

Circe by Madeline Miller

IDH2930

Friday, 5th Period (11:45am-12:35pm)

Little Hall 117

Spring 2023

Instructors

Faculty Instructor: Dr. Victoria Pagán, PhD, Professor of Classics
vepagan@ufl.edu

Peer Instructor: Kaylinn Escobar
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Course Description

We will discuss *Circe* by Madeline Miller, a retelling of the prominent character in Homer's classic epic, "The Odyssey." Miller expands upon Circe's origin and her battle to claim an identity among gods and mortals. Her story raises questions about power, class and finding one's identity. We will explore how duty and individuality diverge to reveal the difficulties of cultivating one's own future. The content of the course will be assessed through in-class discussions led by students and weekly journal entries. At the end of the semester, students will complete a writing assignment of their choice which will be discussed in class.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to understand the context of character development and how Miller adapts and reworks source material from 8th century BC. They will understand the sacrifices associated with individuality and challenging social norms. Students will also analyze their own understanding of freedom and the challenges of attaining power for an individual who is disadvantaged by their society.

Required Textbooks

Circe by Madeline Miller – Hardcover, paperback, Kindle, audiobook. Also available on loan through Library West and Alachua County Public Library but please note that you will need access to the book throughout the entire semester.

Recommended Materials

The Odyssey by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson – Hardcover, paperback, Kindle, audiobook.

Weekly Journal Entries

To encourage weekly reading and assess your understanding of the chapter(s), there will be weekly journal entries. This will be a Canvas assignment with either a text box submission or a photo submission for those who prefer to keep a physical journal. Journal entries are expected

to include your reactions or thoughts on the chapters and are required to have **both** a question and a quote that stood out to you with an explanation as to why it did. These entries are intended to encourage connection with the material and begin analyzing topics that may be discussed in class. **Minimum of 100 words.**

Attendance and Class Expectations

Attendance is required. If you will not be able to attend class that week, please reach out to me and let me know so we can discuss options.

Discussions will be led by 2-3 student-leaders. Student-leaders are expected to have prepared topics and questions for the class discussion. They will be chosen the second week of class after the add/drop period. There will be room for flexibility as the in-class discussion unfolds; as long as each member participates in leading part of the discussion, they will get full points.

Final Assignment

The final assignment is a response to the book. We will discuss different topics throughout the course of the class that may challenge your previous notions. This assignment is designed to embrace what you've learned and apply it to your life moving forward. This project can be a video, blog, book, alternate imagining, or something entirely different. Further requirements for the assignment can be found in Canvas.

Materials/Supply Fees

There is no supply fee for this course.

Course Schedule

Week 1	1/9 – 1/15	Introduction to The Odyssey
Week 2	1/16 – 1/22	Chapters 1&2
Week 3	1/23 – 1/29	Chapters 3&4
Week 4	1/30 – 2/5	Chapters 5&6
Week 5	2/6 – 2/12	Chapters 7&8
Week 6	2/13 – 2/19	Chapters 9&10
Week 7	2/20 – 2/26	Chapters 11&12
Week 8	2/27 – 3/5	Chapters 13&14
Week 9	3/6 – 3/12	Chapters 15&16
Week 10	3/13 – 3/19 – Spring Break	

Week 11	3/20 – 3/26	Chapters 17&18
Week 12	3/27 – 4/2	Chapters 19&20
Week 13	4/3 – 4/9	Chapters 21, 22 & 23
Week 14	4/10 – 4/16	Chapters 24, 26 & 27
Week 15	4/17 – 4/23	Last class/Final assignment due

Evaluation of Grades

Assignments		Points
Weekly journal entries	13 entries	20 points each = 260
In-class Discussion	13 meetings	20 points each = 260
Final assignment	1 project	80 points
Total		600 points total

Grading Scale

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.0 – 100.0	A	4.00
90.0-92.9	A-	3.67
87.0-89.9	B+	3.33
83.0-86.9	B	3.00
79.0-82.9	B-	2.67
75.0-78.9	C+	2.33
72.0 – 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 – 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 – 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 – 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 – 61.9	D-	0.67
0 – 59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive on time and behave respectfully towards their instructors and peers. Technology is welcome if it is not a distraction to yourself or others and assists in the discussion.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> . It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. If you are in the process of working with the DRC, please let me know and we can work on a solution.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/ .

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Course Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1)

for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. [Click here to read the In-Class Recording policy.](#)