

# Classical Mythology



ca. 540-530 B.C.E.. Achilles and Ajax playing draughts, detail from an Attic black-figure amphora.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/community.18135973>

**The University of Western Ontario**  
Classical Studies 2200-650, 2025-26  
Randall Pogorzelski

## Welcome

Welcome to Classical Mythology! This is a course designed for students with an interest in the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, but it doesn't require any specific background knowledge. If you're especially interested in ancient Greece and Rome, you should consider learning Latin and ancient Greek, but for this course all the readings are in English.

## Instructor



My name is Randall Pogorzelski, and I will be your instructor for this course. Please call me Randy. I've been working in Western's Department of Classical Studies since 2011. Before I came to Western, I was a Lecturer at Scripps College in Claremont, California, at the University of California, Irvine, and at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales. I teach mostly classical Latin language and literature courses, but I also have some experience with Greek language and literature courses as well as ancient history courses. My research focus is on the poetry of the early Roman Empire, most especially Virgil and Lucan. I also have an interest in the use of classical literature and myth in modern literature and culture. I wrote my Ph.D. thesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara on Virgil and James Joyce, and I've taught courses including texts like *Watchmen* and *Frankenstein*. There are few things I enjoy more than talking about classical literature and history, so please feel free to contact me any time with questions about the course or about ancient Greece and Rome in general.

## Contact

Email (rpogorze@uwo.ca) is the best way to get in touch with me, but I'm also happy to talk in person or by Zoom. Sometimes talking about things is easier and better than trying to type everything. I will do my best to respond to emails within one business day, but I do not regularly check my email after 5pm, before 8am, on weekends, or on holidays.

I'm usually on campus between about 8am and about 5pm on weekdays. I'm regularly unavailable between about 12:30pm and about 1:30pm, and I have regular meetings on Thursday mornings. In the winter semester, I'll have a class (a Latin reading course on book 3 of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*) on MWF 1:30-2:20pm and another class (a Latin reading course on Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae*) on Tuesdays from 2:30-5:30pm. Apart from those times, I'm usually in my office (Lawson Hall 3205B), and you're welcome to stop by any time. Other things do sometimes come up and keep me away from the office, so if you want to guarantee I'll be available for you, it's best to make a specific appointment with me ahead of time.

## Content Warning

This course will cover not only ancient material that includes depictions of violence, but also material about sensitive topics including racism, colonialism, suicide, sexual assault, and gender-based violence. If you believe that lecture material on some topic(s) may cause you harm, please let me know so that we can discuss possible accommodations.

## How to Study and Complete the Course

This course will have a regular, weekly structure. Each week there will be a reading assignment, an audio recording of a lecture, a transcript of that lecture, and a set of PowerPoint slides designed to accompany the lecture. You will find links to the assigned reading, the slides, the lectures, and transcripts of the lectures on the OWL site. Once you have read the assignment and listened to or read the lecture, you will need to take an online quiz by **4pm on Thursday**. In addition to the online quizzes, there will be an **in-person exam during the December examination period**, and an **in-person exam during the April examination period**.

Each student will find reading and study techniques that work for them, and what works well for one student may or may not work well for others. The quizzes should help you to check how well you're learning the material. They'll give you a sense of what the exam questions will be like. You have some time before the December exam to try out a few things and see what works best for you.

One study technique I might suggest is talking with another person about the course. Learning works best when it's a social process, and one of the disadvantages of an asynchronous course is that you don't have to spend any time with your classmates. If you know someone else in the course, it would be a good idea to spend some time talking with them about the course, and whether you know any of your classmates or not, you might try explaining some of the course material to a friend who is not in the course. For more techniques for reading and studying, you might look into Western's "Learning Development and Success" (<https://learning.uwo.ca>).

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, you will be familiar with the major characters and stories of Greek and Roman myth, with the most important ancient sources of our knowledge about Greek and Roman myth, and with a selection of methods for interpreting Greek and Roman myth.

You will be able to discuss key texts and ideas about Greek and Roman mythology. When topics like the Greek gods or Bacchanalian parties come up in conversation, you should be able to make comparisons of modern ideas with ancient ones using specific examples.

