

Arti Mehta, Ph.D. is an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Classics at Howard University. Mehta earned an undergraduate degree in English at San Francisco State University, with a focus on poetry and on literature by women. On formally entering the field of classics in graduate school, she acquired the languages of classical studies (M.A. in Greek), the methodologies of comparative literature, and the religious, philosophical, and story-telling perspectives of India studies. She was a Summer Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in 2000, awarded the Semple Grant from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. Indiana University graduate student and dissertation fellowships led her to write a thesis on Greek, Latin and Indian fables under the aegis of Eleanor Leach, Ph.D. thereby earning a Ph.D. in Greek with minors in Latin and Sanskrit. A project on the philosophy of Jainism, conducted in India, was adopted into her high school library; her dissertation was accepted by the Library of Congress. Mehta teaches language and literature classes in the Department of Classics.

For twenty years Mehta has taught ancient languages - Greek, Latin, Sanskrit in prose and poetry - to students of all ages at various institutions and to distance learners from Africa and Asia. She has instructed lecture and seminar classes on ancient and comparative mythology and its modern retellings, satire and comedy, Greek and Roman culture, art and archaeology, medical and scientific terminology, writing composition, graduate research in Latin, as well as humanities classes in oral traditional literature and tragedy. Mehta wrote a handbook for *Wheelock's Latin*, reviewed a proposed Greek textbook, introduced children to ancient Greek culture at the Greek Embassy in Washington, D.C., and mentored students' undergraduate research projects. As a co-principal investigator for an NEH grant to expand the classics curriculum by incorporating the greater Mediterranean region, she focused on West Asia; modules on ancient river cultures often appear in her classes. She intends to develop a one-semester section of Ideas in Antiquity into a course on ancient popular culture, drawing upon folkloric and performative genres from the Mediterranean, Africa, and Asia.

Mehta's research interests include comparative folklore, forms and methods of story-telling found in fables and Greek lyric poetry, Greek and Latin grammatical and rhetorical handbooks, political appraisals of ancient writers, as well as literary representations of women. Recently Dr. Mehta has presented comparative projects on Aesop as an Indian *rishi* at the University of Maryland College Park; Horace and Huey P. Newton at the Classical Association of the Atlantic States; and ancient animal metaphors from Greece and India at the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies with the Embassy of India. An article comparing early Greek myths of fire to ritual hymns from Vedic India is forthcoming this spring; a book on ancient divinities of fire is in progress.