

# Kentucky Class Notes

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*859.252.NOTE*

**CLA 135 Groover**  
**Spring 2009**  
**Test #2**

March 9, 2009

Chapter 15: 349-361

## Hades and the Afterlife

- Regarding the test, grades will be posted tonight or Tuesday on the website ([cla135.blogspot.com](http://cla135.blogspot.com)). The grades can also be accessed through the UK Classics website.
- HADES (the Greek name) is known by a number of names. By the Romans he is known as PLUTO (primarily), DIS, ORCUS, and DIS PATER. He should not be confused with PLUTON, though both have to do with wealth and riches. Pluto is associated with being a god of wealth.
  - Hades is the king of everyone as everyone eventually dies, and he also rules under the earth with gemstones meaning wealth. Another interpretation is that he is enriched with the tears of the lamenting.
  - Dis Pater means “father dis.”
  - The afterlife is terrible, with great mourning and people being punished in hell. He is a god that the Greeks don’t want to even see, so his name is not mentioned. He has many euphemisms and nicknames.
  - Hades probably rules the unseen or hidden world.
- His realm is the UNDERWORLD, meaning that it is as far from the earth underneath as heaven is above, quantified by Hesiod as taking 900 years to reach in free fall.
  - Hades is gloomy, but he is not competing with Zeus for the eternal soul. He can be terrible in wrath but the Greeks believed that the wicked will be punished. He is probably a sad, lonely man.
    - He fights just as hard as his brothers in the Titanomichy.
    - He is sometimes known as the CHTHONIAN ZEUS, the king of the Gods under the earth.
    - Chthonic gods, meaning gods under the earth, have sacrifices made through libations, which means a pouring out of liquid, typically the blood in the sacrifice.
    - Hades is not an Olympian but instead a god of the earth.
  - In art he is often on an Ebony THRONE, though he is not depicted in art often. The underworld is not depicted in art often. One of the normal stories or depictions is of the rape of Persephone. His dog is CERBERUS, the three headed “hound of hell.”

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if the gods love the serpents so much, maybe he should be one. He is changed into a snake. Harmonia is also changed into a snake. They are large, gentle, harmonious snakes that are worshiped locally. There are different versions, and in some they die and are changed into snakes to guard the city.

- The successor of Cadmus is his grandson Pentheus, who dares to defy Dionysus's worship in Thebes and gets ripped apart by his mother and aunts.
- In some versions the next king is LABDACUS. He does the exact same thing as Pentheus. As far as we can tell, and gets ripped to pieces by Maenads. He has a son named LAIUS, who is very young.
  - In his place, the REGENT rules. The regent is a substitute king. The regent is LYCUS for Laius. Lycus decides to be king as he has been regent a long, and he becomes king and rules for many years.
  - Lycus has a brother NYCTEUS who has a daughter ANTIOPE. She attracts Zeus, and he takes on the disguise of a Satyr.
  - She becomes pregnant. Her father is extremely upset and she has to flee. She makes her way to an area SICYON in the Peloponnese, finding refuge with the king EPOPEUS, and she stays and marries him. Nycteus tries to recover her and is unsuccessful. In some versions he can't find her and kills himself, and in others he tries to storm the city and gets killed. Then Lycus takes up the hunt and eventually covers her. She is pregnant at this time with twins. One is the son of Zeus and one is the son of Epopeus. She gives birth as they are going back to Thebes. The sons are named AMPHION and ZETHOS. She is forced to expose them.
    - EXPOSURE is what happens when babies are born who are unwanted, and are left outdoors to die. This is a historical fact and common in mythology.
    - That is the end in mythology, with often the baby being raised as someone pities them.
  - The twins are saved by a local shepherd who names them. The two of them grow up and Amphion becomes a musician playing the Lyre. He impresses Hermes so much that he is given a magical golden lyre. They become herdsmen and hunters, the model shepherds.
    - Their father has been imprisoned by Lycus and his wife Dirce, living as a slave for the king and queen.
      - She escapes into the fields and is captured by the two shepherds, and they discover that she is their mother. They discover her story and return to Thebes. They find Lycus and kill him. The wife of Lycus, Dirce, is tied to the horns of a bull which drags her to her

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- They grow up to be athletes, both Horse-tamers, though Castor with more talent at this, and Pollux is a Boxer. They also are associated with many heroic gatherings like Jason and the Argonauts and the Caledonian Boar Hunt.
- They end up not taking part in the Trojan War. They quarrel with some of their brothers, IDAS and LYNCEUS. The latter two were supposed to marry the daughters of LEUCIPPIS, the LEUCIPPIDES. Castor and Pollux take the two daughters, known as the Rape of the Leucippides (the abduction). In some versions they try to patch up the dispute by agreeing to go on a cattle raid; however, they then begin to argue over how the meat should be divided. Idas ambushes Castor and kills him. Idas is struck by Zeus. Pollux and Lynceus fight and Lynceus dies. Pollux is very sad over the death of his brother. In honor of Lynceus he would have been made immortal, so he is given a choice. Zeus allows him to either be immortal and let Castor die, or the two brothers can share the immortality. The most common version is, after Pollux chooses the second, is that they alternate days on Olympus and in Hades.
- As divinities they are associated with their sport and also with sailors and seafaring. They are associated with ST. ELMO'S FIRE, an electrostatic effect on the masts of a ship.
- Helen ends up being trouble her whole life. She is born as the most beautiful woman alive. She is the subject of an adventure when she is young.
  - THESEUS, the hero of Athens, was a friend named PIRITHOUS, the king of the Lapiths. They always try to mess up each other, and end up deciding to try and kidnap a daughter of Zeus. Pirithous tried to kidnap Persephone, Theseus kidnaps Helen, who is a child at this point (see notes on the Underworld for a full description of the story).
  - When she grows up, she is known as the face that launched a thousand ships (for the Trojan War).
  - When it is time to marry, every king in Greece tries to marry her. At this time, Greece is split up into various different City-States, like Athens and Sparta, each having their own king and government. The problem is all of the kings want to marry her, so all know it will be a problem for the winner as all of the other Greek kings will be jealous. At the meeting, THESEUS (who doesn't care and doesn't want to marry Helen as he loves another) suggests that everyone swears an oath of allegiance to the man chosen, and if he gets harmed everyone will go to war against him. Everyone thinks it is a great plan. Helen marries MENELAUS, and he becomes King of Sparta, and everyone swears an oath to Menelaus.
- The Trojan War is caused by an event that occurs at the wedding of PELEUS and THETIS.