

The Institute for the Humanities
Department of Classics and General Humanities

CLASSICS DAY 2026 at MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026, 9.00 a.m—1.30 p.m.

*A program of presentations for high school students and teachers revolving around The Odyssey --
Christopher Nolan's and Homer's*

- Location: Montclair State University campus
- Registration fee: \$15.00 per person, student or adult, pre-registration required.
- Contact for further information: Victoria Larson, larsonv@mail.montclair.edu, (973) 655-7509

THE PROGRAM

9.00	11.20 a.m.	Presentations
11.30	12.00 p.m.	Student contest
12.00	1.00 p.m.	Lunch (catered for teachers, students bring brown bag or use MSU dining facilities)
1.00	1.30 p.m.	Awards ceremony

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATIONS BY CLASSICS & GENERAL HUMANITIES FACULTY

- A. "Digging for Legendary Troy: Excavation, Discovery, and the Making of Archaeological Knowledge"**
What lies beneath the legendary city of Troy? Explore the fascinating interplay of myth and archaeology, from Homer's epic tales and Heinrich Schliemann's dramatic excavations to the discoveries, controversies, and evolving interpretations that shape our understanding of the ancient past.
Deborah Chatr Aryamontri
- B. "Greek Myths Revisited: The Novels of Madeline Miller"**
This session will explore Miller's transformative retellings of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. We will discuss passages from her two award-winning novels: *Circe* and *The Song of Achilles*.
Mary English
- C. "Essence of The Odyssey: The Wanderings of Odysseus"**
The centerpiece of *The Odyssey* has long been recognized to be the "flashback" episodes of Books IX to XII, but their nuance and complexity is often overlooked, as evinced by the condensation of them in Christopher Nolan's recent film. To properly comprehend both source-text and adaptation, the thematic kaleidoscope of Odysseus's travel-stories needs to be unpacked and clarified.
Glen Robert Gill
- D. "Nolan's Odysseus, Homeric Epic, and PTSD"**
In this summer's blockbuster film *The Odyssey*, Christopher Nolan presents Odysseus as a veteran struggling with PTSD. Far from being anachronistic, the notion that combat can cause trauma is even older than the Homeric poems and while PTSD is a modern term, its symptoms are evident in ancient texts.
Prudence Jones

CONTEST

Schools may enter one group (maximum 6 students) per school to take a 30-minute 99 multiple-choice question contest on Latin grammar, classical mythology, and Roman civilization. The top three schools will be recognized in the award ceremony.

INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
with
Department of Classics and General Humanities
Montclair State University

Complete this form and return it asap, but no later than Monday, November 9, 2026 via email to: larsonv@mail.montclair.edu. **Please mail checks made out to "Montclair State University" or purchase orders to arrive by Monday, November 9, 2026 to:** Dr. Victoria Larson, Dept. of Classics & General Humanities, Dickson Hall 129, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ 07043. **An e-mail confirmation and further programming information will be sent on receipt of your registration form and check/purchase order.**

Teacher name(s): _____

Teacher email(s) (list all) _____

How many attending lunch (teachers only)? _____

Will you have a group (6 students max) entering the contest? _____

Department: _____

School name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime telephone: _____ Ext. _____

Number of students: _____ Number of teachers: _____

Total registration amount due (\$15.00 per each attendee, student or adult) _____

How are you paying (check or purchase order)? _____

If paying by check, is it enclosed with this form? Yes, enclosed: _____; No, sending separately:

Choosing Session Presentations

You will have the opportunity to attend two of the four presentations. Rank your choices from #1 (top) to #4 (bottom) next to the titles below (if no preference, assign the same ranking to all). ***We will try our best to give everyone their desired selections, but cannot guarantee to do so.***

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|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. _____ | "Digging for Troy" | (A) Deborah Chatr Aryamontri |
| B. _____ | "Greek Myths Revisited" | (B) Mary English |
| C. _____ | "Essence of The Odyssey" | (C) Glen Robert Gill |
| D. _____ | "Nolan's Odysseus" | (D) Prudence Jones |