

English 2230
Semester Project Assignment Sheet

Points: 200

Deadlines:	Proposal	October 24 th (10 points)
	Progress Report	November 7 th (20 points). I will deduct points from a project that has not given me a progress report at least a week before the final deadline.
	Final Project	November 16 th (170 points). If you want to turn your project in later, please make arrangements with me to avoid late penalties.

Project Options

- 1. Documentary Project.** Your first option is to assemble 4-5 documents (defined broadly to include images, sounds, and even objects) that will help us understand some figure from Greek mythology—or how he or she has been adapted in subsequent literary and artistic works. Your project should include:
 1. A one-page introduction that introduces your mythological figure and details some of his or her attributes and history.
 2. Four to five documents (photos, relevant commentary, newspaper clippings, important research, artistic works, poems, original versions of his or her story, etc.). Each document should be focused; if you choose a critical essay, include only a relevant passage rather than the whole essay. Also, the documents should represent a variety of genres. Do not simply reproduce the Wikipedia entry.
 3. For each document, you should add a one-paragraph explanation. The paragraph should avoid mere summary but rather explain how the document helps us understand the mythological figure more.
 4. Each document that is a published work should be cited, either at the bottom of the page or in a works cited page at the end.

The project can take a variety of forms (traditional paper format, posters, scrapbooks, websites, CDs, etc.). I'll leave this aspect to your creativity.

- 2. Paper.** Your second option is to write a 3-page paper. Most papers will do one of two things, although I would be willing to consider other topics.
 - Explore a certain theme that comes up in many myths (hubris, honor, war, etc.). What is the Greek perspective on this theme? How is it applied in the stories? Are there variations on its significance?
 - Focus on a poem, short story, dramatic work that alludes heavily to Greek mythology. How does it use mythology? How does it modify the mythology? Do the mythological concepts and characters still mean the same thing in the new version?

These papers should not require much research. However, if you do use research, use MLA and give me a copy of your sources you have used.

3. **Creative Work.** Your third option is complete some creative work using Greek mythology. Below are some ideas; I am willing to listen to other proposals.
 - Create a classified advertisement for *The Olympian Daily News*. Include the following categories: lost and found, for rent or sale, pets, real estate, job offers, jobs wanted, yard sales, personals, etc.
 - Create a four-page copy of *The Olympian Daily News* in which you present Greek myth in journalistic style. Include “photographs” and cut and paste to make it look like a newspaper layout.
 - Perform a scene from Greek drama or give a dramatic reading of an original Greek version of a myth. You may also do a dramatic reading of a full-length poem like Tennyson’s “Ulysses.” Performing a scene can be the project of two students. All performances need to be accompanied by a one-page artistic statement detailing your purpose, process, and interpretation of the mythic elements.

4. **Comparative Mythology.** Your final option is to rehearse and present a comparison of Greek mythology with some other mythological system (excluding Norse and Roman). Various Native American, British, Russian, Mayan, Polynesian, and other systems are all possibilities. Presentations should be between 8-10 minutes and include some visual element. There are limited slots for class presentations, and I will fill those slots on a first come/first served basis.

5. I will also allow you to do some combination of these options or to propose some other original project (no recycled projects from other classes).

Grading

The proposal and progress report will account for 30 of the 200 points possible on this project. The proposal will be one paragraph telling me what you would like to do for your project. The progress report may take many forms, but it needs to include something I can keep that shows me your work in progress and how it is coming along.

The project itself will be worth 170 points. Because they will take different forms, I will grade each with project-specific criteria. The papers should be polished and clearly written. The presentations should be organized, within the time limits, and effective. All presentations should be professional, neat, and above all show insights into the mythological topic chosen. I want to see evidence of critical thought and deeper engagement with some concept from the class. I can provide more specific criteria for your project as needed.