

MODULE SYLLABUS

MYTH IN GREEK AND ROMAN

EPIC

HPAH7007

Module Code: HPAH7007

Credit points: 30

Pre-requisites/restrictions: None

Taught: Semester 1

Lecturer: Professor Ruth Parkes

GENERAL INFORMATION

This module examines the use and function of myth in epic across a period of some twelve centuries, and provides students with a detailed study of the epic genre. This year it will include Homer's *Odyssey*, Apollonius Rhodius' *Argonautica*, Catullus 64, Vergil's *Aeneid*, Valerius Flaccus' *Argonautica*, and Statius' *Thebaid*. The module allows students to explore the origins of myth, its links with folktale, its place in story-telling and the oral tradition. By investigating the types of myths chosen in epics, their reformulation and depiction, this module also allows students to gain a greater understanding of the function and use of myth in epic, of the literary concerns of individual epics and of the purpose, structure and development of the epic genre in antiquity. Furthermore, by exploring the relationship between myth, literature, culture and history, this module provides students with the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of their interactions and their function in underpinning ancient identities and ideologies. This module will allow students to reformulate and employ contemporary theoretical frameworks and critical approaches to the study of myth and epic *and* myth in epic, combining, for example, narratology, neoanalysis, intertextuality and orality, in order to independently analyse, and contribute to scholarly debate on, the use of myth within and across chosen set texts.

AIM(S)

- critically analyse the use of myth in epic in its socio-cultural and historical contexts, using detailed knowledge;
- engage with scholarly approaches to and theoretical frameworks for the study of myth and epic in ancient culture.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module all students should be able to:

- demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the development of the epic genre;
- demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the complex use of myth in epic, within its literary, historical and social contexts, within the genre of epic generally and the chosen set texts in particular;
- combine a detailed knowledge of myth, epic, ancient culture and history and their attendant theoretical frameworks in cogently articulated analyses of the use of myth in epic;
- contribute to scholarly debates relating to the study of epic and myth;
- reformulate and employ contemporary critical approaches and theoretical frameworks in independent analyses of epic and myth, showing an awareness of the limitations and problems inherent in their chosen methodology.

HOW TO CONTACT ME

Please feel free to discuss if you would like to discuss any problems you may have concerning this module (distance students please email me in the first instance: R.Parkes@uwtsd.ac.uk). You can also ask questions (not confidential) in the discussion board available in the Moodle space for this course.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

Material to work through will be given for each week and there will be a weekly (hybrid) session, (normally Wednesdays 5-8pm GMT). There will also be vidcasts.

Course Outline: Type	Content
Unit 1 Homer	Myth, Singers and Song
Unit 2 Homeric <i>Odyssey</i>	Odysseus at Phaeacia
Unit 3 Apollonius Rhodius' <i>Argonautica</i>	Medea: Love and the Female in Epic
Unit 4 Apollonius Rhodius' <i>Argonautica</i>	Revisiting the Ancient Heroes: Heracles and an Argonautic Odyssey
Unit 5 The Roman Epyllion	Catullus 64: Grand Myth on a Small Scale
Unit 6 Vergil's <i>Aeneid</i>	Vergil's <i>Aeneid</i> The Renewal of Epic
Unit 7 Vergil's <i>Aeneid</i>	Vergilian Women and Underworlds
Unit 8 Valerius Flaccus' <i>Argonautica</i>	Flavian Treatment of the Argo Myth
Unit 9 Statius	<i>Thebaid</i>
Unit 10 Statius	<i>Thebaid</i>

ASSESSMENT

NON-ASSESSED ASSIGNMENTS

Distance students are asked to submit on Moodle **two** non-assessed assignments of 1,500 words each (optional but recommended). Each unit will give you several suggestions for a non-assessed assignment, but you will only need to complete two tasks in total. The first papers should be submitted by the 5th November; the second by the 10th December. You should choose one from units 1-5 and one from units 6-10. The non-assessed assignments will give you valuable practice at essay writing and useful feedback for when it comes to writing the formal assignments for this course. It is therefore important to present your material fully referenced, as if this was a formal submission. **Please note that you cannot duplicate material:** a topic chosen for a non-assessed assignment cannot be used for the formal assessed essay. You may want to bear this in mind when you choose the topics for your non-assessed assignments.

ASSESSMENT: Coursework

Assessment consists of 2 essays (50% each), each of 3500 words (first deadline: 13/12/2023; second deadline 14/1/2024), is to be submitted by via turnitin on the Moodle space for this course (deadline is at 11.59 pm). Essay titles (on different authors) to be decided in consultation with the tutor (you may use moodle page questions/material as guidance).

Ensure that you download all submitted work, and marker's comments, from Moodle before June 2024. All such material will not be available to you after you graduate or progress to the next level of study.

Word count

If the specified word limit for an assessment has been exceeded, the following penalties apply: The penalty cannot take the work into the fail category.

- a. Up to 10% above the word limit – No deduction off final mark
- b. Between 10% and 25% above the word limit – Deduction of 5 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- c. Between 25% and 50% above the word limit – Deduction of 10 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- d. 50% or more over length – Maximum mark of capped mark

Likewise, a failure to meet the maximum word limit may result in lower marks based on the quality of the work because they may not have included the necessary information required for the assessment and met the stated learning outcomes.

The feedback on the assessment should explicitly mention any mark deduction and the reason for it.

REMEMBER that the word count includes everything apart from the bibliography, titles or captions. You must provide the word count clearly.

Welsh First language

If your first language is Welsh and you would like to submit any assessed coursework in Welsh, please see the Faculty Office as soon as possible to make arrangements for this.

Special needs / requirements

If you have any special needs (e.g. dyslexia, visual impairment) that need to be taken into account for the teaching of this module, please make sure that your Welfare Officer is made aware of this so that we can make sure that we fully support you in your studies.

Returning of work

Detailed feedback is given via turnitin but if you would like to discuss your work in more detail, do email.

Bibliography

A bibliography is provided in the Moodle space for this course.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Primary Reading

Rieu, E. V. (2003), *Homer. The Odyssey*, Penguin Classics (OR the loeb translation by Murray, rev. Dimock, which is in the library catalogue online)

Hunter, R. (1993), *Apollonius of Rhodes: Jason and the Golden Fleece*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (OR the loeb translation by Race, which is in the library catalogue online).

Lee, G. (1998), *Catullus: The Complete Poems*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (on moodle: use the (slightly archaic sounding) Catullus loeb translation, p98ff, to work out the lines).

West, David (first published 1990), *Vergil: the Aeneid*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (there is also the loeb translation online, though it is archaic sounding).

Mozley, J. H. *Valerius Flaccus. Argonautica*. Loeb Classical Library [in uwtsd library online]

Shackleton Bailey, R. D. *Statius Thebaid Books 1-7*. Loeb Classical Library [in uwtsd library online]

Shackleton Bailey, R. D. *Statius Thebaid Books 8-12; Achilleid*. Loeb Classical Library [in uwtsd online]

If you already have a copy of any of the epics and it is not one of the translations mentioned above, then that is usually not a problem. If you do not already possess a copy, you need to order it as soon as possible.

Recommended secondary book:

Foley, J. M. (2008), *A Companion to Ancient Epic*, London. [available as ebook in library]