COURSE DETAIL

DESCENT TO THE UNDERWORLD: TRANSFORMATIONS OF A MYTH
Country United Kingdom - England
Host Institution King's College London
Program(s) English Universities,King's College London
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Classics
UCEAP Course Number 128
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title DESCENT TO THE UNDERWORLD: TRANSFORMATIONS OF A MYTH
UCEAP Transcript Title DESCENT/UNDERWORLD
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
How have successive generations of poets imagined the afterlife? That is the question that this course explores. The course covers a wide range of belief systems within Western cultures and their various expressions in the poetic tradition. The first half of the course covers three of the most central treatments of the Underworld in the ancient world, ranging from the early wisdom literature of the Near East, to the second epic of the Greek tradition, THE ODYSSEY, to Augustan Rome and the formative epic of the West, THE AENEID. The second half of the course explores a range of texts reflecting a Christian view of the afterlife, beginning in 6th-century Syria with the most celebrated hymn writer in Greek, Romanos, moving on to 14th-century Florence with Dante, and then turning to the older, arguably pre-Christian vision of Hades set out in Greek folk songs. The course also covers the first modern Greek printed book, A DESCENT TO HADES, composed by an otherwise unknown poet from Venetian Crete.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
6AACTL65

Host Institution Course Title
DESCENT TO THE UNDERWORLD: TRANSFORMATIONS OF A MYTH

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
King's College London

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Classics

Course Last Reviewed

Print