

Greek and Roman Mythology

CH1 The Twelve Gods

授課老師：簡士捷 副教授

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The Greeks believe that...
before there were gods, heaven and earth had been formed.
They were the first parents to give birth.
The **Titans** were their children, and the gods were
their grandchildren.

Titans and the gods

The Titans were also called the Elder Gods. They were enormous in size and had incredible strength.

Among all Titans, the most important one was Cronus (Saturn). He governed other Titans until his son Zeus dethroned him.





The Twelve Gods

Zeus (Jupiter)

the lord of sky, the Rain-god, and the Cloud-gatherer



His power was greater than all the other gods'.

However, he was neither omnipotent nor omniscient.

Sometimes, the mysterious power, Fate, is referred to as stronger than he.





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Dominik Auliczek (1734-1804)

Hera (Juno)

Zeus's wife and sister.
The protector of marriage.

The cow and the peacock
were holy to her.

Argos was her favorite city.

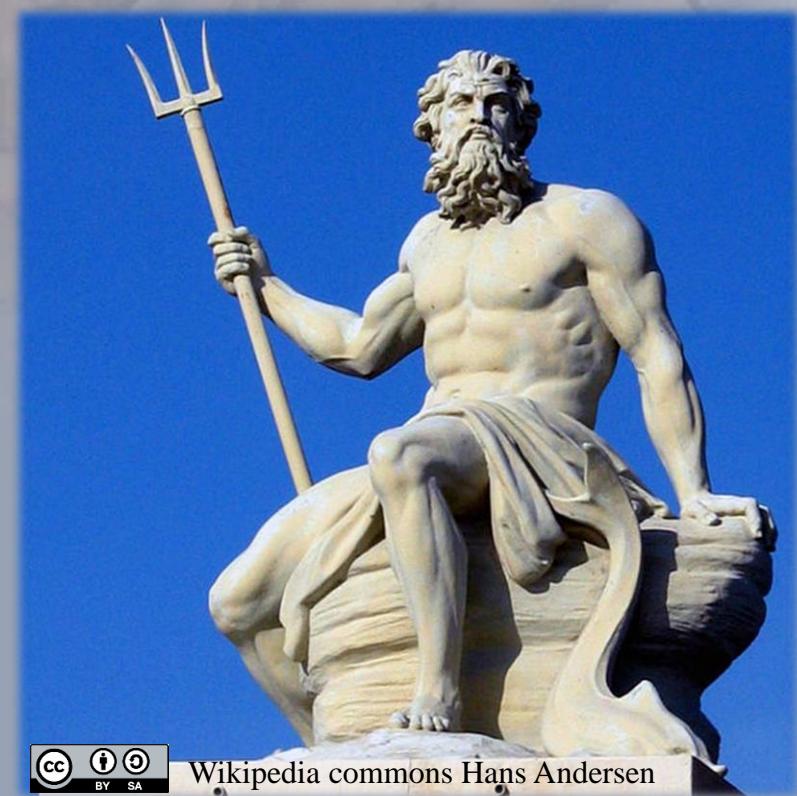
She was often shown as a
figure chiefly engaged in
punishing the many women
Zeus fell in love with.





Poseidon (Neptune)

The ruler of the sea, Zeus's brother and second only to him in eminence. Storm and calm were under his control.



He was the god who gave the first horse to man.



Hades (Pluto)

The third brother among the Olympians. The king of the Dead (not Death). The god of wealth.

Hades rarely left his dark realm to visit Olympus or the earth.

He was not a welcome visitor.

He was un pitying, inexorable, but just; terrible but not evil god.





Athena (Minerva)

Pre-eminently the Goddess of the City, the protector of civilized life, of handicrafts and agriculture; the inventor of bridle, who first tamed horses for men to use.

She was the daughter of Zeus alone and Zeus's favorite child.

She was often depicted as “gray-eyed,” or “flashing-eyed.”

The leader of the three virgin goddesses. She was the embodiment of wisdom, reason, purity.



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Phoebus Apollo

The god of Light. The god of Truth. The Healer. The lord of silver bow, the Archer-god, far-shooting.

He was the son of Zeus and Leto.

A graceful figure in Greek poetry. He was the master musician who delighted Olympus as he played his golden lyre.

The laurel was his tree.





