

WLIT 231: Mythology (CRN 613)
Fully Online, Asynchronous
Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Amie A. Doughty

Office: 314 Netzer Administration Building

Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 (contact me to schedule appointment)

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Required Texts:*

Black, Jenna. *Dark Descendant*. Pocket Books, 2011. ISBN 978-1451606799

Bryant, Megan E. *Oh My Gods!: A Look-It-Up Guide to the Gods of Mythology*. Franklin Watts, 2009.
ISBN: 978-1606310588

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*. Disney-Hyperion, 2006. ISBN: 978-0786838653

*Please note that you may use any *unabridged* version of the books on the list. Also note that you will be required to read additional material linked from our Blackboard course.

Technology Requirements:

- Internet Access: You will need to be able to access a lot of web-based materials as this course is online. If you have connectivity issues, you need to let me know.
- Blackboard: The majority of the work for this class will be done using Blackboard. You will submit all of your work via Blackboard, whether in drop boxes or on discussion boards.
- Word Processing Program: You will need to use Microsoft Word or another word processing program to write final exam (and the first option for the paper). If you use a program besides Word, you will need to save your files as Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF documents. Please note that as a student at SUNY Oneonta, you can download a copy of Microsoft Office to your device through Office365. You can also use the web-based version of Word and other Office programs through Office 365.
- Slide Show Program (optional): You may use Microsoft PowerPoint or another slide show creation program for second option for the paper. If you choose a program besides PowerPoint, you may save the file as PDF so that I can read it if you choose the second option of the assignment (see separate description of assignment).
- Video Recording Program (optional): Ideally you will record an introductory video for the class. If you have a smart phone, you can use it for the introductory video, or you can use another program, such as [Screencast-O-Matic](#) (available on the web) for the video. If you do not have this capability, do not worry. I will give alternative means of fulfilling those assignments.
- Microsoft Stream, YouTube, or another location to save your videos (optional): Because I want you to link any video you make to Blackboard, you will need to have a location on the web to upload it. You have access to Stream through Office 365, but you can also use YouTube if you prefer or a different service. I will give instructions for uploading to Stream and for embedding videos to Blackboard.

Method of Instruction:

Because this class is an asynchronous online course, instruction will occur through the videos and other materials I post to Blackboard and through feedback I give to your work. See the calendar for due dates for the assigned readings and assignments.

Course Description:

Catalog Description: Reading and discussion of selected myths, legends, epics, plays, and other materials basic to an understanding of Western literature. (LA) Prerequisite: COMP 100.

Course Description: This course will focus primarily on Greek and Roman mythology. Students will examine both the traditional myths and modern reworkings of them. There will be an opportunity for students to examine aspects of other mythologies via assignments.

Course Objectives:

Students will

- explore the background of classical mythology,
- learn about specific figures and concepts in classical mythology,
- examine a couple of modern adaptations of classical mythology, and
- complete research on a figure from a mythology other than classical mythology.

General Education Attribute: LA

Course Policies:

Course Questions: I have created a Course Questions discussion board for the class. If you have any general questions about the materials, assignments, or any other aspect of the class, post them on this discussion board, and I will answer them as soon as I can. This discussion board will act as a resource for the class. If you have questions specific to your work, you can e-mail me, and I will answer them as soon as I can. An example of a general question is “Can you give examples of other thesis statements for the paper assignment?” An example of a specific question is “What did you mean when you wrote ‘you’re having comma splice issues’ on my post?” If you e-mail me a general question, I will tell you to post it and only answer it once it is posted.

Contacting Me: My preferred method of communication outside of class is e-mail, and I am usually quick to respond to e-mail. If you send me an e-mail message, you should hear back from me within 24 hours during weekdays. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, try again because it means that I have not received your message. I check my e-mail periodically Monday through Friday (usually between 8 and 5). I am offline on Saturdays and Sundays.

Assignments: Your final grade will have 4 components, each worth 25%:

- ✱ Discussion Board Posts and Responses: In addition to the introduction post, you will be required to write a Blackboard post approximately every 2 weeks about the materials we are covering. Read the assigned materials and watch the video lectures before you do your posts. For the posts, you will choose one of the questions that I list and address it in a couple of paragraphs. Only 5 people may answer the same question, so check the other posts before you choose which question you want to write about. In addition to your posts about the questions, you will be required to choose at least 2 of your classmates’ posts and write a response to them. Deadlines for these assignments are listed on the syllabus and in the boards.
- ✱ Quizzes: Approximately every 2 weeks through April 9, you will complete a quiz based on the readings. The quizzes will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer.

