

Hum/En 20
Greek Epic and Drama
Winter 2020
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 26 at 11:59 pm, the second, February 23 at 11:59 pm, and the third, March 16 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.

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. Finally, you do need to use Lattimore's translation of *The Iliad*; otherwise you will miss a fundamental aspect of Homeric epic, the use of formulas.

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. Richmond Lattimore (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Emily Wilson (New York: Norton, 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 at Caltech" (<http://www.hss.caltech.edu/academics/avoiding-plagiarism>).

Schedule

January 7	Introduction
January 9	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 1–3
January 14	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 4–8
January 16	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 9–13
January 21	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 14–19
January 23	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 20–24
January 28	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 1–6
January 30	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 7–12
February 4	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 13–18
February 6	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 19–24
February 11	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>
February 13	Aeschylus, <i>The Libation Bearers</i>
February 18	Aeschylus, <i>The Eumenides</i>
February 20	Writing workshop at Hixon Writing Center. You must have completed a draft of your second essay by February 19 at 5 pm for this peer-review workshop.
February 25	Sophocles, <i>Electra</i>
February 27	Euripides, <i>Electra</i>
March 3	Euripides, <i>Hippolytus</i>
March 5	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i>
March 10	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>