

## CLAS/RELS 2027: Magic, Religion and Philosophy

Winter 2014

### Midterm Short Essay Questions

Prepare short essay answers for all of the following questions. On Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, during the in-class Midterm (worth 50% of the final grade) you will be asked to answer 3 of these questions. You are not permitted to bring anything into the Midterm (no texts, no notes, and no pre-prepared answers). The short essays will be worth 60% of the Midterm (the other 40% will come from short answer questions, based on the list of names and terms provided). All of the short essay questions are of equal value. For all questions, use examples or references to the text in your answer.

1. Zeus is the central figure of Hesiod's *Theogony*. What, according to Hesiod, is Zeus' nature? What are his defining attributes? How does he come to rule, and how does his rule differ from his father's and his father's before him?
2. Outline the story of Prometheus' 'deception' of Zeus. What does this story suggest about Hesiod's view of the relation between humans and gods?
3. Outline the role of Styx in the *Theogony*. What does the story of Styx suggest about the community of gods?
4. What, according to Gorgias in the *Encomium of Helen*, makes speech powerful?
5. Using the various sources found in Chapter 2 of Ogden's *Magic, Witchcraft, and Ghosts in the Greek and Roman Worlds*, sketch a portrait of Pythagoras.
6. Outline the argument of Ogden, 13 Hippocrates attacks the mages' cure for epilepsy.
7. Compare the arguments of Augustine in Ogden, 43 Persian mages, Pythagoras, Numa and lecanomancy with those of Pliny in Ogden, 45 The tradition and lore of the mages.
8. Use the following three selections in Ogden to outline the Greek view of Egyptian magic/wisdom:
  - 53 Thessalus is taught the secrets of medicine by Asclepius in an Egyptian crypt
  - 55 Nectanebo, the last pharaoh, seduces Olympias and sires Alexander the Great
  - 56 The two varieties of Egyptian wisdom
9. Describe the various ways Medea's powers are explained in the following selections from Ogden:
  - 66 A rationalized account of Medea's career
  - 68 Media aids the Argonauts
  - 69 Medea's rejuvenations
10. Compare the Homeric presentation of Circe in Ogden, 72 Circe, Greek literature's first witch and Odysseus with Theocritus's Simaetha in Ogden, 89 Simaetha's erotic magic to recover the errant Delphis.