

Color-code Key

Bold, highlighted, and blue - beginning of new chapter/section

Bold and lavender - important term

Italic and lavender - important definition, event, description, etc

Bold and purple - important person

Bold, italics, and blue - Roman name of a god/person

Bold, italics, and orange - Latin term/definition

Italics and orange - the role of specific gods

Classical Mythology - CLT 3370

Introduction to Mythology/Historical Background

- What is a myth?
 - Something that is worthy of becoming a tradition
 - Becomes written canon (truth/set of rules)
 - Can be expressed without words
- **Mythos** - word, story, or tale
- Immortality of a myth
 - Passed down and still incorporated in society
- Fluidity of a myth
 - No exact rules or timeline
 - Can change depending on Author
- **Myth and saga**
 - **Myth** - Story about creation of the world and humankind, including gods' interactions with humans.
 - **Saga/legend** - Story with some historical connection, even if it's extremely fanciful (heroes)
- Is a myth true?
 - Isn't a fact but can have truth
- Is a myth history?
 - **Euhemerus** (300 BCE)
 - Tried to explain the origin of a myth
 - **Euhemerism** - "History as the basis for famous myths"
- Is a myth religion?
 - Strongly concerned with creation and gods
 - Cultic connections - worship
 - Myth explained why certain parts of animals were sacrificed
- **Etiological Myths**
 - Explanation of origin of a fact or custom
 - Very frequent in mythology
 - Creationism, evil and good, feelings, etc.
- Other interpretations
 - **Sigmund Freud**

- Dreams and symbols
- Escape from reality
- Oedipus Complex (wish fulfillment)
- o **Carl Jung**
 - Archetypal images
 - The self, Shadow, Animus, and Anima
 - Collective unconscious (made up from Shadow)
 - Electra complex

Chapter 2 - Historical Background of Greek Mythology

- **Classical World** - Greece, Thebes, Athens, and Troy
 - o Literature (Homer, Hesiod, Ovid, etc.)
 - Homeric hymns - unknown authors
 - o Oral Tradition
 - o Archaeology
 - 19th - 20th centuries
- **Heinrich Schliemann**
 - o 1822-1890
 - o Found Troy (Anatolia) in 1870
 - Not exact point, only location
 - Proved reality of Minoan-Mycenaean saga
 - o Founded modern archaeological work
- **Sir Arthur Evans**
 - o 1900
 - o Unearthed palace of Minos
 - Crete - island in Mediterranean
 - o Greece - Settled in Paleolithic period (before 70,000 BCE)
 - o Neolithic evidence abundant (6,000-3,000 BCE)
 - o Religion apparent
 - Emphasis on women
- **Bronze Age**
 - o Migration from the East
 - o 3 major periods: Early, Middle, and Late
 - Crete - Minoan based on king; **Minos**
 - Islands - **Cycladic**
 - Greece - **Helladic**
- **Minoan Civilization**
 - o Matured in the Middle Bronze Age
 - o **Cnossus**
 - Grand palace
 - Reconstructed by Sir Evans
 - **Phaistos** = palace

- Basis of legend of the **labyrinth**
 - Slaying of the Minotaur
 - Home of the double axe (**labrys**)
 - No walls surrounding the city meant they were confident with their security in ships and sea
 - Increased sense of religion
 - Mother-fertility goddess
 - o 1400 - Focus shifted to Greece mainland
 - No definite reason
 - o **Thera**
 - Island, evidence of earthquakes
 - Caused distortion of power in Crete
- **Mother Goddess**
 - o **Minoan Worship**
 - o Earth mother - goddess of fertility and agriculture
 - Nurturer and guardian
 - o Also seen as a destroyer
 - o Triple goddess - birth, death, and regeneration
 - o Moon Goddess
 - o Aspects of statues and paintings
 - Snakes - **chthonic** (connection with the ground/Earth)
 - Bare chest - fertility
 - Headdress and skirt - ritual
- **Mycenaean Age**
 - o **Mycenaeans** - People who lived in Mycenae
 - o Warlords/chieftains
 - Took goods as payment for protection
 - o Greek language (Linear B which *mentioned the gods*)
 - o Worshipped sky god, Zeus
 - Change from mother to father god
 - o Late Hellenic Period (1600-1100 BCE)
 - o Sky God
 - Sky father
 - Complement of Mother Earth
 - Zeus - lightning, clouds, birds
- **Archaic Period**
 - o 800-483 BCE
 - o Monarchies
 - o Invention of Greek alphabet
 - Homer
 - Hesiod (Theogony - *Birth of the gods*)
- **Classical Period**
 - o 480-323 BCE
 - o Destruction of Athenian Acropolis by Persians in 480 BCE
 - o Death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE