

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

CLASSICS DAY 2021 AT MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

- A Program of Presentations for Middle and High School Students and Teachers**
- Time: Friday, October 29, 2021, 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, 973-655-4419.

THE PROGRAM

9:45 AM: Welcoming remarks and orientation.

**10:00 – 10:50 AM: Plenary Session. Virtual Field Trip to the American School of
Classical Studies Excavations at Corinth!**

**11:00 – 11:50 AM: Session 1—Presentations and discussions led by MSU professors (see
details below). Attendees can select one of three options.**

**12:00 Noon – 12:50 PM: Session 2—Presentations and discussions led by MSU
professors (see details below). Attendees can select one of three options.**

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

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATIONS BY MSU FACULTY:

A. “Digital Classics: The Ancient World Anew” (Session 1)

Although Classics is often associated with the most ancient of academic study, over the last two decades more and more research in the Greek and Roman world employs cutting edge digital technologies. In this zoom presentation, we will explore a selection of this work including a citizen science project to transcribe Ptolemaic manuscripts, the VR reanimation of the ancient city of Rome and a layered GIS digital map project in which over 150 years of excavations in Athens can be explored.

Senta German, Associate Professor of Classics and General Humanities

B. “Mythological Themes in Mozart's The Magic Flute” (Session 1)

Mozart’s popular opera *The Magic Flute* is both entertaining and evocative because it combines so many mythical, religious, and even philosophic themes, offering also a love story, a battle of Light vs. Darkness and the search for Enlightenment. And there is Freemasonry and so much great music! I will survey the major themes and show how they work together to produce a true mythological vision.

Jean Alvares, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

C. “Cultural Stone: Geoscience in the Assessment of Historic Structures” (Session 1)
Stone has both structural and stylistic applications in historic architecture and art. The tools and techniques of geoscience, in field work and in the lab, provide information on the origins, applications, and conservation of these rock and mineral materials. Examples from this lecture come from projects by Classics, Humanities, and History faculty studying ancient Roman and Medieval structures in Italy and Sicily.
Gregory Pope, Professor of Earth and Environmental Studies

D. “Spooky Rome 2.0: Zombies, Ghosts, Vampires, and other Halloween Monsters in Latin Literature” (Session 2)
Back by popular demand! The Romans loved scary stories about creatures we associate with Halloween. We will discuss a variety of spooks and specters found in Latin literature.
Prudence Jones, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

E. “The Afterlife of Ovid’s Tale of Daedalus and Icarus (Metamorphoses 8.183-235)” (Session 2)
We will look at the Latin text of Ovid’s tale of Daedalus and Icarus. Then, we will turn our attention to modern paintings and poems that take this tale as their inspiration. Teachers are encouraged to do a "pre-reading" of the Latin with their students; there is a free online text with commentary and running vocabulary by Geoffrey Steadman (<https://geoffreysteadman.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/icarusdaedalus.beta8aug19.pdf>)
Mary English, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

F. “All eyes on me: The Gaze of Medusa from Ancient to Contemporary Times” (Session 2)
The mythical figure of the Gorgon Medusa, who turns people into stone, was a popular one in antiquity, especially as a symbol of warding off evil. Nonetheless, the original magical power and cultural meaning of the Medusa have gradually been lost. In this lecture we will discuss the evolution of Medusa and her controversial story and how the perception of this maiden/monster has changed over the centuries, thanks also to famous artists who chose to represent it/her.
Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, Assistant Professor of Classics and General Humanities

-----**The 2021 Classics Day Organizing Committee: Jean Alvares, Sulochana Asirvatham, Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, Mary English, Prudence Jones, Victoria Larson, Timothy Renner**

Registration Form
Classics Day, October 29, 2021

Complete this form and return it by Wednesday, October 27, 2021 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 Session Presentations

You will have the opportunity to attend two of the six 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.

_____	<i>"Digital Humanities"</i>	<i>Senta German</i>
_____	<i>"The Magic Flute"</i>	<i>Jean Alvares</i>
_____	<i>"Cultural Stone"</i>	<i>Gregory Pope</i>
_____	<i>"Spooky Rome 2.0"</i>	<i>Prudence Jones</i>
_____	<i>"Daedalus and Icarus"</i>	<i>Mary English</i>
_____	<i>"Gaze of Medusa"</i>	<i>Deborah Chatr Aryamontri</i>

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 28, 2021 or earlier if possible.