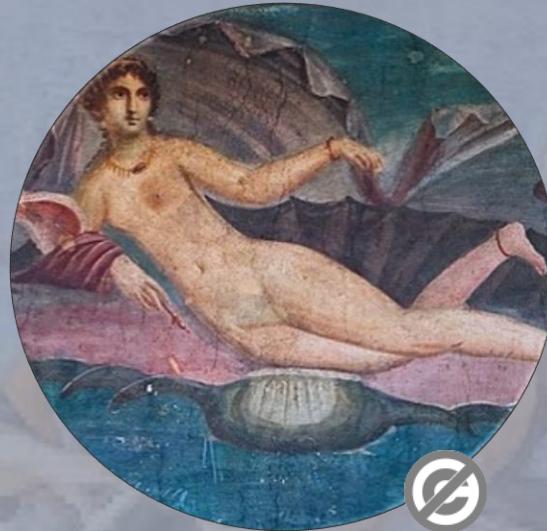
Artemis (Diana)

Apollo's twin sister. The Goddess of Hunting.
One of the three virgin goddess.

The Goddess with three forms:
Selene in the sky,
Artemis on earth,
Hecate in the underworld.
The cypress was her tree;
the deer, her animal.



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Aphrodite (Venus)

“Foam-risen” Aphrodite. Queen of Laughter.
The Love Goddess and Beauty. Cupid and Aeneas’ mother.
Wife of Hephaestus.

Appears as a “soft, weak creature and Zeus
and Dione’s daughter” in Iliad.

Shown as malicious and exerts destructive
power over men in other poems.

The myrtle was her tree; the dove, her bird.





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Hermes (Mercury)

Zeus' messenger, the Master Thief, the God of Commerce and Market, the protector of traders.

Hermes gave lyre (his invention) to Apollo as an apology for having stealing his herd.

The Caduceus was his magic wand.



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Ares (Mars)

Son of Zeus and Hera. God of War and the incarnate curse of mortals. His sister is Eris, the Goddess of Dispute.

He was Aphrodite's lover.

Symbol of War.

The Romans like Mars

better than the Greeks.

The vulture is his bird;

The dog, his animal.



Hephaestus (Vulcan, Mulciber)

The God of Fire, the workman of the immortals,
Aphrodite's consort.

Ugly and lame Hephaestus (the
protector of smiths) and Athena(the
protector of weavers)
were the patrons of civilization.

When children were formally admitted
to the city organization, the god of the
ceremony is Hephaestus.





Hestia (Vesta)

The Goddess of the Hearth, the symbol of home.

One of the three virgin Goddess.

Each city had a public hearth holy to Hestia, where the fire was never permitted to go out.

In Rome, her fire was cared by six virgin priestesses, called Vestals.



THE GIUSTINIANI HESTIA.

(Rome, now in the Torlonia Museum.)

[original the left hand is nearer the shoulder; the forefinger modern.]

The Lesser Gods of Olympus

Eros (Cupid)

The god of Love and Aphrodite's son, He was said to be blindfolded for love is often blind.



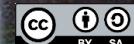
The Lesser Gods of Olympus

Hebe

The Goddess of youth, the daughter of Zeus and Hera.

A cupbearers to the gods.

She married Hercules, the greatest Greek hero.



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The Lesser Gods of Olympus

Iris

The Goddess of the Rainbow and a messenger for the gods.

The only messenger in Homer's Iliad.



The Lesser Gods of Olympus

The Muses and the Graces (nine in total)

1. Clio-the Muse of history
2. Urania-the Muse of astronomy
3. Melpomene-the Muse of tragedy
4. Thalia-the Muse of the comedy
5. Terpsichore-the Muse of dance
6. Calliope-the Muse of epic poetry
7. Erato-the Muse of love poetry
8. Polyhymnia-the Muse of songs to the gods
9. Euterpe-the Muse of lyric poetry

The Gods of the waters

Ocean and his wife Tethys are both TITANS

Oceanids, the nymphs of the great river, were their daughters. The gods of all rivers on earth were their sons.

