

THE FEMALE DIVINE 101 (FOR SENIORS)

Levon Ani Marlen Toni Laura Drew Yesenia

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1 - Levon

Intro to Mythology and Myth Article

Week 2 - Ani

The Female Divine and The Myth of Callisto and Arcas

Week 3 - Marlen and Toni

Discussion on Pop Culture and Mini Project

Week 4 - Laura

Discussion on Oppressed Women and Introduction to Personal Project

Week 5 - Drew

Presentations on Personal Project and Class Discussion

Week 6 - Yesenia

Final Essay Assigned and Learning Outcomes

WEEK 1 - INTRODUCTION TO MYTHOLOGY

- Ask the class what they think mythology is?
- What is mythology?
- Discuss the basic information.
- Discuss a little on the myths of Rome (Italy) for our myth (THIS IS IMPORTANT! To identify the different kinds of myths) you can find info on roman myths in the intro of the myth on Callisto and Arcas
- Tie in mythology article.
- Discuss how the article ties into this discussion.

MYTHS

- Why were Myths created
- Archetypes seen in myths
- Similarities and differences of types of myths
- Evolution of myths

MYTHOLOGY AS WE SEE IT

“It can consist of modes of writing or of representations; not only written discourse, but also photography, cinema, reporting, sport, shows, publicity”
– (Barthes 108)

WEEK 2 - THE FEMALE DIVINE

- ❑ “It represents the supreme level of feminine expression and manifestation in the universe” (Satchitananda 1).
- ❑ Attributes: Mother, Power, Love, Death, Nature, Civilization.
- ❑ Seen in many different forms in works; Mostly as deities.
- ❑ Stories of goddesses include “the 3 stages of a woman’s life cycle: Life, Death, and Regeneration” (Leonard 113).



GODDESSES OF LIFE - THE UNIVERSAL WOMB



Athena: Goddess of War

- They birth, feed, teach, care for, and guard all living things.
- They are protectors, warriors, law-givers, architects, agriculturalists, performers, etc.
- “...are depictions of the Goddess as Great Mother...the ground from which we derive sustenance and the creator of all life upon it” (Leonard 114).



Artemis/Diana: Goddess of the Hunt

GODDESSES OF DEATH - GODDESSES OF THE UNDERWORLD



ZEUS'S THREE DAUGHTERS WHO SPIN THE THREADS OF LIFE ARE CALLED THE MOIRAE.

- APPEAR IN MYTHS AS WITCHES, MEDIUMS AND OLD WISE WOMAN.
- THEY ARE OPERATORS OF FATE.

- CLOTHO → THE SPINNER (RIGHT)
- LACHESIS → THE MEASURER (LEFT)
- ATROPOS → THE CUTTER (CENTER)

GODDESSES OF REGENERATION



Aphrodite: The Goddess of Love

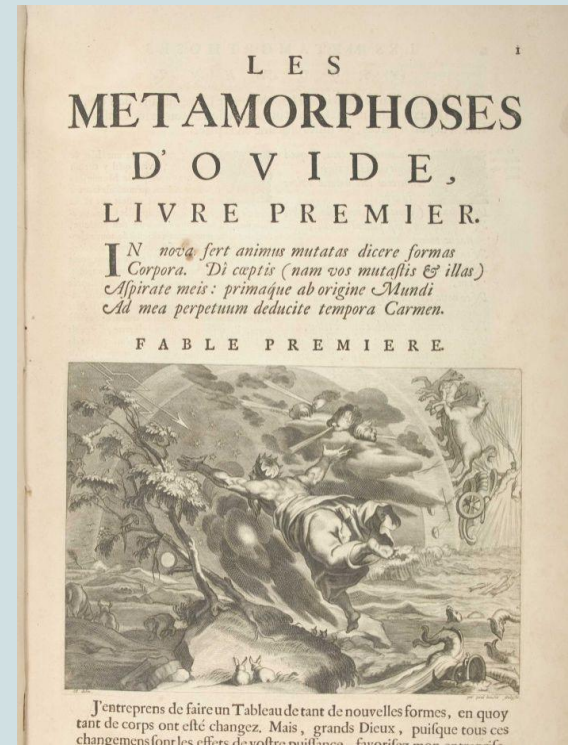
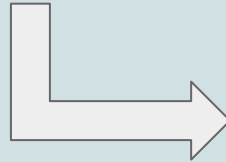
- Goddesses of love, sexual desire, and beauty.
- Appear as virgins and nymphs in mythology.
- “Their pulsing sexual energies impel mortal creation to renew itself, and thus their influence redeems individual morality through beauty, passion, and offspring” (Leonard 121).

