

## STUDY GUIDE FOR THE MIDTERM EXAM

The midterm will be **take-home; closed book; time limit of 3 hours** (although I anticipate it will take ~2 hours)

**DUE: Friday, March 7th at noon** in a box outside my office (Hall 109).

### THE MIDTERM WILL HAVE 5 SECTIONS

- 1) *Iconography*: identify the myth depicted in images that you have seen in class; you will also identify myths and figures in image you have not seen, but which will have iconography that you will be able to recognize from the images seen and discussed in class. You are only expected to know the iconography of myths and figures, not the artist or date of the artifact (although it lays outside of the bounds of this courses, it is certainly to your greater benefit to know the artists of important pieces, and there may be the possibility of extra credit for those who do).
- 2) *Multiple Choice*
- 3) *Fill-in-the-Blank*: In addition to identifying characters and terms, you may very well be asked to provide or complete certain lists (e.g. the 12 Olympians; Ages of Humanity, etc.) or complete family trees.  
*Sample Question:* \_\_\_\_\_ :: minor deities, three in number, attend Aphrodite and are the personification of female beauty.
- 4) *Short Answer*: in three or four sentences, define and explain the significance of characters, places, myths, concepts, and terms. For the gods, you should be able to discuss their origins, associations, epithets, iconography, cult centers, and interpretations. You may also be asked to discuss specific aspects of characters, places, myths, concepts, and terms: e.g. Anthropomorphism; Origin of Evil; Athena as a Goddess of Civilization; Poseidon vs. Athena, etc.  
*Sample: Cyparissus*: a youthful, male lover of Apollo. Apollo gave Cyparissus a tame deer as a companion, but Cyparissus accidentally killed it with a javelin as it lay asleep in the undergrowth. Unable to console Cyparissus, Apollo turned him into a cypress tree, whose sap forms droplets like tears on the trunk.
- 5) *Passage identification*: Given a short selection from a work read for class, be able to identify the name/ author of the work, the myth being discussed, and answer specific questions about the meaning and significance of the passage.

### WHAT TO KNOW

The exam will cover materials in readings and lectures from the beginning of the course to the class on Dionysius (3/4)

You should be able to recognize and describe the myths, themes, and concepts listed on the “Key Term” handouts (available on syllabus and handouts page on the course website). As you look at these handouts, ask yourself whether you could tell someone the “composite myth”(s) for the characters, or define the terms briefly and explain their relevance. Know the Greek and Roman equivalent names for the gods.

Be able to give a definition of “myth,” to distinguish between myth, legend, and folk-tales, and to explain (with examples) various purposes and functions of mythical stories (e.g., rationalizing, etiological, allegorizing, etc.). When applicable, you should be able to discuss the topographical, historical, and societal components of ancient Greek culture as they relate to mythology (e.g., how do the sea and mountains figure into Greek myth; how are olives, grapes, and livestock significant to Greek myth; how are social mores—treatment of women, traditions of marriage, status of men—reflected in myth; how and when did certain gods become important).

Be able to discuss and support such discussions with *specifics* drawn from my lectures, our discussions in groups, and your readings.