1. Potus
2. Nereus
3. Triton
4. Proteus

The Underworld

The Erinyes (the Furies)

Sleep

Death

The Lesser Gods of Earth

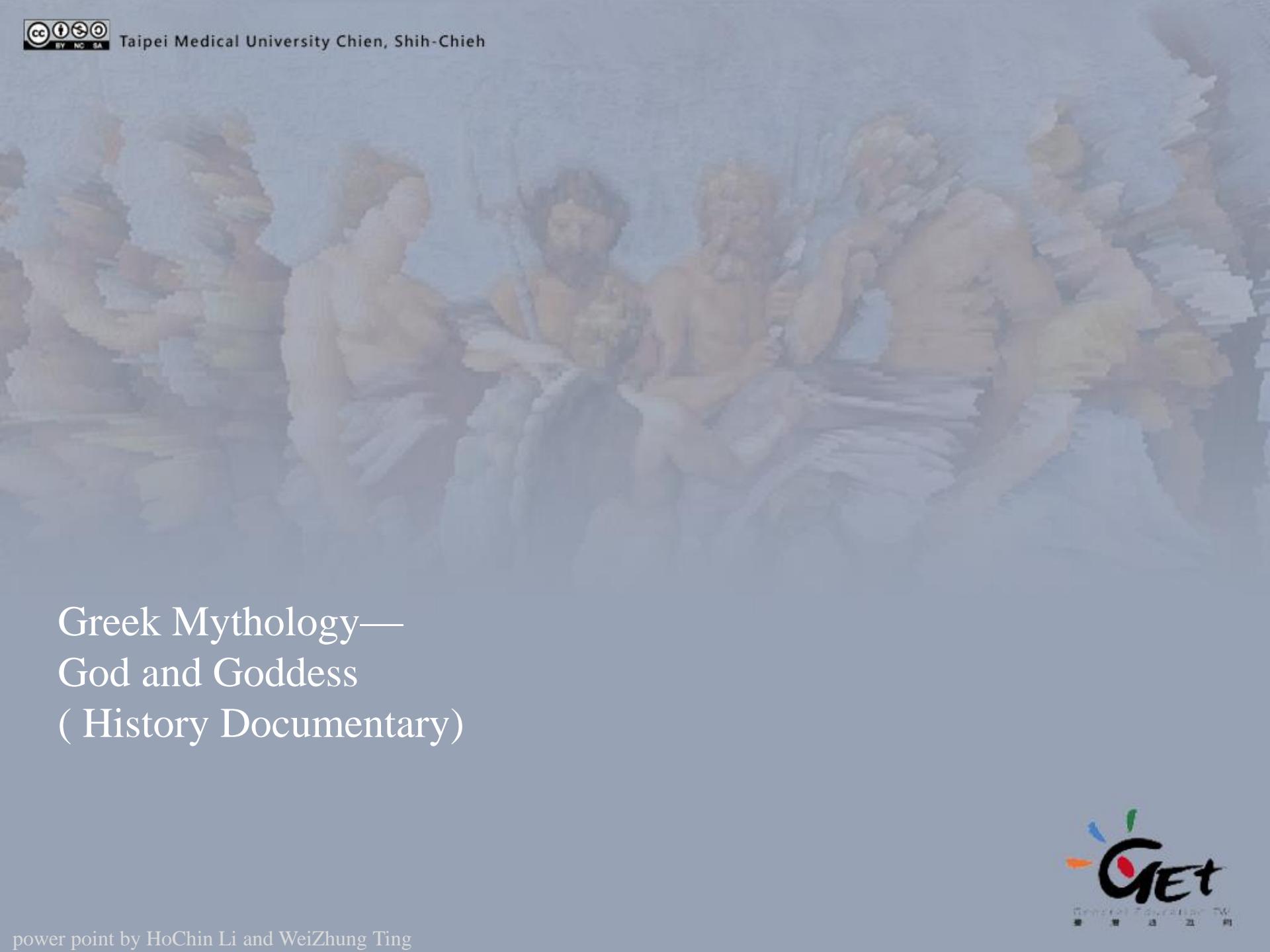
Demeter/ Dionysus(Bacchus)

Pan

- Silenus
- Leda
- Sileni
- Satyrs/ Oreads/ Dryads
- Aeolus (Boreas- North Wind/ Zephyr - West Wind/ Notus – South Wind/ Eurus – East Wind)

The Lesser Gods of the Earth

- The Centaurs (half man, half horse)
- The Gorgons
- The Graiae
- The Sirens
- The Fates
- Caster/ Pollux: the protectors of sailors.



Greek Mythology— God and Goddess (History Documentary)



Q&A

- ① Among the gods introduced in today's class, which one impressed you the most? Who do you like the most and why?

- ② Is there any similarities or differences between Chinese deities and Greek gods? Share your opinions.

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