OVID'S METAMORPHOSES

- ❖ Ovid was a Roman Poet who wrote very controversial books
- ❖ He wrote *Ars Amatoria* → a how-to book on seducing woman.
- ❖ Lastly came *Metamorphoses* which is considered to be a very gender political book.
- ❖ In the book he depicts gods and rulers as shameless and feel no guilt when committing adultery, rape, lying, etc.
- ❖ In a chapter of the book, he tells the myth of Callisto and Arcas which has been known to have multiple versions in different myths.



Watch “Great
Greek Myths”
Season 1
Episode 2: Zeus
in Love on
Amazon Prime
Video



https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B07HNQFP2X/ref=atv_hm_hom_1_c_iEgOEZ_2_1

CALLISTO AND ARCAS

- Callisto: Young virgin nymph a part of Diana's/Artemis' group of nymph warriors
- Diana/Artemis: leader of the nymphs; banishes Callisto for breaking her chastity
- Zeus/Jove: rapes Callisto in the form of Diana; turns Callisto into the constellations of Ursa Major and son Ursa Minor
- Hera/Juno: turned Callisto into a bear for "sleeping" with Zeus and giving birth to a bastard child.
- Arcas: Callisto's and Zeus's son who tries to kill his mother when she was a bear.



Discussion: Who are the female divines? What are your thoughts on Artemis/Diana, a warrior woman, and Hera, the queen of heaven, enforcing chastity rules and yet, punishing Callisto for being raped; even though, it was Zeus who acted against that sanctity?

EXTRA CREDIT - VISIT THE GETTY VILLA

- Visit the Getty Villa in Malibu, California.
- Specifically visit the “Greek and Roman Deities at the Villa” collection on the map.
- Take a photo of you with your favorite exhibit. Do not forget! The picture is needed for credit!!
- Write a page as to: Why you picked that exhibit? What stood out to you the most about it? Did you enjoy this trip? What did you learn?

Here's a handout of all the exhibits from the Villa's collection on Greek and Roman Deities. Some of these exhibits may not be present so make sure you write on something that is there. The handout has the exhibits gallery/room numbers!

https://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/trippack/downloads/vsi_talkshow_previsit_deities_villa.pdf



WEEK 3 - THE FEMALE DIVINE IN POPULAR CULTURE

- What is popular culture?
- Where is the female divine seen in popular culture?
- Explain the short mini project that will be done in class.
- Present projects.
- After project is done, discuss why the project was beneficial and relevant to the topic and why?

THE FEMALE DIVINE IN POPULAR CULTURE



ASSIGNMENT

Take three minutes to make a collage:

Your only direction is:

Compile photos that depicts the societal standards of beauty.

Why do you think we as a society have set these specific standards for beauty?

Do you feel that you fit society's standards of beauty?

Are these images the only images that depict the female divine?

WEEK 4 - OPPRESSED WOMEN IN SOCIETY

- What does it mean to be a woman
- Who can and cannot be a representation of the female divine
- <https://vimeo.com/393253445>



WEEK 5 - PRESENTATIONS OF PERSONAL PROJECTS

- Present a small example of what the project would look like.
- Students would discuss their projects in a Socratic Seminar.
- Students will get into small groups and compare/contrast their thoughts on Female Divine
- Students would write a page report of a representation of their ideal female devine.

WEEK 6- FINAL ASSIGNMENT/ESSAY:

Compare and contrast the female divine in popular culture to what your individual interpretation of beauty is and tie it into the myth, Callisto and Arcas, we discussed in class.

The essay should be a minimum of 3-4 pages in length and should include quotations/references to the myth.

Due via email AND in person before the commencement of the following class.

