**Paper for Classics 40 Greek Myth Spring Term 2020**

Please read and re-read these instructions *before* emailing us with questions!

\*Your paper should be between 5 and 6 pages (not 6-7 as it says in the syllabus), typed in Times New Roman 12 or similar font with one-inch margins.

\* In the syllabus it says that in Week 6 you will submit a plan of your paper through Eli Review. WE WILL NOT BEING DOING THIS. THERE WILL BE NO ELI REVIEW EXERCISES IN WEEK 6. You are advised to plan your paper, but need not show it to anyone.

\*The deadline for submission of papers is the end of week 7. However, it is flexible – if you cannot make that deadline do not email us – just try to submit your paper as soon as you can after that. Please don’t exploit this generosity – if most of the papers are submitted after week 7 your TAs and Professor Morales will be miserably grading around the clock. Papers will be submitted through Gauchospace, not Eli Review. We will give you further instructions as to how to submit them in due course.

\* We are happy to discuss ideas with you in our office hours. Professor Morales

cannot answer questions that need more than very short answers by email

– please see her in her office hours if you’d like to discuss your ideas with her. We cannot typically look at drafts of papers, but are happy to discuss ideas with you.

Choose ONE of the following:

(1) ***Describe how one or more Greek myths resonate with a contemporary social issue or issues.***

Select one or more of the myths that we have discussed in the course (including

those that you may have read about in the recommended reading, or seen

dramatized in the videos) and use them as a lens through which to examine an issue

or issues that are important today. You could choose Oedipus, or Narcissus, or Prometheus or any other myth you want that has been covered by the course.

(2) ***Compare and contrast an ancient representation of a god, goddess, or other character from Greek myth with one or more modern representations of the same god, goddess or character.***

You may choose representations in dramatic plays, poetry, visual arts, music or other media.

You might find inspiration here (Mary Beard’s Mythology Trail): <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/collection-top-picks-mary-beard>

**Bonus points** for recreating a famous painting in addition to writing your paper (there are various examples going around social media) but choose your topic wisely (nothing sexually explicit please – your professor is a sensitive soul). You might take inspiration from these: <https://www.boredpanda.com/art-recreation-at-home-getty-museum-challenge/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic>

**Tips:**

\* Make sure that you have a strong, arguable thesis

\* You may, but do not have to, include personal reflections in your paper. It can

make for a powerful argument to do this, but be careful not to be too journalistic.

What I mean by this is make sure that your writing is not just a string of your

opinions, but that you back up the points that you make, especially the points about

the myth or myths, with precise reference to the ancient plays, poetry, and art in

which the myths are represented.

\* Make sure that you show good knowledge of the ancient material by using it to

illustrate the points that you make (as you have been doing in some of the exercises

on Eli Review). However, avoid summarizing at length. Reiterating significant

events/plot points/details can help you make your argument, but such explanations

should always be brief (assume that your reader is familiar with the myth), and they

should only be there to illuminate your analysis and interpretation.

\*Do not quote long passages. This is usually just a filler. Try not to pad your paper

with unnecessarily wordy sentences or whole blocks of text that say nothing. Be

concise and direct. If you feel the need to pad out paragraphs then maybe you need

more material and argument in your paper.

\* You may refer to myths that we have not discussed on the course if you ask

permission from your TA or Professor Morales first (email or visit during office

hours saying which myth and why you want to use it). We will typically say no to papers on *Antigone* myth or the *Odyssey* as we do not want rehashes of work you have done at school.

\* You must not plagiarize (see the syllabus). Every year someone hands in a paper

that cuts and pastes from Wikipedia articles – please do not do this - there will be

unpleasant and official consequences.

\* Cite all sources appropriately using a consistent format (eg MLA:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\_and\_citation/mla\_style/mla\_formatting\_and\_style\_guide/mla\_formatting\_and\_style\_guide.html)