

The Institute for the Humanities
Department of Classics and General Humanities

CLASSICS DAY 2025 at MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025, 9.00 a.m—1.30 p.m.

A program of presentations for high school students and teachers

- Location: Montclair State University campus
- Registration fee: \$15.00 per person, student or adult, pre-registration required.
- Contact for further information: Victoria Larson, larsonv@mail.montclair.edu, (973) 655-7509

THE PROGRAM

9.00	11.20 a.m.	Presentations
11.30	12.00 p.m.	Student contest
12.00	1.00 p.m.	Lunch (catered for teachers, students bring brown bag or use MSU dining facilities)
1.00	1.30 p.m.	Awards ceremony

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATIONS BY CLASSICS & GENERAL HUMANITIES FACULTY

A. *"Pliny the Younger and Trajan Discuss Roman Aqueducts"*

In this session we will discuss letters exchanged between Pliny the Younger and the Emperor Trajan about two different construction projects involving aqueducts.

Mary English

B. *"Mythogenesis: The Origin and Structures of Myth"*

Where do the symbols and structures of myth actually come from? Sooner or later, students and scholars of the humanities have to consider the ultimate origins of myths, and why they take the recognizable form they do. In this presentation, we will consider the various theories of *mythogenesis*, and explore why certain symbols and structures of myths recur cross-culturally.

Glen Robert Gill

C. *"Fluid Borders: Rivers and Migration"*

Are rivers always boundaries to be crossed? Can landscape description change the way we see migrants? This presentation will explore the literature of migration in the Roman world and at the US southern border.

Prudence Jones

D. *"Demeter and Persephone: From Religious Hymns to Hadestown"*

This presentation looks at the figures of Demeter and Persephone as they evolve all the way from the archaic *Homeric Hymn to Demeter* to the popular Broadway musical *Hadestown*.

Patricia Salzman

CONTEST

Schools may enter one group (maximum 6 students) per school to take a 30-minute 99 multiple-choice question contest on Latin grammar, classical mythology, and Roman civilization. The top three schools will be recognized in the award ceremony.

INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
with
Department of Classics and General Humanities
Montclair State University

Complete this form and return it asap, but no later than Monday, November 10, 2025 via email to: larsonv@mail.montclair.edu. **Please mail checks made out to "Montclair State University" or purchase orders to arrive by Monday, November 10, 2025 to:** Dr. Victoria Larson, Dept. of Classics & General Humanities, Dickson Hall 129, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ 07043. **An e-mail confirmation and further programming information will be sent on receipt of your registration form and check/purchase order.**

Teacher name(s): _____

Teacher email(s) (list all) _____

How many attending lunch (teachers only)? _____

Will you have a group (6 students max) entering the contest? _____

Department: _____

School name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime telephone: _____ Ext. _____

Number of students: _____ Number of teachers: _____

Total registration amount due (\$15.00 per each attendee, student or adult) _____

How are you paying (check or purchase order)? _____

If paying by check, is it enclosed with this form? Yes, enclosed: _____; No, sending separately: _____

Choosing Session Presentations

You will have the opportunity to attend two of the four presentations. Rank your choices from #1 (top) to #4 (bottom) next to the titles below (if no preference, assign the same ranking to all). ***We will try our best to give everyone their desired selections, but cannot guarantee to do so.***

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|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| A. _____ | "Roman Aqueducts" | (A) Mary English |
| B. _____ | "Mythogenesis" | (B) Glen Robert Gill |
| C. _____ | "Fluid Borders" | (C) Prudence Jones |
| D. _____ | "Demeter and Persephone" | (D) Patricia Salzman |