

### Midterm Study Guide

#### **Underlined Terms (make sure you can identify all of these):**

- Etiological Myth: an explanation of the origin of some fact or custom
  - Example: creation of the world, evil vs. good, feelings, names of plants
- Dactylic Hexameter: is a form of meter in poetry or a rhythmic scheme. It is traditionally associated with the quantitative meter of classical epic poetry
- Ovid: Roman poet
  - Wrote in Latin (1<sup>st</sup> century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)
  - Wrote metamorphoses
- *Metamorphoses*: stories about transformations written by Ovid
  - Human into plant, human into constellation
- The Muses: in the Theogony
  - 9 muses, daughters of Zeus & Mnemosyne (goddess of memory)
  - Act as inspiration
  - Most important was Kalliope (epic poetry)
  - Mt. Helicon is tradition home & where their shrine is
- Hesiod:
  - 2 works: Theogany & Works and Days
  - Wrote in dactylic hexameter
  - Ethiological myths & didactic literature
- *Theogony*: set on Mt. Helicon
  - The birth/creation of all the gods
  - from Chaos the gods that were born were Gaia, Tartarus, Eros, Erebus, and Night (primordial)
- Primordial gods (protogenoi): the 5 original gods who were born from Chaos
  - Gaia (Ge): earth
  - Tartarus: underworld
  - Eros (Cupid): love
  - Erebus: darkness at center of Underworld
  - Night: night
- Mother/Earth goddess: fertility & agriculture
  - Nurturer & guardian, but also destroyer
  - Triple goddess: birth, death, regeneration
  - Gaia is main/first one
- Parthenogenesis: the process of giving virgin birth (no father)
  - Borth from Gaia from this were: Ouranos/Uranus, Pontus, and mountains
- Ouranos (Uranus): sky god
  - Weather/sky
  - Rain/seeds was his semen

- Pontus: the sea
- Hieros Gamos: "sacred marriage"
  - Usually between a sky god and earth/mother goddess
- Titans: 12 of them, 6 males & 6 females
  - Born from Gaia & Ouranos
  - Cronos is most important
- Cyclopes: strong, one eyed creatures
  - Born from Gaia & Ouranos
- Hecatonchires: 50 headed, 100 handed creatures
  - Why Peacocks are sacred to Hera
- Oceanids: 3,000 daughter ocean nymphs
  - Daughters of the Titans Oceanus & Tethys
  - Sisters of Potamoi
- Potamoi: gods of the rivers
  - Sons of the Titans Oceanus & Tethys
  - Spirit of river and streams
  - Brothers of Oceanids
- Selene (Luna): goddess of the moon
  - Daughter of the Titans Hyperion & Theia
  - 1/3 faces of Artemis
- Helios: god of the sun
  - Son of the Titans Hyperion & Theia
- Eos: dawn
  - Kid of the Titans Hyperion & Theia
- Rhea: sister/wife of Cronos
  - Earth mother goddess
  - Children: Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, Posiedon, Zeus
- Hestia (Vesta): goddess of the hearth
  - Oldest Olympian
  - Virgin goddess
    - vestal virgins is her cult
- Demeter (Ceres): goddess of the grain
  - Kids: Persephone & Ploutos
  - Mother, fertility goddess
  - Attributes: cornucopia
- Hera (Juno): goddess of marriage & childbirth
  - Wife of Zeus (always jealous of his affairs)
  - Hieros gamos (union between sky god and earth goddess)
  - Epithets: ox-eyed & white armed
  - Attributes: golden crown, on a throne, veiling notion
  - Sacred animal: peacock
  - Town of worship: Argos
  - Hated heroes: Heracles, Ageneas
  - Like heroes: Jason

- Poseidon: god of the sea
  - Also rivers, flood and drought, earthquakes, and horses
  - Always depicted with beard and trident
  - Son of Cronos & Rhea
- Hades (Pluto/Dis Pater): god of the underworld
  - Chthonic god: of the earth, not on Olympus
  - Agricultural wealth/fertility
  - 3 headed dog: Cerberus
  - Hades Pluton: version of fertility & agriculture wealth
    - cornucopia
- Zeus (Jupiter): god of the sky & ultimate progenitor
  - Also god of storms, lightning, justice/punishment
  - Has power of prophecy
  - Epithets: "cloud gatherer"
  - Attributes: lightning bolt, bearded, aegis
  - Sacred animal: eagle
  - Sacred plant: oak
  - Town of worship: Olympia (cult site)
- Cronus: one of 12 Titans
  - Eventually becomes ruler after overthrowing Uranus
- Omphalos: the stone Cronus swallowed instead of Zeus
  - Kept at Delphi, Greek sanctuary
- Kouretes/Curetes: guards of Zeus when he was an infant
  - Danced & crashed their shields to hide Zeus' noise from Cronus
  - Etiological myth for dancing & music
- Titanomachy: the war between Zeus & siblings vs. Cronus & Titans
  - Lasted 10 years (myth wars always last 10 years)
- Mt. Othrys: the stronghold of the Titans
  - Titans put in Tartarus when lost
- Mt. Olympus: stronghold of Zeus
  - Where all the Olympians now reside
- Gigantomachy: Zeus & siblings vs. Giants
  - Giants were born from Gaia
  - 10 year war; Zeus victorious
- Typhoeus (Typhon): horrible many-headed monster with wings
  - Battle between Zeus & Typhoeus
  - Last child of Gaia
- Prometheus: creator of man
  - Fashioned humans out of clay
  - Son of Titans: Themis & Iapetus
  - God of forethought
  - Trickster god
- Trickster God: trick other gods to benefit themselves or man
  - Prometheus