More generally and more importantly, you will have improved your ability to analyze texts and other cultural phenomena. Sources are not always straightforward or trustworthy, and you will practice "reading against the grain," i.e., reading sources to find out more than just what they want to tell you. In the process you will have improved your skills in critical thinking and analysis—skills which are transferrable to a variety of fields of study and professional employment, and which will improve your appreciation of any text.

Most importantly, this course aims to develop an ongoing interest in ancient Greek and Roman cultures. It will be work, but it should also be fun, and I hope you will leave this course with a desire to learn more about Classical Studies, whether you plan to take more courses in the area or not.

## Required Texts

There are no books you are required to buy for this course. All of the assigned readings are from the Loeb Classical Library, to which Western has an institutional subscription. If you'd like, you can buy the physical books, but the complete Loeb Classical Library is online and accessible through Western Libraries. If you do want to buy one or more of the books, they are available at loebclassics.com from Harvard University Press for \$30 USD each.

## Schedule of Reading Assignments and Lecture Topics

Please note that the reading assignment page numbers are in the Loeb Classical Library. Because the books have the ancient Greek or Latin on the left-hand pages and the English translation on the right-hand pages, you only need to read every other page. That means that the assignments are only about half as long as they seem from the page numbers listed below.

### Week 0 (September 4-5)

Although classes officially begin on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be no course content for this week in this course. We will begin the course with the first full week of classes.

### Week 1 (September 8-12)

Reading Assignment: This course syllabus

Lecture Topic: Introduction to the course

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

### Week 2 (September 15-19)

Reading Assignment: Hesiod, *Theogony*, pages 3-85 (note that this is only about 40 pages of actual reading). The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-theogony/2018/pb\\_LCL057.3.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-theogony/2018/pb_LCL057.3.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Greek Gods and the Creation of the World

### Week 3 (September 22-26)

Reading Assignment: Hesiod, *Works and Days*, pages 87-109. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-works\\_days/2018/pb\\_LCL057.87.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-works_days/2018/pb_LCL057.87.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myth, Ritual, and Religion

### Week 4 (September 29-October 3)

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: A Brief History of Ancient Greece and Rome

### Week 5 (October 6-10)

Reading Assignment: Apollodorus, *Library*, pages 171-277. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/apollodorus\\_mythographer-library/1921/pb\\_LCL121.171.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/apollodorus_mythographer-library/1921/pb_LCL121.171.xml)

Lecture Topic: Sources for Mythology and the Story of Heracles

**Week 6 (October 14-17)**

Reading Assignment: Seneca, *Hercules Furens*, pages 15-127. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/seneca\\_younger-hercules/2018/pb\\_LCL062.15.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/seneca_younger-hercules/2018/pb_LCL062.15.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Roman Hercules

**Week 7 (October 20-24)**

Reading Assignment: *Homeric Hymn 2: To Demeter*, pages 33-71. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homeric\\_hymns\\_2\\_demeter/2003/pb\\_LCL496.33.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homeric_hymns_2_demeter/2003/pb_LCL496.33.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Homeric Hymns and the Olympian Gods

**Week 8 (October 27-31)**

Reading Assignment: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* book 3, pages 125-175. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb\\_LCL042.125.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb_LCL042.125.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Thebes and Structuralism

**Reading Week (November 1-9)****Week 9 (November 10-14)**

Reading Assignment: Euripides, *Bacchae*, pages 13-153. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-bacchae/2003/pb\\_LCL495.13.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-bacchae/2003/pb_LCL495.13.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Thebes and an Introduction to Greek Tragedy

**Week 10 (November 17-21)**

Reading Assignment: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, pages 327-483. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/sophocles-oedipus\\_tyranus/1994/pb\\_LCL020.327.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/sophocles-oedipus_tyranus/1994/pb_LCL020.327.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Thebes and Psychoanalysis

**Week 11 (November 24-28)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Overview of Greek and Roman Visual Art

**Week 12 (December 1-5)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Review of the Fall Semester and December Exam Preparation

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

**December exam date and time as scheduled by the registrar (The Special Examination to make up for this exam will be on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. See below for further details.)**

**Week 13 (January 5-9)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Introduction to the Winter Semester

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

**Week 14 (January 12-16)**

Reading Assignment: Euripides, *Medea*, pages 285-413. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-medea/1994/pb\\_LCL012.285.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-medea/1994/pb_LCL012.285.xml)

