

C O U R S E O U T L I N E

Fall 2009

CLAS-3752/001 History of Greek Literature

Professor Mark Golden

Tu / Th 10:00-11:15; Classroom 1L06

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Office Hours: M/W 11:00-12:00 noon

History of Greek Literature is a survey course of complete works by the major Greek authors of epic and drama between the eighth and fourth centuries BCE. The subject is of interest in its own right, but Greek literature -- especially epic and drama -- has also had enormous influence on the later development of Western European literature. Our concentration will naturally be on the classical literature itself, but its legacy will also be considered from time to time.

Classes will involve lectures by the instructor, group discussions in which he will serve only as a facilitator, and films.

Recommended Texts:

Homer, *The Iliad* (trans. R. Lattimore) / University of Chicago Press

Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. W. Shewring) / Oxford University Press

Aeschylus, I. *Oresteia* (trans. R. Fagles) / Penguin

Sophocles, I. *Three Tragedies* (trans. D. Grene) / University of Chicago Press

Euripides, I. *Four Tragedies* / University of Chicago Press

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata and Other Plays* (trans. A. Sommerstein) / Penguin

Students may use whatever translations they wish BUT these are the ones I will refer to in class and reproduce on the exam.

Marking Scheme:

First assignment	Thursday, 22 October	30%
Second assignment	Tuesday, 1 December	30%
Final exam	Monday, 14 December (9 a.m.)	40%

Calculators may be used in all exams.

Section VII of the Campus Guide includes information on appeals, withdrawal dates and academic misconduct.

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Schedule of Classes:

September	10	Handouts / Introduction
	15, 17	Homer, <i>Iliad</i>
	22, 24	Homer, <i>Iliad</i>
	29, Oct. 1	Homer, <i>Iliad</i>
October	6, 8	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i>
	13, 15	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i>
	20, 22	Greek Drama / Tragedy First Assignment Due 22 October
	27, 29	Aeschylus, <i>Oresteia</i>
	30	Final withdrawal date
	November	3, 5
10, 12		Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> / <i>Antigone</i>
17, 19		Euripides, <i>Medea</i> / <i>Alcestis</i>
24, 26		Comedy / Aristophanes, <i>Clouds</i> / <i>Lysistrata</i>
December 1		Final Exam Study Guide Second Assignment Due

Work submitted for evaluation must be typed.

Students will not be asked to show identification during exams.

**The final date to withdraw from this course without academic penalty is
October 30, 2009.**

FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Value: 30 percent of final grade
Due: Thursday, 22 October
Maximum Length: 2000 words

Do EITHER Assignment A OR Assignment B

Assignment A:

Choose any episode or choral song in the epics and plays we study in this course (e.g., the embassy to Achilles in the *Iliad*, the Circe episode in the *Odyssey*, lines 368-411 in Sophocles, *Antigone*). Show how this episode or song fits and furthers the structure/plot and theme(s) of the work as a whole. You should consider elements of style and language, imagery, echoes of earlier and later passages in the same work, adaptations of traditional tales and/or any other factor you think relevant. To do this assignment well, you need both (1) some ideas about the main theme(s) in the work you discuss and (2) some sensitivity to literary technique. In other words, you must have both a general and a detailed understanding of the work you choose.

ASSIGNMENT B:

Choose any one of the works we study in this course. Identify one later (not originally Greek or Latin) work or section of a work (a poem, play, pop song, movie, painting...) based on or directly inspired by this work or by any significant part of it. (You may wish to consult a work of reference such as G. Highet, *The classical tradition*; P. Mayerson, *Classical mythology in literature, art and music*; L. Feder, *Ancient myth in modern poetry*; R. Jenkyns, *The Victorians and ancient Greece*; a textbook on classical myth.) Please do not work on a later work we have discussed in detail in class. Outline the ways in which the plot and/or treatment of the later work differ from the original. Account for these differences with reference to the authors' intentions, the audiences' expectations, the genres of the works, the social and political contexts of their composition and presentation or publication, and/or any other factors you consider relevant.

I will be happy to discuss your work with you and to comment on early drafts before you hand in your final copy.

Late assignments may be penalized 1 mark per day.