recasts his mythological predecessors in his presentation of the Hylas episode. What can this tell us about VF's poetic style?
- 2) Analyse VF's use of epic conventions in either the Hylas episode or his presentation of Medea. What can this tell us about VF as an epic author?
- 3) Focusing on select scenes (or even scene) analyse VF's Medea in light of Apollonius'. What can this tell us about VF's poetic style?
- 4) Focusing on select scenes (or even scene) analyse VF's Medea in light of non-Apollonius mythological predecessors (e.g. Nausicaa/Helen etc). What can this tell us about VF's poetic style?

Unit 9: Statius' *Thebaid*: Hypsipyle's narrative and the death of Opheltes

- 1) Why does Statius include the myth of Opheltes?
- 2) Why does Statius include a version of the story of events at Lemnos?
- 3) How does Statius engage with Hypsipyle's mythical and/or literary past?

Unit 10: The end of Statius' *Thebaid*

- 1) Does the ending of the *Thebaid* provide closure?
- 2) Why does the *Thebaid* end with burial and mourning?
- 3) How does Statius engage with Greek tragedy when he brings into his plot the Altar of Clemency?