Lecture Topic: Jason, Medea, and the Argonauts

**Week 15 (January 19-23)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Iliad*, books 1 and 6, pages 13-59 and 275-313. Book 1 starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL170.13.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL170.13.xml)

Book 6 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL170.275.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL170.275.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Troy and Introduction to Greek Epic

**Week 16 (January 26-30)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Iliad*, books 22 and 24, pages 453-491 and 563-623. Book 22

starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL171.453.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL171.453.xml)

Book 24 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL171.563.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL171.563.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Troy and the Importance of Storytelling

**Week 17 (February 2-6)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Odyssey*, books 9 and 11, pages 317-357 and 401-447. Book 9

starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL104.317.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL104.317.xml)

Book 11 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL104.401.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL104.401.xml)

Lecture Topic: Odysseus and the Hero's Journey

**Week 18 (February 9-13)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Odyssey*, books 19 and 22, pages 235-279 and 345-383. Book 19

starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL105.235.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL105.235.xml)

Book 22 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL105.345.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL105.345.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Penelope Question

**Reading Week (February 14-22)****Week 19 (February 23-27)**

Reading Assignment: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*, pages 3-205. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/aeschylus-oresteia\\_agamemnon/2009/pb\\_LCL146.3.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/aeschylus-oresteia_agamemnon/2009/pb_LCL146.3.xml)

Lecture Topic: Tantalus and his Descendants

**Week 20 (March 2-6)**

Reading Assignment: Virgil, *Aeneid*, book 1, pages 263-315. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/virgil-aeneid/1916/pb\\_LCL063.263.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/virgil-aeneid/1916/pb_LCL063.263.xml)

Lecture Topic: Roman Myth and Roman Receptions of Greek Myth

**Week 21 (March 9-13)**

Reading Assignment: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, book 1, pages 3-57. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb\\_LCL042.3.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb_LCL042.3.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Roman Gods and the Creation of the World

**Week 22 (March 16-20)**

Reading Assignment: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, book 6, pages 289-339. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb\\_LCL042.289.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb_LCL042.289.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myth and Injustice

**Week 23 (March 23-27)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Modern Receptions of Classical Mythology

**Week 24 (March 30-April 2)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Review of the Winter Semester

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

**Week 25 (April 6-9)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: April Exam Preparation

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

**April exam date and time as scheduled by the registrar (The Special Examination to make up for this exam will be on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. See below for further details.)**

## Assessment and Grading

The components of your grade in this course will be weekly quizzes, an exam in December, and an exam in April. Having your performance in a course assessed and graded can be stressful, but please try to keep in mind that grades are an important part of your university experience. You're here not only to learn, but also to have your level of success in learning assessed. Think of having your work graded as an opportunity to show what you've learned. Also, remember that your grades are a measure of your academic performance and not a judgment of you as a person.

## Grade Weight Percentages

Weekly Quizzes: 20%

December Exam: 40%

April Exam: 40%

## Quizzes

In most weeks of this course, you will have a quiz **due by 4pm on Thursday**. The quizzes will be available in OWL beginning at 9am on the Friday of the week before they are due. They will be untimed, and they will be graded automatically by OWL. You will be allowed to use any materials you'd like for the quizzes, including books, notes, AI tools, the internet, and collaboration with other people. I would only ask that you honestly try to engage with the material yourself, and when you're helping a classmate, please help them to find the right answer rather than just telling them what it is.

You will receive your score immediately, you will be able to redo each quiz as many times as you'd like, and only your highest score will count, but your final attempt will have to be submitted before the quiz closes. Only your fifteen best quiz scores will count, and your lowest five scores will be dropped. Because the quizzes are designed so everyone can get 100%, you should be able to skip five quizzes without suffering any penalty.

The reason I will drop the five lowest quiz scores is so that you do not need to make up quizzes that you have missed. **You will not be allowed to make up any missed quizzes for any reason.** No quiz submission deadlines will be extended for any student for any reason. The only possible flexibility in the deadlines for quiz submission is that five quiz scores will be dropped.

Because OWL will drop the five lowest quiz scores, until you have at least six quiz scores available, OWL will tell you that every quiz score is dropped. There will be an exclamation point next to your quiz scores indicating that they're being dropped. Don't worry, that's normal. Once you have more than five quiz scores available, only the lowest five will be dropped.

