

Course Assessment Plan for Classics 327, Ancient Gods, Changing Identities

Classics 327 will be assessed in order to determine how well it is meeting the general principles and specific General Learning Objectives of the Arts and Humanities category of the General Education Curriculum as well as objectives within the undergraduate program of the Department of Greek and Latin. Assessment will take place after the first quarter in which the course is taught and thereafter biennially.

Classics 327 will be assessed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Chair of the Department of Greek and Latin, unless one of them is the instructor of the course, in which case another faculty member will be substituted. The following procedures and indicators will be used in assessing the course:

- 1) Student evaluations, both the quantitative SEI and discursive statements written by the students (anonymously) at the end of the course
- 2) Written report of class visit by a peer evaluator
- 3) Review of current essay exams and quizzes and of a sampling of answers that students wrote for the essay exams and a sampling of the "astute observations" students provided each day.
- 4) Review of course syllabi for each iteration of the course.

Items 3 and 4 will be maintained on file in the Department so that the progress of the course can be monitored and evaluated as the course evolves and to enable the department to address any major concerns or drift from the established goals and standards. These materials will also be valuable should a different instructor from the originating instructor be assigned to teach the course

How Classics 327 Meet the Learning Goals and Objectives of the "Arts and Humanities, subdivision 'Literature'" component of the General Education Program

Arts and Humanities coursework develops students' capacities to evaluate significant writing and works of art, and for aesthetic response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience. According to the General Education Program Learning Goals and Objectives, last updated 12/27/2007, expected outcomes for the "Arts and Humanities" component are:

- *Students develop abilities to be enlightened observers or active participants in the visual, spatial, musical, theatrical, rhetorical, or written arts.*

In Classics 327, students will practice reading examples from several specific bodies of literature (e.g., ancient Greek epic, Greek tragedy, Roman epic, contemporary American novel) critically, both with a view towards understanding what those texts meant to their immediate audiences and how they “speak” to one another across the centuries, even to us (e.g., why do authors such as John Updike and Marie Phillips still engage with the ancient Greek gods? Why are they still fascinating literary figures? Why have contemporary religions [certain forms of neopaganism] adopted the ancient literary texts as sacred writings?). Students also will improve their ability to articulate their opinions of texts in spoken and written form (class discussions, brief daily written observations and essay exams)

- *Students describe and interpret achievement in the arts and literature.*

Assignments will test students’ knowledge of ancient Greek and Roman literature, its major themes, and the action of specific works within the literary corpus. Assignments also will test students’ knowledge of selected contemporary literary works and contemporary religious practices that draw on the ancient works of literature. All of these accomplishments will also be demonstrated through the students’ in-class discussions.

- *Students explain how works of art and literature express social and cultural issues.*

Students will explain in short writings and class discussion how the various genres of literature studied in the course reflects the cultural and historical conditions of their composition, and, more importantly, how they articulate essential cultural ideas of what a god is and is not, how the gods interact with humans, and how this was understood by the authors of the texts to impact upon human behavior.