Module rationale and learning outcomes

The topics to be studied on this course include the enduringly intriguing Athena/Minerva, Aphrodite/Venus and Herakles/Hercules. We will explore the role of these and other personages in some of the most important works of literature and art from Greece and Rome, including Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. We will also consider their rich ‘afterlife’ in the postclassical world down to the present day. Students will not just study at Roehampton, but will actually study features of its historic campus. In particular, we will explore the representation of a key story from the myth of Hercules in the Adam Room of Grove House. This ‘hands on’ approach to the study of mythology will be continued in offsite sessions at world-class galleries and museums in easy reach of the campus, such as the British Museum and the National Gallery.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will:

- Have acquired a thorough knowledge and understanding of the postclassical reception of mythological characters.
- Have gained an understanding of the application of theory to the study of myth.
- Have gained an enriched understanding of the place of myth in Western culture.
- Be able to use the knowledge acquired in class and through independent study to construct coherent and critical arguments on relevant subjects.
- Have had the opportunity to develop their skills in written and oral communication.
- Have had the opportunity to use a portfolio to construct their own knowledge base.
Gods and Heroes in Classical Mythology

Syllabus and teaching and learning methods

Topics may include:

- Entering the mythological world
- Gods and goddesses
- Heroes and heroines
- Defining myth
- ‘Doing’ myth
- Myth in literature
- Myth in art
- Myth in therapy
- ‘Myth is all around us’: Greek and Roman myth in Western culture
- Myth in the neoclassical country villa: the case of Grove House
- ‘Owning’ mythology
- The internationality of myth

Teaching and Learning Methods

The module will be taught through a combination of lectures and group discussion. Collaboration will be encouraged through group assignments. Session outlines, reading materials, and other materials will be placed on the module’s Moodle site. In addition to the Roehampton campus, the course will use offsite locations, e.g. National Gallery and British Museum, as resources for student learning.

Assessment

Team project (50%), eportfolio (50%)

Indicative Bibliography

Core texts


Essential texts


Online Reading


Further Reading


