

Hum/En 20
Greek Epic and Drama
Winter 2019
George Pigman

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 January 27 at 11:59 pm, the second, November 24 at 11:59 pm, and the third, March 20 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.

If you have not already, you must attend the "Presentation on Working with Sources: Avoiding Plagiarism and Working Effectively with the Texts of Others" at the Hixon Writing Center. See <http://writing.caltech.edu/workshops> for more information.

Please do not bring laptops, tablets, or smartphones to class.

The easiest way to communicate with me is by email, but I am happy to speak to you in person. My office is 208 Dabney.

Required Texts

I realize that books are expensive and that translations of these works are available for free on the web. But there are two problems with using those translations in addition to your not being able to bring them to class. First, since different translators have different principles of translation, you may find one that takes great liberties with the Greek. Second, many freely available translations have no notes, and without notes you won't be able to understand the numerous allusions to Greek myths.

The Greek Plays: Sixteen Plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, ed. Mary Lefkowitz and James Romm (New York: Modern Library, 2017).

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Robert Fagles (New York: Penguin, 1998).

Writing Matters

Caltech's Hixon Writing Center, located on the north end of the 3rd floor of the Center for Student Services, 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 location of the Hixon Writing 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 the Hixon Writing Center's "Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism" (<https://www.writing.caltech.edu/students/plagiarism>). Also, if you haven't already, you must attend a presentation on "Working with Sources Ethically and Effectively." You must sign up by January 15. For more information see <http://writing.caltech.edu/students/workshops>.

Collaboration Policy

All academic writers commonly work with others to improve their writing. There are several roles that others might serve for academic writers. Co-authors are the people who help an author create a work by generating original language, developing key ideas, gathering data, or refining methods. As a result, all co-authors' names appear on the final text of the work. Reviewers read and make suggestions toward the improvement of a piece of writing, usually in the form of marginal comments, endnotes, or conversations that explain their impressions of the strengths and limits of the draft. The author is then left to figure out how to make revisions in response to that feedback. Editors differ from reviewers in that they offer much more direction about what must be done to improve a text, and they often will generate specific language that is then incorporated into the text.

For this class your collaboration with others must be limited to reviewing. You should seek out trusted reviewers for your writing, including peers inside the class, friends outside the class, and the tutors in the Hixon Writing Center. Listen critically to their thoughts about your work-in-progress. Decide how useful their feedback seems, and figure out how you will use their comments to improve your work. You cannot, however, ask or allow anyone to co-author or edit your essay; no one but you can generate new language or make decisions about how to reorganize or otherwise change the essay.

You are not allowed to collaborate with professional co-authors, reviewers, or editors outside of Caltech who are remunerated for their work on your writing.

If you find yourself in a gray area, tell me your concerns before submitting your essay so that we can work through them together. If overcollaboration is discovered after the essay is submitted, it will be referred to the Board of Control.

Schedule

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| January 8 | Introduction |
| January 10 | Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 1–3 |
| January 15 | Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 4–8 |
| January 17 | Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 9–13 |
| January 22 | Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 14–18 |
| January 24 | Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 19–24 |
| January 29 | Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i> |
| January 31 | Aeschylus, <i>The Libation Bearers</i> |
| February 5 | Aeschylus, <i>The Eumenides</i> |
| February 7 | Sophocles, <i>Electra</i> |
| February 12 | Euripides, <i>Electra</i> |
| February 14 | Euripides, <i>Helen</i> |
| February 19 | Euripides, <i>The Trojan Women</i> |
| February 21 | Writing workshop at Hixon Writing Center. You must have completed a draft of your second essay by February 20 at 5 pm for this peer-review workshop. |
| February 26 | Euripides, <i>Hippolytus</i> |
| February 28 | Sophocles, <i>Bacchae</i> |
| March 5 | Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> |
| March 7 | Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> |
| March 12 | Sophocles, <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> |