Greek and Roman Mythology and Religion

What is myth? How do myths deal with fundamental human concerns about who we are and the world we live in? What is the relationship between myth and religion? Why did the Greeks and Romans worship many gods, believe in oracles, or perform animal sacrifice? This lecture-only module is an introduction to the major myths and religions of the classical world using the full range of primary source material: literary, artistic and archaeological. It explores the functions of myth within society and the various theories of myth. The first half of the course will focus on themes such as the creation of myths in the wider context of Near Eastern mythology, the character of the Olympian gods, heroes and their monstrous opponents, divine-human relations, and the major mythic cycles of the Trojan war, and the Atreus and Theban sagas. The second half of the course will explore the nature of Greek and Roman religion in its social context. It considers key elements of ritual action: sacrifice, rites of passage, festivals, as well as the diverse ancient beliefs on death and the afterlife and the role of mystery religions. This lecture-only course will be illustrated.

Lecturer: Dr Suzanne O’Neill

Fee:

*Reduced Fee: €60 for the course. €30 concession

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19 you may only enrol for the first term. Enrolments for the second term (Hilary Term) will open in December.

*The concession rate is available to second and third level students and people whose primary source of income is social welfare, health board or a government-sponsored employment scheme.

Time and Place:

*This course will be taught online. We want to make your experience as personable as possible and hope to add some extra live Zoom interactive sessions once term has started. More details will be available at the beginning of term. If you have not previously used Zoom or other online teaching platforms, please email hhextra@tcd.ie with ‘help with online teaching’ in the subject bar and we will arrange some pre-semester help sessions in September.

Duration:

This lecture-only module comprises two lectures per week over two terms commencing in Autumn 2020 and recommencing in February 2021