- ✕ Paper/Mythlopedia Assignment (see separate assignment sheet)
- ✕ Final Exam: I will distribute the final exam essay prompt several days before the deadline for the exam (Wednesday, May 12). The essay will require you to talk about the novels that we read at the end of the semester.

Assignment Formatting: All out-of-class assignments must be submitted according to MLA formatting guidelines. For this class, do not use a title page for any of your paper. Use a 12-point font (yes, I can tell the difference) in Times New Roman (no fancy fonts in this class and no use of Courier). Failure to follow formatting instructions will result in your paper's grade being lowered. You may also find instructions for it in any handbook. If you prefer to use a different format from MLA, please let me know ahead of time.

Late Work: I will accept work no more than one week late. All late work will lose 10%. If you know that you won't be able to get work in on time, see me **before** the due date, and we may be able to make arrangements for an extension.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the passing off of another's work (whether quoted, paraphrased or summarized) as your own without proper documentation, including on **take-home exams**. If you are caught plagiarizing, you are subject to a variety of punishments, including expulsion from the university. Do your own work. See the University Policies below for details on the Academic Dishonesty policy.

Blackboard's Gradebook: I will be creating a gradebook on Blackboard and updating it periodically for your information. Please note that this gradebook is a guide only; however, if you do see what appears to be an error on it, please contact me. Final grades are calculated by me on my Excel gradebook, so if there is a discrepancy between Blackboard's book and mine, I will use my gradebook as the correct one. Also note that the grade marked "Total" is not a weighted total, so it should not be used to estimate your course average. Instead, the "Weighted Total" grade is the one that will indicate best how you are doing in the class.

Grading Scale: The number percentages will be calculated as follows for letter grades:

94-100 A	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	0-59 E
90-93 A-	84-86 B	74-76 C	64-66 D	
	80-83 B-	70-73 C-	60-63 D-	

University Policies: The following policies can be found in your Student Handbook or the Code of Student Conduct (both available online) and are particularly applicable to this class.

Flagrant Non-Attendance

- Students missing 25% or more of class, any time from the second week of class up until the last day to withdraw from an individual course (see *Keydates and Deadlines* or *Faculty Reference Guide* for specific dates) may be removed from the course by the instructor.
- The Registrar will assign a "WI" (Involuntary Withdrawal) grade.
- Students appearing on the final grade sheet will be assigned a final grade (not a "W", Incomplete or Pending grade), regardless of student's class attendance.

Final Exams

Instructors must follow the final exam schedule as posted in *Keydates and Deadlines* (www.oneonta.edu/registrar). The final exam week is part of the 15 class weeks required by the State

Education Department. *If an instructor does not hold a final examination, the final examination period must be used as the final class day.* Exceptions to this may be made only in an emergency and only with prior approval of the department chair and the division dean. Under no condition shall a study day be used to administer a final exam. Students are held responsible for selecting a course schedule with the final exam schedule in mind. There is no policy preventing a student from having exams in one day.

Accessibility Resources

Students Diagnosed with a Disability—All individuals who are diagnosed with a disability are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such, you may be entitled to certain accommodations within this class. If you are diagnosed with a disability, please make an appointment to meet with Accessibility Resources, 133 Milne Library, ext. 2137. All students with the necessary supporting documentation will be provided appropriate accommodations as determined by the Accessibility Resources Office. It is entirely your responsibility to contact Accessibility Resources and concurrently supply me with your accommodation plan, which will inform me exactly what accommodations you are entitled to. You will only receive accommodations once you provide me with an Accessibility Resources accommodation plan. Any previously recorded grades will not be changed.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty is defined as any act by a student that misrepresents or attempts to misrepresent to an instructor or any College official, the proficiency or achievement of that student or another student in any academic exercise for the purpose of influencing a grade on a piece of assigned work, on an examination or quiz or in a Course as a whole, or that is intended to alter any record of a student's academic performance by unauthorized means.

