

Montclair State University
The Institute for the Humanities & Department of Classics and General Humanities

***CLASSICS DAY 2022 AT MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022***

- A Program Designed for Middle and High School Students and Teachers
- Time: Friday, October 28, 2022, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Location: Montclair State University ZOOM
- Registration fee: FREE! Pre-Registration required.
- Contact for further information: Mary English englishm@montclair.edu, or Timothy Renner rennert@montclair.edu.

THE PROGRAM

9:45 AM: Welcoming remarks and orientation.

10:00 – 10:40 AM Plenary Session — Conflict Resolution through Classical Literature

10:45 – 11:30 AM: Breakout Session A (see details below).

Attendees can select one of two options

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM: Breakout Session B (see details below).

Attendees can select one of two options.

12:45 – 1:30 PM: Breakout Session C (see details below).

Attendees can select one of two options.

1:30 – 2:00 PM: Teacher Idea Exchange and Networking Session

OVERVIEW OF THE DAY’S PRESENTATIONS:

Conflict Resolution through Classical Literature (Plenary Session)

For the past few years, Professor Leni Ribeiro Leite has been a participating researcher on a project that combines academic research in Classics, War Studies, and Peacebuilding Education in England, Colombia, and Brazil. In this session, we will hear about this exciting interdisciplinary project and learn how ancient models of conflict resolution can inform current political situations.

Leni Ribeiro Leite, Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Kentucky

What's the magic word? Divination, curses, and spell books from Roman Egypt (Breakout Session A)

From Roman Egypt we have a treasure trove of writing on papyrus and ostraca (pot sherds): books, receipts, letters, contracts, school exercises, shopping lists -- you name it. Among all this writing are some of our most important working texts for the history of what one might broadly call "magic." If you ever wondered what Harry, Ron, and Hermione were actually reading in class, you will have to come check out these magical texts, which will include curses, love spells, and an ancient oracle book that I will use to make some Halloween predictions.

David Ratzan, Head of the Library, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University

Daily Life in Pompeii (Breakout Session A)

Just before the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius that buried Pompeii in the late summer of 79CE, how were the unsuspecting people going about their lives? What did their daily routine--work, eating, taking care of themselves, and leisure--look like? What archaeological evidence makes it possible for us to know this? In this session, we will look for answers to these and similar questions.

Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, Associate Professor of Classics and General Humanities at Montclair State University

Classics and Science Fiction (Breakout Session B)

Science fiction has employed classical themes and ancient history from its very beginning. Why does a genre devoted to a technological future, intergalactic exploration, and questions about what it means to be “beyond human” continue to be deeply invested in the classical past? Why are there Greeks and Romans in space? And why are these books bestsellers today? In this talk, Professor Cape will outline how science fiction writing and films have used classical material and how they do so at present to address contemporary concerns about being human, our past, and our future.

Robert Cape, Professor of Classics at Austin College

“Hadestown: A Show for Our Times” (Breakout Session B)

The hit play *Hadestown* combines two originally separate myths, making the tragedy of Orpheus and Eurydice arise from irreconcilable differences between Hades and Persephone. It is a modern revision reflecting deep pessimism about the possibility of reform in our decaying, endangered world.

Jean Alvares and Patricia Salzman, Professors of Classics and General Humanities at Montclair State University

“Novellas: A Via Appia” (Breakout Session C)

Emma Vanderpool, author of over a dozen Latin novellas, will talk briefly about her motivations and thought processes while writing. Afterward, students will get to collaborate LIVE with Ms. Vanderpool on a *new* novella of their choosing to see how these different processes work in real time.

Emma Vanderpool, Latin Teacher at Springfield Honors Academy

“Hildegard of Bingen between Religion and Medicine” (Breakout Session C)

This lecture will present the life of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), a German Benedictine nun and how she impacts our understanding of the body and soul in her belief and knowledge. We will focus on her appreciation of women having the power to heal humankind through their bodies and souls against the male-centered views of Christianity and medicine.

Minji Lee, Assistant Professor of Religion and Medical Humanities at Montclair State University

Registration Form
Classics Day, October 28, 2022

Complete this form and return it by Thursday, October 27, 2022 via email to:

englishm@montclair.edu

rennert@montclair.edu

Teacher's Name: _____ Department: _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime telephone: _____ Ext. _____

Email address (please print clearly): _____ @ _____

Confirmation and program information will be sent via e-mail.

Number of students: _____ Number of teachers: _____

Choosing Breakout Session Presentations

You will have the opportunity to attend 3 of the 6 breakout presentations. Rank your choices from #1 (top) to #6 (bottom) next to the titles below. We will try our best to give everyone their desired selections, but cannot guarantee them.

_____ *"Magic and Papyri"*

_____ *"Pompeii"*

_____ *"Classics & Science Fiction"*

_____ *"Hadestown"*

_____ *"Latin Novellas"*

_____ *"Hildegard of Bingen"*

David Ratzan

Deborah Chatr Aryamontri

Robert Cape

Jean Alvares & Patricia Salzman

Emma Vanderpool

Minji Lee

Follow-up: After we receive your request, we will send you an e-mail confirmation. Zoom links will be sent to teachers on Thursday, October 27, 2022 or earlier if possible.