

## QUEENS COLLEGE

COURSE: Mythology and Heroic Literature  
CMLIT 334/0656

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through cross-disciplinary and comparative approach of classical and pre-classical Greek mythology, this course will follow the evolution of the hero and the constant redefinition of traditional heroic values as dictated by the socio-political demands of the on-going civilizing process. A closer study of this change will gain insight into the phenomenon of the culture's continued manipulation of its myths aimed at serving its own purposes and resulting in determining its social progress and self-image. Among the texts we will be reading are Hesiod's *Theogony* and "Five Ages of Man," selected books from Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*, Canto XXV from Dante's *Inferno*, and various shorter texts including poems and related critical articles.

### SYLLABUS

July 6	Introductory remarks. Myth and heroic Archetypes. Heroic codes and values of antiquity. Gods and mortals. Modern definitions of heroism.
July 7	Gilgamesh – <u>The Mesopotamian hero</u>
July 8	Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> : Zeus and Prometheus. <u>The emergence of the mind</u> . Quiz.
July 9	Hesiod, Pandora; The Five Ages of Man. <u>The Civilizing process</u>
July 13	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 1, 9 . <u>Individual heroism</u> Homer, <i>Iliad</i> Books 21, 24 “ “
July 14	Midterm exam
July 15	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> Book 1, 5. <u>Cunning Intelligence</u>
July 16	<i>Odyssey</i> 9, 10
July 20	<i>Odyssey</i> 11, 13
July 21	<i>Odyssey</i> 21, 23
July 22	Presentations
July 23	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> . <u>The tragic hero</u>
July 24	“ “ film viewing
July 27	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Book 2. <u>The duty bound hero</u>
July 28	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Book 4
July 29	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Book 6. Term paper due
July 30	Dante, Canto XXVI
July 31	Final Exam