

**University of Florida
Honors Program
Spring 2024**

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nichols (agn54@ufl.edu)

Peer Instructor: Keelyn Fife (kfife@ufl.edu)

Classroom: DAU 0342

Class Meeting Time: Mondays period 10, 5:10-6:00pm

Office Hours: TBD

Percy Jackson: Making a Classic (IDH2930)

Course Description

This course will offer an examination of the first book in Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympian series, *The Lightning Thief*. The book turns 19 years old in 2024, and 20 years is the age that novels are usually up for "classic" consideration. The course will, through readings, class discussions, and diverse assignments, investigate what it means for a book to be a "classic" and whether or not *The Lightning Thief* has earned such status. Students will be asked to critically compare the book and the newly released TV series. There will also be a discussion of the "classical" mythologies that inspired the series, and how the book adds to current and popular interpretations of Greek myths.

Course Objectives

Students will debate the themes, symbols, and representation present in the book; analyze the standards of classical literature and what qualities *The Lightning Thief* may or may not have of a modern classic. Also, students will consider the impact that the Percy Jackson series has had on popular culture, young readers, interpretations of Greek myths and traditional values, and since-released literature.

Class Text

Required

Riordan, Rick. 2005. *The Lightning Thief*. Percy Jackson & the Olympians 01. New York, NY: Hyperion.

Also available as a free pdf online.

Participation

Students are expected to attend and be active components of the class and discussion. It is expected that by the end of the semester all students have participated, but if students feel uncomfortable making comments in class, please speak to or email the lecturer.

Assignments

Each week, questions/main topics of focus for the reading section will be sent out via Canvas so that students know what to think about while reading and preparing for each week's class meeting. It won't be required to respond to these questions every week over Canvas, but it's recommended students take notes of their thoughts while reading so they can share with the class. There will be a mixture of assignments, including Canvas discussions, group activities, and in-class participation activities. The focuses throughout the course will be the retelling of myth for audiences over time and the standards of making a "classic," and assignments will tie into that and follow the main learning outcomes of the course. The course is largely discussion and analysis based, so attendance and participation is important. A final project will occur at the end of the course to synthesize the semester's analysis.

Schedule

Week 1: Introductions

Week 2: Chapters 1 and 2

Week 3: Chapters 3 and 4

Week 4: Chapters 5 and 6

Week 5: Chapters 7 and 8

Week 6: Chapters 9, 10, and 11

Week 7: Chapters 12, 13, and 14

Week 8: Chapters 15 and 16

Week 9: Chapters 17 and 18

Week 10: Chapters 19 and 20

Week 11: Chapters 21 and 22

Week 12: Presentations

Week 13: Presentations

Week 14: Presentations

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class since it is a discussion based course.

Grade scale

A 93 and above

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	59 and below

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to follow the academic honesty policy that is outlined by the University: https://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/media/flexible.dce.ufl.edu/documents/uf_policy_student_conduct.pdf.

Accommodations

Accommodations are provided for students with proper documentation, but please reach out to the peer instructor and/or professor if you need extra time for an assignment or additional help even if you do not have official documentation through the university's Disability Resource Center. If you have any questions about the DRC's policies, check out their website: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>.

About the Syllabus

This syllabus is a living document, and changes may be made to keep up with the flow of the class and adjust for students' interests. Any changes to the schedule of readings or assignments will be announced to students ahead of time. Students are encouraged to ask any questions they may have about the syllabus to the instructors. Requirements for this course as a whole are consistent with UF policy.