Classics Day 2012

A morning of lectures, discussion, and academic competition for high school students

Friday, October 19, 2012 9:00 am–1:30 pm

The Program

On Friday, October 19, 2012 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 from each school may participate in the competition (teachers may bring additional students to attend the lectures only).

Classics Day will begin 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

9:30-10:20 and 10:30-11:20 (two sessions)

You will be asked to choose two lectures from the following four topics. Groups of 10 or more may be split up among the lectures. (see registration form.)

A Mother’s Grief, a Daughter’s Disappearance, and the Promise of Spring: Demeter and Persephone

Ellen Bakalian, Department of Classics and General Humanities, MSU

Demeter, goddess of the prime sustenance of mankind -- grain & bread -- and her daughter Persephone, goddess of the spring and wife of Hades -- are etched together in an eternal myth about love and fear, abduction and rape, and death and rebirth. This lecture will explore the ambiguity of the goddess Persephone, and touch upon allusions to her myth in Chaucer, Hardy’s Tess, and in Stephenie Meyer’s Bella, from the "Twilight" book series.
The Redeemer Hero in Myth and Literature
Paul Leggett, Department of Classics and General Humanities, MSU

The Redeemer Hero is the most popular figure in the myths, legends and literature of the Western world. Beginning as far back as the Babylonian god Marduk the redeemer hero is the one who rescues the world, saves the community and overcomes the power of evil. We remain fascinated by this character throughout endless examples from Hercules and Achilles in the ancient Greeks up to Superman, Batman and Spider Man in the present day.

Searching for Emperor Commodus's Amphitheatre
Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, Center for Heritage and Archaeological Studies, MSU

We will look at the results of recent archaeological excavation at this second century CE imperial Roman complex in ancient Lanuvium, where Commodus is reported to have slaughtered wild animals in the arena and acquired the nickname "Hercules."

Behind Every Great Man
Beth Calamia Scheckel, Global Education, MSU

What kind of influence did the wives and mothers of emperors have? What were their reputations among ancient Romans? How were their lives different from other ancient Roman women of privilege? By examining written, artistic and numismatic evidence, we will learn more about some ancient Roman "first ladies."

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 Form
Classics Day, 2012     Friday, October 19

Complete this form and return with your check or purchase order to the Institute for the Humanities by the registration deadline date: Thursday, October 11.

Teacher’s Name: ___________________________ Department: ___________________________

School Name: ___________________________

Address: ________________________________ (zip code) ________________________________

Daytime telephone: ( ) (ext. ) ___________________________

E-mail address (print clearly): ___________________________________________________________

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

# 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.

_________________________________________________________________________________

Session Talks

Choose two. You will have the opportunity to attend two of the four presentations. Mark your two choices, below, by writing in the number of students and teachers for each talk. Note that since space is limited in some of the lecture rooms, groups of 10 or more may have to split up. We will try our best to give everyone their first choice selections.

_______ A Mother’s Grief, a Daughter’s Disappearance… Ellen Bakalian

_______ The Redeemer Hero in Myth and Literature Paul Legget

_______ Searching for Emperor Commodus's Amphitheatre Deborah Chatr Aryamontri

_______ Behind Every Great Man Beth Calamia Scheckel

Students/Teachers @ $18 per person: $ ___________________

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

Total Amount Enclosed: $ ___________________

Purchase Order Number: ___________________