Classics Day, 2011

A morning of lectures, discussion, and a competition for high school students studying Latin 3 and 4

Friday, October 21, 2011  
9:00 am--1:30 pm

Sponsored by

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

Program

On Friday, October 21, 2011 the Department of Classics and General Humanities at Montclair State invites high school students who are studying Latin 3 and 4, together with their teachers, to our annual Classics Day, a morning of lectures, discussions and academic competition. Six students only from each school may participate in the competition (teachers may bring additional students to attend the lectures only).

Classics Day will begin with an opening session at 9:00 am with welcoming remarks and orientation. The lectures begin at 9:20. Following the lectures, at 11:20, students who are participating in the competition will go to their assigned room for the half-hour test. Students who are not participating in the competition can have lunch at that time.

The Lectures

You will be able to choose two lectures from the following topics. Groups of 10 or more may be split up between more than one lecture (see registration form).

1. The Latin Lover in the Middle Ages

Perhaps the most famous lover in Classical Latin literature is Vergil's Dido, the queen of Carthage, whose doomed love affair with Aeneas ultimately motivates her suicide. Aeneas and Dido's unhappy love affair remains a popular story in medieval literature, largely through twelfth-century adaptations of Vergil's text in French and German. In addition to Dido, the Middle Ages is also very familiar with another female queen from Antiquity, Semiramis. Like Dido, the medieval Semiramis becomes most famous for her love affairs. This talk will consider both these (in)famous queens through a medieval lens, looking at the changes in how these figures are portrayed between Antiquity and the Middle Ages and what such changes can tell us about medieval thought, beliefs, and institutions.

Speaker: Alison Beringer, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

2. In Search of Cleopatra: Uncovering the Queen Behind the Myth

What do we know about Cleopatra? How do we know it? Direct evidence is hard to find. Even our biographies of Cleopatra come from outside Egypt and were influenced by the negative propaganda of her enemy, Augustus. Plutarch provides one of the most complete accounts of her life, but he was a Greek author and lived over a century after Cleopatra. The Egyptians didn't produce narrative histories and Cleopatra didn't write an autobiography. This session will examine some other types of evidence, including documentary sources, archaeological finds, and the results of forensic analysis.

Speaker: Prudence Jones, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

3. Heroes and their Women

Aeneas was not the only ancient hero who had woman trouble. This illustrated talk will focus on several other ancient heroes whose "boy meets girl" stories did not end well. Participants will be
encouraged to compare ancient and modern thinking about relationships, and will receive a handout with ideas for further investigation.

Speaker: Susan Hussein, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

4. Theseus: From a Greek Hero, to a Medieval Scoundrel, to a Hero Once Again

The Theseus myth spans many generations, with different aspects of the myth highlighted by various writers. This lecture will explore the Ovidian and medieval versions of the myth, and examine Mary Renault’s historical fiction of the late 1950s to Jim Henson’s 1987 retelling of the Greek myths, with a nod at the video game, “The God of War.” Theseus is a figure who easily fits Joseph Campbell’s “Hero’s Journey” pattern, and his role as a hero can be compared to contemporary movie heroes today’s high students will recognize. Rumors abound that Theseus will appear in a new Tarsem Singh film, Immortals, in November.

Speaker: Ellen Bakalian, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

Competition

Following the lectures, a competition testing knowledge in three areas, Roman Civilization, Latin Grammar, and Classical Mythology, will be held. The competition will be entered on a school group basis. Six (6) students from each school may participate in the competition, which is geared for students who have completed Latin 3 and 4.

The participating school groups will be assigned to an area where they can discuss and complete the answers to the questions, which will be multiple-choice in format. The group will have one-half hour to demonstrate its collective knowledge of the material. The three groups that get the most correct answers within the time limit will each receive a prize for their school. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony following lunch at 1:00 pm. Teachers may be asked to proctor a group from a school other than their own.

Registration Information

For planning purposes, we ask that you pre-register your school group by returning the attached form, along with a check or purchase order number by the Registration Deadline Date, Tuesday, October 11.

The registration fee for this program is $18.00 per each student or teacher. In addition to the registration fee, there is a separate $25.00 charge for teachers who would like to receive 3 hours of Professional Development Credit for the day (see registration form).

If you plan to use a school purchase order, send us a copy of the registration form, and send a copy to your business office to act as an invoice.

Registrations may be mailed, faxed, or sent via e-mail to the Institute for the Humanities—check mailed under separate cover.

After we receive your registration information, an e-mail confirmation will be sent to you. Please include your e-mail address on the registration form.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Institute for the Humanities program information for 2010-2011 is posted on our website:

http://chss2.montclair.edu/instituteforthehumanities/

Mailing Address: Montclair State University, Institute for the Humanities, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043
Phone: 973.655.7516   Email: inst_hum@mail.montclair.edu   Fax: 973.655.7207
Registration Form — Classics Day, 2011

Return this form to our office by the registration deadline date, Tuesday, October 11. Purchase orders/Vouchers must also be received on or before the registration date.

Registration Fee: $18.00 per student or teacher ($25.00 additional for teachers who would like to receive 3 professional development credit hours)

Teacher’s Name: ____________________________ Department: ____________________________

If more than one teacher is accompanying students, write in the names of all those who plan to attend.

School Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________ (zip code) Daytime telephone: ____________________________ ( ) ext.

E-mail address (print clearly):

Provide us with an e-mail address so that a confirmation may be sent to you.

# Students: __________  # Teachers: __________  Parking: # Cars __________  Van/Bus: __________

☐ Yes, our school will participate in the competition  ☐ Our school will not have a group in the competition—coming to hear the lectures only.

☐ I would like to receive 3 hours Prof. Development Credit: ($25.00 additional)

List the names of teachers who would like to receive Professional Development Credit for this program.

☐ I will attend the lunch (one complimentary teachers’ lunch), and ________ additional teachers @ $10 per person.

Session Talks: Choose Two. You will have the opportunity to attend two of the four presentations. Write the total number of people in your group (including teachers) for each of your selections. Groups of 10 or more will be asked to split up.

☐ The Latin Lover in the Middle Ages  Alison Beringer

☐ In Search of Cleopatra: Uncovering the Queen Behind the Myth  Prudence Jones

☐ Heroes and their Women  Susan Hussein

☐ Theseus: From a Greek Hero, to a Medieval Scoundrel, to a Hero Once Again  Ellen Bakalian

Students/Teachers @ $18 per person: __________

Prof. Dev. Credit @ $25.00 per teacher: __________

Add’l teacher’s lunch @ $10.00 per person: __________

Total Amount Enclosed: __________  Purchase Order Number: __________

Make checks payable to: Montclair State University

Phone: 973.655.7516  e-mail: inst_hum@mail.montclair.edu  Fax: 973.655.7207

Mail To: Montclair State University, Institute for the Humanities, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043