F A B. VI. & VII. *Calisto changed into a Bear.*



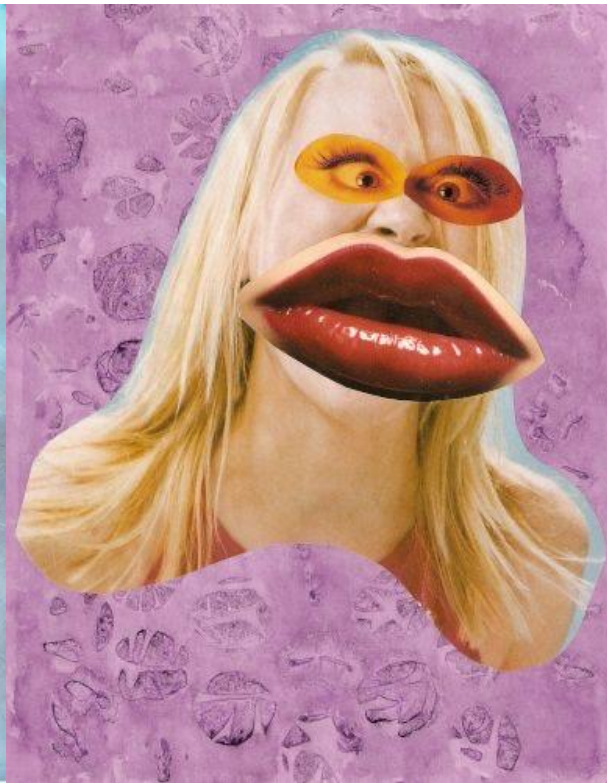
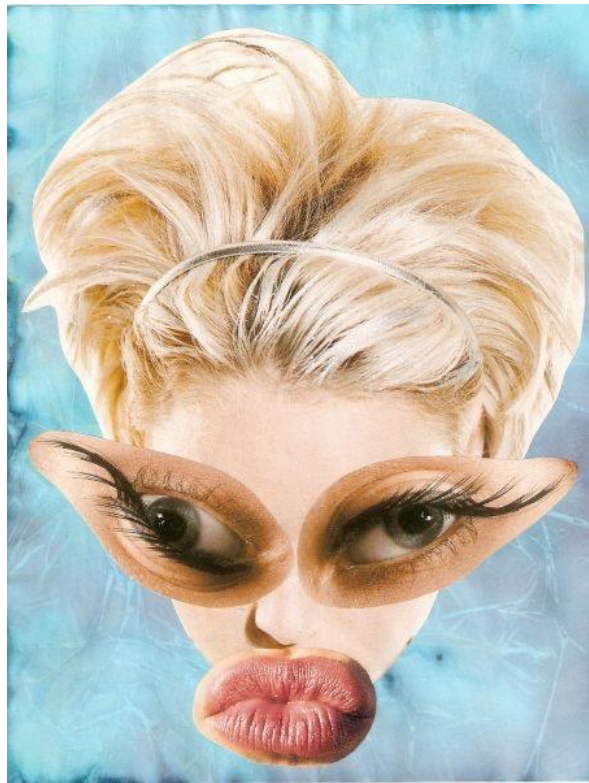
T H E A R G U M E N T .

Juno, being jealous that Calisto knew but too well how to please Jupiter, transforms her into a Bear. Her Son Arcas, not knowing his Mother in that shape, is going to kill her, but Jupiter snatches them Both up to Heaven, where they form those Constellations called the great and

T O M . I .

H 2

THE FEMALE DIVINE-WEEK 2



FEMALE DIVINE IN POPULAR CULTURE-WEEK 3



PERSONAL PROJECTS- WEEK 5

LEARNING OUTCOME OF ESSAY:

- Students will write a thoughtful and insightful thesis, main idea, position or claim that is sustained throughout the paper.
- Students will address the topic set forth in the assignment and address all aspects of the writing task.
- Students will provide support for main points with reasons, explanations and examples from lectures/reading.
- Students will demonstrate proper organization of paragraphs and overall essay structure.
- Students will write using well structured sentences, fitting word choice and tone to achieve overall purpose.
- Students will write an essay using correct syntax, grammar, punctuation, spelling and format.

ESSAY GRADING SCALE:

An A (100-90 points) paper:

Student successfully answers the essay prompt by strongly articulating the similarities and/or differences between what (for example/not limited to) actions, features, characteristics or personality they attribute to beauty, as opposed to, what is beautiful/what the female divine in modern society is considered. Simultaneously, the student showcases familiarity with and understanding of the female divine in mythology/Callisto with little to no spelling or grammar mistakes throughout paper.

WORKS CITED

Barthes, Roland. *Mythologies*. Cape, 1974.

Handout: https://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/trippack/downloads/vsi_talkshow_previsit_deities_villa.pdf (Ani)

Leonard, Scott A., and Michael McClure. *Myth and Knowing: an Introduction to World Mythology*. McGraw Hill, 2007. (Ani)

Satchitananda, Sunyata. "The Divine Feminine." *Sunyata Satchitananda*, Sunyata Satchitananda, 18 June 2019, sunyatasatchitananda.com/divine-feminine/. (Ani)