Once the due date for a quiz has passed, I will post an answer key for that quiz on the OWL site. That way, if you miss a quiz, you can still see the questions in case you want to use them to review for an exam.

## December and April Exams

The Office of the Registrar will schedule an **in-person** exam for our course in the December Examination Period and another **in-person** exam in the April Examination Period. The December exam will cover all course material from the fall semester. **The April exam will cover all course material from the winter semester, but not material from the fall semester.**

You must bring your Western ID card and a pencil or pen (a pencil is recommended in case you make a mistake or change your mind about an answer) to the exams. You will be required to sign a nominal roll sheet during the exams. You will also be required to mark your answers both on the test paper and on a bubble sheet that will be used for grading using Gradescope. It's rare, but it does sometimes happen that a Gradescope sheet gets lost. When that happens, it's important to have the answers marked on the test paper as a backup. If you do not mark your answers on the test paper and there is a problem with your Gradescope sheet, there is a small chance that you may be required to rewrite an exam. To avoid that possibility, you must mark your answers both on the Gradescope sheet and the test paper. If there are any problems with the bubble sheet, such as stray marks that make your answer potentially ambiguous, the software will flag the issue and I will review the sheet to make sure your answers are recorded correctly.

Both the December exam and April exam will be made up of 50 multiple-choice questions. You will be allowed 120 minutes to complete each exam. **You will not be allowed to use any books, notes, or electronic devices during the exams, and you will not be allowed to collaborate with any of your classmates or with anyone else during the exams.** Neither I nor any of the proctors will answer any questions during the exams.

The questions on the exams will be similar to the questions on the quizzes, so the quizzes will give you a good idea of what kinds of questions to expect on the exams. There will also be at least one practice exam available on the OWL site for each exam. On both exams, there will be questions that rely on both the lectures and the assigned readings. I will not provide proportions of questions that test your knowledge of the lecture material and questions that test your knowledge of the assigned readings. In general, it will be necessary to know both the lecture material and the assigned readings to get a very high score on an exam, but you will get better value for the time spent reviewing the lectures than for the time spent reviewing the readings. If you were to study only the lectures but not do any of the assigned reading, you might not get an extremely high score, but you should be able to do reasonably well. If you were to study only the readings and not listen to any of the lectures, you would be unlikely to pass.

There will be questions on the exams that ask you about images or about passages from ancient texts. These questions may use images or passages from the lecture slides or passages from the assigned readings. In addition, there may be questions that ask you to apply the knowledge you have gained from the lectures and readings to images or passages you have not seen before.

If you require any accommodations, including extra time accommodations, those must be arranged through Accessible Education ([http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)) and Accommodated Exams ([https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)).

## Special Examinations (If You Need to Make Up an Exam)

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found here:

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=5&Command=showCategory&Keywords=spc&SubHeadingID=70&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_70](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=5&Command=showCategory&Keywords=spc&SubHeadingID=70&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_70)

If you miss the December Exam or the April Exam for this course, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration by using the Student Absence Portal as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination, and they will require documentation of your reason for missing the exam. You may **not** request academic consideration for a December or April exam without documentation. You may also be eligible to write the Special Examination if you have an exam conflict or if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., 3 or more exams in a 23-hour period or 4 or more exams in a 47-hour period). If a direct exam conflict or multiple exam situation is your reason for missing the December exam or April exam, you must still use the Student Absence Portal to request academic consideration.

The Special Examinations for this course will have the same format as the regular examinations. Each will be made up of 50 multiple-choice questions. According to the policy in the Academic Calendar, “Special Examinations must be written at the University or recognized exam center or an Affiliated University College, and supersede any lectures, tutorials, laboratories, etc., in which the student is registered. Note that students are responsible for any coursework, etc., missed while writing the Special Examination.” In other words, if you have to miss a scheduled class to write a Special Examination, your priority is the Special Examination.

**The Special Examination to make up for the December exam will be Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm.** I cannot book a room for the Special Examination until close to the date, but I will inform you of the location of the exam as soon as I can. If you are unable to write the Special Examination on the scheduled date, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. There will be a number of opportunities to write a Special Examination to make up for the December Exam, and each time you are unable to write the exam on an available date, you must use the Student Absence Portal to submit documentation of the reason you are unable to write the exam on the specified date. On each date, the exam will be scheduled from 5:30-7:30pm. The available dates to write a Special Examination to make up for the December Exam will be January 8<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next opportunity to write a Special Examination to make up for the December Exam will be in the December Examination Period the next time the course is offered.

