

Hum/En 20
The Epic Tradition
Fall 2020
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Requirements and Procedures

By the morning of each class you must send me by email (gwp@caltech.edu) a question on the reading. I will choose one of the questions for a short quiz, which will take place at the beginning of class.

You must write three essays, the first two approximately 1,250 words long and the third, approximately 1,500 words long. The first essay is due October 18 at 11:59 pm, the second, November 22 at 11:59 pm, and the third, December 10 at 5 pm. If you'd like me to read a draft of your essay before submitting it to be graded, I'll try to do so provided that you send it to me a couple of days before it is due.

Roughly two-thirds of your grade will be based on the essays, and the other third on your quizzes and participation in class. You must receive a passing grade on all of the essays to pass the class. If you are not a freshman, the course may be taken for grades only.

Required Texts

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Richmond Lattimore (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Emily Wilson (New York: Norton, 2017).

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ed. Gordon Teskey (New York: Norton, 2020).

Virgil, *The Aeneid*, trans. David Ferry (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017).

Writing Matters

Caltech's Hixon Writing Center offers a number of resources that you may find useful for supporting your writing in this class, including tutorial support that allows you to discuss a work-in-progress with a professional or peer tutor. You can learn more about the Center, how to make an appointment with a tutor, and about their other resources on their website (<http://writing.caltech.edu>).

Plagiarism is a serious offense against the Caltech honor code and against the scholarly community at large; you should become thoroughly familiar with "Avoiding Plagiarism: Guidelines and Expectations for Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Caltech" (<http://www.hss.caltech.edu/academics/avoiding-plagiarism>).

Schedule

September 29	Introduction
October 1	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 1-3
October 6	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 4-8
October 8	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 9-13
October 13	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 14-19
October 15	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 20-24
October 20	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 1-6
October 22	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 7-12
October 27	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 13-18
October 29	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 19-24
November 3	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> 1-3
November 5	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> 4-6
November 10	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> 7-9
November 12	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> 10-12
November 17	Writing workshop. You must have completed a draft of your second essay by November 16 at 5 pm for this peer-review workshop.
November 19	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> 1-3
November 24	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> 4-6
December 1	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> 7-9
December 3	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> 10-12