

MODULE SYLLABUS

The Medea Stories (Advanced Greek
verse)

HPGK7023

Module Code:	HPGK7023
Credit points:	30
Taught:	Semester 2
Pre-requisites/restrictions:	Standard of Greek Intermediate II, or Greek A Level or equivalent
Lecturer:	Professor Ruth Parkes

GENERAL INFORMATION

Students will study selections from poems treating Medea; the set texts for this semester comprise Euripides *Medea* 1-356 (Diggle, Volume I OCT) and Apollonius Rhodius' Hellenistic epic, *Argonautica* 4.1-451 (W. H. Race, 2009 loeb edition). The loeb is available in the library (find using the e-book collection link). All set text prescription should be translated and it is recommended that you read the rest of the *Medea* and Books 3 and 4 of the *Argonautica* in translation.

AIM(S)

To enable students:

- To translate accurately a Greek poetic text at an advanced level.
- To develop further skills of literary analysis and interpretation, and gain an understanding of the text's historical, cultural and literary context as reflected both in the text studied and relevant modern scholarship.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Advanced knowledge of Greek grammar and syntax through translations of the text studied and unseen translation work.
- Sound knowledge of the text studied and of modern scholarship on this text in literary and linguistic analysis.

OFFICE HOURS/HOW TO CONTACT ME

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any problems you may have concerning this module. It is best email in the first instance (r.parkes@uwtsd.ac.uk). You can also ask questions (not confidential) on the discussion board available in the Moodle space for this course.

COURSE MATERIALS AND MOODLE

I strongly encourage students to make active use of the Moodle forum that will be set up for this course. You may contact me via the forum, but more importantly, you will also have the opportunity to discuss aspects of the course with your fellow students there. Furthermore, all information regarding this course, including the module syllabus and assignment details will be available on the Moodle space.

Ensure that you download all submitted work, and marker's comments, from Moodle before June 2026. All such material will not be available to you after you graduate or progress to the next level of study.

ASSESSMENT

1) Examination, online (50%) (time TBC, c. week 6):

Two (out of four) passages of Euripides' *Medea* to translate (c. 15 lines) plus one essay on Euripides' *Medea* (out of choice of 4 questions).

2) Critical commentary (due 10/5/2026 by 23.59pm)

For your critical analysis exercise, you should choose ONE of the following passages to discuss in an essay of 3,750 words (the exercise is worth 50%):

- i) Apollonius Rhodius *Arg.* 4.6-46
- ii) Apollonius Rhodius *Arg.* 4.122-166
- iii) Apollonius Rhodius *Arg.* 4.338-78

NB For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to check your own text/creation for grammatical and syntactical mistakes, including getting suggestions to rephrase your work.

NB You will also need to retain a second electronic copy of your work to be submitted, if deemed appropriate, to the module convenor.

Coursework submission for this module will be through Moodle (via turnitin). The deadline for submission is as above.

There will also be formative assignments (to be submitted via moodle): see the moodle page for details.

Word count

Please be aware that 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.

- . Up to 10% above the word limit – No deduction off final mark
- . 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)
- . 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)
- . 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.

Some extra assignment/essay guidelines

Please consult the reference guide written by the library.

Please present your piece of coursework properly (double-spacing, font 12 is needed). Note that all coursework needs to be word-processed; hand-written work will not be accepted. Assessment criteria can be found via Turn-it-in.

***** You need to watch plagiarism whenever you use secondary literature (please read carefully the plagiarism section in the Student Guide – ALL coursework will be submitted to a Turn-It-In analysis).** Please consult the library reference guide for advice on how to reference secondary literature.

In case of problems....

Do contact me if you have any problems with the writing or planning of your piece of coursework. Please note that individuals cannot give deadlines (please use the extenuating circumstances procedure).

Bibliography

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

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 level 7 Welfare Officer is made aware of this so that we can make sure that we fully support you in your studies.

Returning of work

Details of the assignment deadlines and return dates are given above. Detailed feedback is given with the returned work but if you would like to discuss your work in more detail, do contact me.

Commentary

Candidates should always ask themselves: 'What requires explanation in this passage?' In addition, things which will usually, or may, require comment or analysis include, but are not limited to (they will clearly vary from text to text, author to author, and genre to genre).

Context:

- What has just happened?
- What is happening?
- What is about to happen?
- Are there any clues in the passage which relate to its context?
- Who is speaking/narrating?
- To whom are they speaking/narrating?
- Why are they speaking/narrating to them?

Content: (normally carries more weight)

- Themes (metamorphosis, murder, love, etc.)
- Language, metre, style, points of grammatical interest
- Characterisation
- Tone (humorous, tragic, etc.)
- Imagery (fire, colours, etc.)
- How do the contents of the commentary compare/relate to those of the wider text?