

Nanyang Technological University
Division of English
HL 2040 Adapting Greek Mythology
Course Blog: TBA
AY 2020–2021, SEM 2

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Course Description

Ancient stories from classical literature have inspired many later authors to reconsider and revisit the power of the mythological narrative. Through selected readings of classical works and a careful examination of their adaptations, this course will examine how themes in the classical literary tradition are used in a variety of adaptations that responds to different historical and cultural contexts. We will examine the use of language and imagery in adaptations of classical works. Students will be encouraged to explore the subject in depth and acquire a sense of contexts in terms of the intellectual landscapes that shape the study of literature and culture.

Learning Objective

This course aims to develop critical reading, writing and research skills through the study of classical literature and its adaptations. This course introduces literary devices used in classical narratives and encourages students to trace how these devices are still important in the analysis of modern literature. More broadly, figures and stories from classical literature will also be used as context to trace the foundations of the Western literary tradition; this also helps equip students with the necessary knowledge they will need when they encounter classical influences in literary works beyond those assigned in the course.

Important Notes

- Office consultation: If you would like to make an appointment for consultation outside of office hours, pls. email me at least 3 working days ahead of time. Please come prepared with questions so that we can address your concerns effectively and efficiently.
- Please observe punctuality in class, and if you have to leave early, pls. let me know ahead of time. As usual, pls. be respectful to your classmates and be sure to turn off all electronic devices during lectures and tutorials.

Use of course resources:

- 1) **All materials** distributed in class and on the course blog are meant to be used for class lectures and discussions only. They are not to be re-distributed outside of class for any other purposes. If you wish to use the materials for your assignments, you must cite them accordingly.

- 2) You are not allowed to record lectures in any form without permission from the instructors. If you have any special requests regarding this matter, you're welcome to discuss your concerns with me.
- If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to check our course blog for updates or announcements that you may have missed.
 - Late assignments: written assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty of half a grade each day (including weekends and holidays); if I do not receive an assignment a week after it is due, you will receive a 0 for the essay.
 - Absence in class: if you are absent on the day when an in-class writing assignment is due, you will not be able to make-up for this. Those who are absent for presentations will not have the opportunity to make-up their work in another group's presentation.
 - Any attempt at plagiarism will be subjected to university disciplinary action. Please familiarize yourself with the university's academic integrity policies here: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>

Course Assessment

Presentations – 20%

Critical response paper – 20%

Final essay – 50%

Participation – 10%

Required Texts:

- Barker, Pat. *The Silence of the Girls* (Penguin, ISBN: 978-0241983201)
- Homer. *The Iliad* (Trans. Richmond Lattimore) (University of Chicago Press, 1962. ISBN: 978-0226470498)*
- Malouf, David. *Ransom*. (Vintage, 2010. ISBN: 978-0307475244)
- Shakespeare, William. *Troilus and Cressida* (Penguin Classics, ISBN: 978-0143131755)

*You are required to use the edition translated by this translator. Pls. note that other editions by different translators are not acceptable—they will be entirely different from the ones used in this course.

Tentative Course Outline

Week	Topic
Week 1 12 Jan.	Introduction: Greek Mythology and Adaptations
Week 2 The War 19 Jan.	Excerpts from Homer's <i>Iliad</i> Books I-IV pp. 59-127
Week 3 The War 26 Jan.	Excerpts from Homer's <i>Iliad</i> Book XVIII-XX and Book XXII pp. 330-417; 435-449
Week 4 The War 2 Feb.	<i>Excerpts from Homer's Iliad</i> Book XIX-XX and Book XXII pp. 392-417; 435-449
Week 5 The War 9 Feb.	Film (Troy)
Week 6 The War 16 Feb.	Pat Barker's <i>Silence of the Girls</i> Ovid's <i>Heroides and Amores</i> (under "E-Resources" on course blog)
Week 7 Aftermath 23 Feb.	Pat Barker's <i>Silence of the Girls</i>
Week 8 Aftermath 9 Mar.	David Malouf's <i>Ransom</i>
Week 9 Aftermath 16 Mar.	David Malouf's <i>Ransom</i>
Week 10 Aftermath 23 Mar.	William Shakespeare's <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>
Week 11 Homecoming 30 Mar.	Jean Racine's <i>Andromaque</i> (under "E-Resources" on course blog)
Week 12 Homecoming 6 Apr.	Ted Hughes' <i>Aeschylus' Oresteia: Agamemnon</i> (under "E-Resources" on course blog)
Week 13 Homecoming 13 Apr.	Ellen McLaughlin' <i>Iphigenia and Other Daughters</i> (under "E-Resources" on course blog)