

**“Claws up, asses down, that's the way we breakdown”
The Reception and Presentation of Classical Themes in Metalcore**

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Metalcore is a fusion genre borne out of the hardcore and crust punk peak of the mid-1990s, incorporating the common themes of anti-establishment sociopolitical commentary and a rejection of the mainstream inherent to the punk philosophy with the transgressive visual and auditory elements of extreme metal. Many songs within the metalcore genre borrow directly from Greek mythology; in particular the work of bands like “Trivium” or “Alesana” who rearranged these stories into direct or interpretive retellings, or that of bands like “Adestria,” whose lyrics examine the fundamental themes buried within some classical myths rather than retell the tales themselves. This presentation aims to look at the incorporation of classical themes, topics, and mythology and their presentation through the lens of the genre as it evolved out of the hyper-masculine roots of mid-90s heavy hardcore and early metalcore into “the scene” subculture (which originated as a reactionary movement against the widespread misogyny of the hardcore subculture) and into the modern day. This presentation in particular will both search for the utilization of classical themes as a rejection of mainstream culture and authority in metalcore’s rendition of the punk philosophy, as well as discuss the complicated issue of the use of classical mythology as both a rejection of and a presentation of misogyny in the metalcore genre; in particular third wave metalcore, sometimes derogatorily referred to as “cringecore” for this reason. Finally, this presentation will also discuss the issues of the “christcore” subgenre and its use of both classical themes and Christian mythology by bands such as “As I Lay Dying” as a presentation of “moral decay” during the peak of American evangelism in the late 2000s and early 2010s.