Classics Day, 2009

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

Friday, October 30, 2009  9:00 am — 1:30 pm

Sponsored by

The Institute for the Humanities
and The Department of Classics and General Humanities

Montclair State University

On Friday, October 30, 2009, the Department of Classics and General Humanities at Montclair State University 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 (6) students from each school may participate in the competition, which is geared for students who have completed Latin 3 and 4.

Our aim is to provide students with the experience of studying Classics in college. (We encourage teachers to bring additional students who would like to attend the lectures only.)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The registration fee for this program is $18.00 per student or teacher. In addition to the registration fee, there is a separate $20.00 charge for teachers who would like to receive 3 hours of Professional Development Credit.

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 deadline date, Monday, October 19th.

We do not bill schools for payment. If you plan to use a 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, and check mailed under separate cover. Mailing address, below.

Make checks payable to: Montclair State University.

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 deadline for registration is Monday, October 19th.

Institute for the Humanities program information for the 2009-2010 school year will be posted on our website, as this information becomes available.

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

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Classics Day will begin with an opening address in the MSU Student Center Ballrooms at 9:00 am. Students and teachers will then go to assigned rooms to hear two different lectures.

The Lectures

You will be able to choose two presentations from the following topics (see registration form):

1. “Myth as the Foundation of Culture”
   Dr. Glen R. Gill, assistant professor of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

For many students, studying the classics is their first introduction to the study of mythology. Ideally, this initiates a deeper awareness and exploration of the importance of myth to the ancient Greeks, and to the civilizations that followed, down the present time. In this talk we will examine the foundational importance of myth in culture and see how learning about classical myth provides a key to understanding culture more generally.

2. “What did the ancient Greeks see in the Sky?”
   Dr. Stamatina Mastorakou, adjunct professor, Classics & General Humanities, MSU; fellow, Institute for Research in Classical Philosophy & Science.

What kind of Greek astronomical texts and objects have survived to today? How many planets did the ancient Greeks know of? What kinds of study tools did they use? The history of ancient astronomy is a fascinating field, which explores the ancients' astronomical and meteorological concepts as well as their knowledge of the constellations and the planets. Modern historiography tries to approach astronomical knowledge not only from a technical point of view but also as part of understanding the ancients' culture. In other words, we try to see the sky through their eyes.

3. “Gladiatorial Sports in Roman Society”
   Dr. Timothy Renner, professor, Classics & General Humanities, MSU

How did the Romans come to practice and enjoy gladiatorial combat as a form of entertainment? What religious and social needs did gladiator sports address, and how did these, as well as the status of gladiators in society, change over time? In this talk, using ancient texts and visual images, we will explore answers to questions of this kind.

4. “Gender, Movement and Image in the Myths of Ovid”
   Dr. Patricia Salzman, associate professor, Classics & General Humanities, MSU

This talk explores the myths of Phaethon, Perseus and Andromeda and Atalanta and Hippomenes and studies the gender complexities it presents. Issues of gaze, image and movement in relation to the myths and their presentations in Ovid will be addressed.

The Competition

Following the lectures, a competition, which will test 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 students from each school may participate.

Your group 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, which 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.

Lunch

Teachers will meet for lunch in Ballroom ‘C’ at 12:00 Noon. A complimentary lunch will be offered to one teacher per school group. Additional teacher’s lunch may be purchased for $8.00. (See registration form.)

Students may bring a bag lunch, or they may purchase lunch in the MSU Student Center. Lunch specials are available in the Student Center Cafeteria, or the Rathskeller.