A Student deemed guilty of an act of academic dishonesty may, depending on the nature of the offense, be subject to one or more of the following measures: failure of the assignment or examination, failure of the course, or dismissal from the College. Furthermore, for a second offense, referral of the case to the Standing Disciplinary Board is mandatory. The penalties that may be assessed by the Board are listed under the Procedures of the Standing Disciplinary Board as published in this publication; however, the normal penalty is suspension or dismissal.

It is the Student's responsibility to read and understand the policy on all aspects of academic dishonesty as published in this publication and the Undergraduate Catalog. However, individual faculty members may wish to explain the policy as it relates to their courses. It is emphasized that a student who has any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty has the responsibility of clarifying them by conferring with his/her instructors.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty:

The following examples, although not all-inclusive, are intended to help students understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. Other acts should not necessarily, be considered as falling outside the scope of this policy because of their absence from this list.

- Plagiarism that is, using materials from another's work without acknowledgment, using quotations without identification as such or paraphrasing without specific identification of the source.
- Copying and/or modifying another person's computer file, program, printout, or portion thereof for use in an assignment without permission of the instructor.
- Knowingly permitting one's computer file, program, printout, or portion thereof to be copied or modified by another student for use in an assignment without permission of the instructor.
- Unauthorized giving or receiving of information on an examination, laboratory procedure, or other exercise.

- Taking an examination for another student or allowing another student to take an examination for you.
- Altering or attempting to alter a grade on any piece of graded work, a grade written in an instructor's personal records, or a grade written on any College form or transcribed in any official College record.
- Submitting a College form with a forged signature.

Actions for Safety

Please provide the following link to the campus's spring re-opening plan. Including this essential information will ensure that our students know the expectations we hold for them, as well as the effort being made to protect the safety of students and other members of the campus community.

(https://suny.oneonta.edu/covid-19/spring-2021/draft-re-opening-plan-spring-2021#_Toc56365842)

Of special note is the face mask/covering requirement. All members of the campus community are required to wear masks or face coverings when on college property or in college spaces, including classrooms and residential spaces.

Students who violate the College's face covering policy may be referred to the Office of Community Standards for disciplinary review and the imposition of discipline.

Campus Resources:

- [Academic Advisement](#)
- [Accessibility Resource Center](#)
- [Student Learning Center](#)
- [Milne Library](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- English Department:
 - Secretary Ruth Carr: 436-3446 or Ruth.Carr@oneonta.edu
 - Chair Dr. Suzanne Black: 436-3446 or Suzanne.Black@oneonta.edu

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Weeks 1-3 (25 Jan-12 Feb)—Read materials in Readings folder; Watch video lectures; Introductions due 1 Feb; responses to introductions due 5 Feb; first reading post due 5 Feb; responses to first reading posts due 8 Feb; Quiz 1 due 12 Feb
Weeks 4-5 (15-26 Feb)—Read materials in Readings folder; Watch video lectures; second reading post due 19 Feb; responses to second reading posts due 22 Feb; Quiz 2 due 26 Feb 16 Feb No classes
Weeks 6-7 (1-12 Mar)—Read Mythlopedia 1-47 and materials in Readings folder; watch lecture videos; third reading post due 5 Mar; responses to third reading post due 8 Mar; Quiz 3 due 12 Mar 10 Mar No Classes
Weeks 8-9 (15-26 Mar)—Read Mythlopedia 48-79 and materials in Readings folder; watch video lectures; fourth reading post due 19 Mar; responses to fourth reading post due 22 Mar; Quiz 4 due 26 Mar
Weeks 10-11 (29 Mar-9 Apr)—Read Mythlopedia 80-end and materials in Readings folder; watch video lectures; fifth reading post due 2 Apr; responses to fifth reading post due 5 Apr; paper rough draft due 5 Apr (optional); Quiz 6 due 9 Apr 8 Apr No classes
Weeks 12-13 (12-23 Apr)—Read Riordan's <i>The Lightning Thief</i> and materials in Readings folder; watch the video lectures—sixth reading post due 21 Apr; final draft paper due 12 Apr; responses to sixth reading post due 23 Apr
Weeks 14-15 (26 Apr-7 May)—Read Black's <i>Dark Descendant</i> ; watch the lecture videos—seventh reading post due 4 May; responses to seventh reading post due 6 May; final exam prompt available 7 May 3 May—No classes
12 May—Final exam due

Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due at 11:59 pm on the day listed. Changes to the syllabus will be announced via e-mail, and you are responsible for those changes that I announce.