

Greek Literature in Translation

In this course we will read some of the great works of ancient Greek literature and examine how they confront permanent human problems. What are the limits of war and political conflict, of love and the search for truth? Is happiness to be found in power and money or in knowledge and wisdom? Is there such a thing as Truth? Our sources will be poets, historians, playwrights, and philosophers. For comparison, we will also read parallel Anglo-Saxon texts from the early medieval period.

Instructors

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Required Books (available at SBX on High St.)

1. Homer, *The Iliad*, translated by E. Vieu, University of Chicago Press.
2. *The Portable Greek Historians*, ed. M. I. Finley, Penguin Books.
3. Plato and Aristophanes, *Four Texts on Socrates*, translated by T. G. and G. S. West, Cornell University Press.
4. *The Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology*, tr. K. Crossley-Holland, Oxford University Press.

Weekly Agenda

This course consists of lectures and discussion sections. There will be three lectures per week (MTW, 9:30-10:18, in UH 014), except as indicated on the schedule below. Students must also be registered in one of the four discussion groups that meet at the same time on Thursday (in BI 676 and ML 173) and Friday (in UH 38 and DB 80). The lectures will focus on the literary appreciation of the texts and will also present historical and archaeological material relevant to our understanding of them. The sections will be primarily devoted to student questions, quizzes, and responses to written assignments.¹

¹If you need special accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact one of the instructors as soon as possible. We can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. We rely on the Office For Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, we encourage you to do so now.

Grades

Final grades will be based on five weekly quizzes (30%, or 6% each), two short papers (20%, or 10% each), a midterm (20%) and a final examination (30%). There will be six brief quizzes in all, taken in section (Thursday and Friday) in the weeks listed in the syllabus below; the lowest grade among these will be discounted. Each quiz will cover the material presented in lecture that week. The purpose of the quizzes will be to make sure you are keeping up with the reading and paying attention in lecture. The two short papers (due in weeks 5 and 11) will be graded with particular attention to the correct use of English in making lucid and logical arguments about the texts in question. Paper topics will be given out three weeks in advance. You are encouraged to turn them in early. The midterm and final examinations will include both multiple choice and short answer questions. The final will *not* be cumulative. Section instructors may assign discretionary extra points for constructive participation in discussions. Makeups and extensions will be granted only for verified emergencies about which we are notified well in advance. There will be no exceptions.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and the University's policies will be followed in all cases. Note that we are familiar with internet plagiarizing services.

Syllabus

WEEK 1

Classes begin on 20 September (W)

1. Why Literature? Why Greek Literature? (R. Lattimore's Introduction to Homer's *Iliad*)

WEEK 2

1. Introduction to Homer's *Iliad*
2. Homer, *Iliad*, Books 1-3, 5
3. Homer, *Iliad*, Books 6, 9-10, 12, 14

Quiz #1

WEEK 3

1. Homer and the Bronze Age
2. Homer, *Iliad*, Books 16-19
3. Homer, *Iliad*, Books 21-24

Quiz #2

WEEK 4

1. Who were the Anglo-Saxons? (*The Wanderer* and *The Seafarer* in *Anthology* pp. 50-56)
2. *Beowulf* and *Finnesburgh Fragment* (*Anthology* pp. 70-121 and 8-9)
3. *Beowulf* (*Anthology* pp. 121-154)

Quiz #3

WEEK 5

1. Herodotos on Lydia and Egypt (*Portable Greek Historians* pp. 27-53, 63-81)
2. Herodotos on the Persian War (*Portable Greek Historians* pp. 100-104, 140-157)
3. Anglo-Saxon Battles and Exploration (*Anthology* pp. 11-19, 62-68)

Quiz #4; Paper #1 due in section.

WEEK 6

1. Midterm Examination on 23 October (M)
2. Introduction to Thucydides (*Portable Greek Historians* pp. 1-13)
3. Thucydides, The Beginnings (*Portable Greek Historians* pp. 217-237)

WEEK 7

1. Thucydides, The Athenian Doctrine (*Portable Greek Historians* pp. 251-278)
2. Thucydides, Revolution and Rebellion (*Portable Greek Historians* pp. 278-298)
3. Polybios, The Roman Constitution (*Portable Greek Historians* pp. 441-447, 473-501)

Quiz #5

WEEK 8

1. The Theater in Democratic Athens
2. Philosophers and Sophists in Greece before Sokrates
3. Aristophanes, *The Clouds* (T. G. West's Introduction to *Four Texts on Sokrates*)

No discussion sections this week (Veterans' Day).

WEEK 9

1. Aristophanes, *The Clouds*
2. Plato, The Invisible Philosopher
3. Plato, *Euthyphro*

Quiz #6

WEEK 10

1. Plato, *Euthyphro* and *Apology of Sokrates*
2. Plato, *Apology of Sokrates*
3. Slide Presentation: Ancient Greece (W)

No discussion sections this week (Thanksgiving Day and Columbus Day).

WEEK 11

1. Plato, *Apology of Sokrates*
2. Classical Political Thought and the Challenge of Modernity
3. Final Examination on 29 November (W)

Paper #2 due in section.