**The Special Examination to make up for the April exam will be Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm.** I cannot book a room for the Special Examination until close to the date, but I will inform you of the location of the exam as soon as I can. If you are unable to write the Special Examination on the scheduled date, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. You must request permission to write a different Special Examination, and you must provide documentation supporting your request. If you are granted permission to write the Special Examination on a different date, the next opportunity to write a Special Examination to make up for the April exam will be on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. If you are unable to write the Special Examination on that date, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration again, you must provide documentation supporting your request again, and the next opportunity to write the exam will be during the April Examination Period the next time the course is offered.

Please note from the policy in the Academic Calendar, “A student can be required to write up to two Special Examinations in a single day. Any outstanding Special Examinations will be deferred to the scheduled date of the final examination the next time the course is offered, and the maximum course load for that term reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred.”

## **Grading Policy: No Extra Credit or Reweighting**

In a course with hundreds of students, it is important to adhere strictly to policies that keep the course fair for all students and manageable for the instructor. For these reasons, I will not grant any extra credit, offer any additional assignments, or reweight your course grade. Even if you have an academic counsellor/advisor recommend that I reweight your course grade, I will not do so. The only academic consideration I will grant in this course is the opportunity to make up an exam that you missed, and I will grant that opportunity only if an academic counsellor/advisor recommends it.

It’s also worth noting that in smaller courses, more flexibility that considers individual circumstances is possible. If you think you would benefit from that kind of flexibility, it’s a good idea to seek out smaller courses. There are advantages for students taking large courses like this one, but those advantages come at the cost of some necessary inflexibility. For students who are interested in Classical Studies but prefer courses with a little more flexibility, I recommend any Classical Studies course with a number in the 3000s. These courses are open to students in years 2, 3, and 4, they do not require students to be enrolled in Classical Studies programs, and most do not have any prerequisites.

## **Grading Policy: Rounding**

Course grades in this course will be rounded to the nearest percent. Students occasionally cite this policy: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/general/grades\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/grades_undergrad.pdf). The policy includes at the bottom of page 4 this sentence: “Averages will be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number with .45 rounded up.” That policy applies to the calculation of averages in your academic record, for purposes like determining eligibility for progression in modules or for awards. The policy does not apply to the calculation of course grades, and the standard practice at Western is to round grades to the nearest percent.

That means that in this course, any grade with a .49 or below will be rounded down, and any grade with a .50 or above will be rounded up. For example, an 89.49% will be submitted to the registrar as an 89%, and an 89.50% will be submitted to the registrar as a 90%.

## Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

During the December exam and the April exam, students may not use any digital tools, including any artificial intelligence tools. Those will be in-person exams, and no books, notes, or digital devices will be allowed. Apart from that, students may use any tools they like, including any artificial intelligence tools. Students may use these tools at any time, including using them for help while writing quizzes.

It is encouraged that students discuss the course material with other people, and when that is not possible, a chatbot is a good substitute. Learning is more effective when students are able to discuss course material in the physical presence of the people they're talking to, but talking with a chatbot is better than not talking with anyone. As the technology improves, it may happen that in some cases talking with a chatbot is even more effective than talking with another person. If you do discuss the course material with a chatbot, it will be more effective as a learning tool if you explain the material to the chatbot rather than the other way around. Instead of asking it questions about classical mythology, you should answer questions it asks you.

## Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

## Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays ([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_16](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_16)). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

## Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education

**Academic Accommodation** is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationandabilities.pdf>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that

its academic programs are accessible for all students”  
[https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

## Academic Consideration

Western’s full Policy on Academic Consideration for undergraduate students in first-entry programs can be found here:  
[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

For this course, the only Academic Consideration possible will be an opportunity for a student to make up a missed exam, and that opportunity will only be granted on the recommendation of an academic counsellor or advisor from the student’s Faculty of Registration.

## Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty’s Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic consideration for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

## Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western University is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events ([https://www.provost.uwo.ca/plans\\_and\\_initiatives/projects\\_and\\_initiatives/gbsv/](https://www.provost.uwo.ca/plans_and_initiatives/projects_and_initiatives/gbsv/)). If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:  
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

## Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

## USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.