

**USEM 8A, Metamorphosis**

MWTh 12:10 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

C. Walker, Rabb 138

Hours: MW 11-12, 1-3.30; Th 11-12; by appointment

**Fall, 2008**

Olin-Sang 112

x62190/617-628-8964

[cwalker@brandeis.edu](mailto:cwalker@brandeis.edu)**Reading Schedule**

<b>August</b>	28	Introduction
<b>September</b>	3	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 1-2 (Robert Fitzgerald translation)
	4	<i>Odyssey</i> 3-4
	8	<i>Odyssey</i> 5-7
	10	<i>Odyssey</i> 8-10
	11	<i>Odyssey</i> 11-12
	15	<i>Odyssey</i> 13-15
	17	<i>Odyssey</i> 16-18
	18	<i>Odyssey</i> 19-20
	22	<i>Odyssey</i> 21-23
	24	<i>Odyssey</i> 24
		<b>Paper 1 due</b>
	25	Sophocles, <i>Philoctetes</i> (Grene & Lattimore, vol. 2)
<b>October</b>	2	Euripides, <i>Bacchae</i> (Grene & Lattimore, vol. 5)
	<b>6</b>	<b>Midterm</b>
	8	<i>Genesis</i>
	13	<i>Genesis</i>
	15	<i>Genesis</i>
	16	<i>Exodus</i>
	20	<i>Exodus</i>
	22	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1 (Rolfe Humphries translation)
	23	<i>Metamorphoses</i> 3-4
	27	<i>Metamorphoses</i> 10
	29	<i>Metamorphoses</i> 11
	30	<i>Metamorphoses</i> 13
<b>November</b>	3	<i>Metamorphoses</i> 14; epilogue
		<b>Paper 2 due</b>
	5	<i>Matthew</i>
	6	<i>Matthew</i>
	6-10	<i>Luke</i>
	12	Apuleius, <i>The Golden Ass</i> 1 (Jack Lindsay translation)
	13	<i>Golden Ass</i> 2-3
	17	<i>Golden Ass</i> 4-5
	19	<i>Golden Ass</i> 6-8
	20	<i>Golden Ass</i> 9-10
	24	<i>Golden Ass</i> 11
	26	<b>Paper 3 due</b>
<b>December</b>	1-4	Wole Soyinka, <i>Bacchae of Euripides</i>
	8	Conclusions
	<b>18</b>	<b>Comprehensive Essay due</b>

### **Some ground rules and advice**

1. Please use the assigned translations, as that will make citations and text consistent and uniform. Texts are available for purchase in the bookstore and on loan in the library. If you have difficulty acquiring a text from either source, please tell me; I often have extra texts or can Xerox for you.
2. Although I do not deduct for absences, I do assign grades for class participation, and absent folk do not participate. I cannot make you talk, so the quality and content of the discussions depend heavily on the attitudes and preparation of you and your associates.
3. Since this class is a SEMINAR, it will seriously disadvantage you to delay the reading. Your verbal contributions will undoubtedly reveal your lack of preparation, and mere physical presence is insufficient. I strongly urge that you do the readings in advance, preferably more than once. You might best read the entire text through, then review the specific assignment just before class; this will allow you time to deliberate upon paper topics and write (and revise) at some leisure. I see little point in buying notes, as these “aids” are frequently misleading, if not outright wrong. Similarly, secondary scholarship is at your discretion, provided that you document it appropriately, but the time is often better spent in doing your own analysis.
4. According to university statistics, I am not an easy grader; do not expect an A unless you are willing to do exceptional work (by MY standards). Nevertheless, my self-image is as a reasonable and understanding person, so please see me about ANY problems, temporary, permanent, documented, or suspected, concerning USem and your performance therein.
5. Because my agenda for this course is to teach you to have confidence in reading texts and skill in writing thesis-driven papers, **academic integrity, as defined by the Student Handbook, is essential.** Any violations will have serious repercussions.

### **Grading**

- a. Your grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Paper 1 (3-4 pp.)	15%
Midterm	10%
Paper 2 (4-6 pp.)	20%
Paper 3 (4-6 pp.)	20%
Comprehensive essay	20%
Class participation	15%
- b. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in dropping a grade level. Failure to submit an assignment will result in an E (= 0), cause for failing the course regardless of other grades.
- c. All papers should be submitted in hard copy, at the beginning of the class at which they are due.

**If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.**