

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Finish This Homework Before Class	Topics to be Discussed in Class
8/26	<p>First day of class; no homework is due.</p> <p><u>Topic:</u> Introduction to the ancient world; gods vs. humans in ancient Greek culture. <u>Reading:</u> <i>Norton</i>, Vol. 1, pages 467-473. Poems of Sappho (born 630 BCE) #1 <u>Deathless Aphrodite</u>, #16 <u>Some men say</u>, #31 <u>He seems to me</u>, #94 <u>I simply want</u>. Poems given on handout. Graded response written during class.</p>	<p><u>Critical Response:</u> Which poem by Sappho appeals to you and why? What characteristics of the ancient world do you see in the poem? What surprises you most about the ancient world?</p>
9/2	<p><u>Topic:</u> Ancient Roman literature; narrative poem. <u>Reading:</u> <i>Metamorphoses</i> by Ovid (43 BCE-17 CE): <i>Norton</i>, Vol. 1, pages 649-652, 655-664, 671-675. "Apollo and Daphne," "Jove and Io," "Venus and Adonis." Only these three poems are assigned.</p> <p>Assigned works will no longer be handed out. You are responsible for finding the readings in the textbooks.</p>	<p><u>Critical Response/Discussion Board:</u> "Metamorphoses" means "changes." What changes do you see in these three poems? Which characters benefit from the changes, and which characters suffer as a result? Write at least 300 words. <u>We will have a quiz at the beginning of class on a quote from the reading. Quizzes will be given during all class meetings.</u></p>
9/9	<p><u>Topic:</u> Ancient Greek theater: characteristics of tragedy; dramatic irony versus irony; tragic hero. Themes: seeing versus blindness, fate vs. free will. <u>Reading:</u> Sophocles' <i>Oedipus the King</i> (430 BC) (<i>Norton</i>, Vol. 1, pp 483-525)</p> <p>Assignment for Paper #1, due Sept. 23: Compare and contrast <i>The Ramayana of Valmiki</i> (the Indian epic poem) and Nina Paley's <i>Sita Sings the Blues</i> (the modern film) in terms of their world views, their views of gender roles and their use of language. Draw upon at least one secondary scholarly source and work it into your discussion.</p>	<p><u>Critical Response/Discussion Board:</u> Examine the use of irony and dramatic irony in <i>Oedipus the King</i>. (Make sure you know the definitions of the terms "irony" and "dramatic irony.") Give a few examples from the play to illustrate the terms.</p>
9/16	<p><u>Topic:</u> Ancient Indian literature and contemporary responses. Note: Only part of the epic poem is assigned.</p> <p><u>Reading/Viewing:</u> <i>The Ramayana of Valmiki</i> (ca. 550 BC) (<i>Norton</i>, Vol. 1, pages 686-726 (excerpts from the poem)); Nina Paley's <i>Sita Sings the Blues</i> (2008) (to stream film, go to: http://www.sitasingingstheblues.com)</p>	<p><u>Critical Response/Discussion Board:</u> In preparation for Essay 1, compare and contrast the two versions of this story. Don't focus on superficial differences (number of scenes, plotline, etc.) but look at the key issues of men's and women's roles in relationships and society.</p>
9/23	<p><u>Topic:</u> Lais of Marie de France (1160-1215 AD) <u>Reading:</u> <i>Prologue, Lanval, Laustic (The Nightingale)</i> (<i>Norton</i>, Vol. 1, pages 1029-1048).</p> <p>Paper #1 is due: See assignment under Sept. 9. Please upload your paper to SafeAssign on Blackboard (uploading is required) and hand in a paper copy.</p>	<p><u>Critical Response/Discussion Board:</u> What is a "lai," and how do these poems fit into the form? How does these poems draw upon folktales or fables for didactic (educational) purposes? Discuss relations between men and women in the work. Do you agree with the "lessons" in the text?</p>