

The Trojan War in Popular Culture: The First Three Thousand Years

Fall 2008

Class Meetings: Tuesday/Friday 8-9:15 AM

Professor Megan Cifarelli, Department of Art History

Email: cifarellim@mville.edu This is the BEST way to contact me.

Phone: 323-7265

Office: Brownson 214

Office Hours: Wednesday 9-12, or by appt.

Course Content: This class will examine the legendary Trojan War through literature, historical texts, archaeology, the visual arts, drama, and film. We will begin with a close reading of the earliest written account of the Trojan War, Homer's *Iliad*, and the remaining fragments of other works in the *Epic Cycle*. Next, we will explore the historicity of the Trojan War as described by Homeric poets through an investigation of the archaeology of on of Bronze Age Greece and the Aegean coast of Turkey (the likely setting of the Trojan War). The course will then trace the influence of the Homeric Trojan War stories on the visual, literary and performing arts of classical Greece, the Roman Empire, and early modern Europe. The course will culminate with an examination of the contemporary echoes of *The Iliad* in films such as *Unforgiven* (1992) and *Troy* (2004).

Course Goals: The Preceptorial is a year long, seminar-style course required of all Manhattanville freshmen. It is intended to foster the intellectual development of students and provide a foundation for college-level academic work through an introduction to the liberal arts tradition of world civilization.

- Preceptorial classes are kept small in order to facilitate careful consideration of the ideas contained in these texts, ideas that have influenced people, institutions, and whole societies for hundreds, sometimes thousands of years.
- The Preceptorial's overall mission is to provide a setting in which students strengthen academic skills such as reading, speaking, and analyzing as a foundation for further study, as well as a richer and more meaningful life; to help students get to know well a diverse group of their fellow students while engaging in a common intellectual endeavor; and to insure that they develop, through regular contact, a constructive relationship with their academic advisor that will serve them well as they proceed beyond their freshman year at Manhattanville.
- The teacher of the Preceptorial (the Preceptor) is also the student's academic advisor until the student declares a major and selects an advisor in his or her major field. In addition to guiding the student to plan appropriate courses for both Freshman semesters, the Preceptor introduces him/her to the Manhattanville Portfolio System and establishes a mentoring relationship that facilitates a successful adjustment to college.

Required Texts:

Homer, *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles

Martin Winkler, ed., *Troy: From Homer's Iliad to Hollywood Epic*, Blackwell, 2007.

Supplemental reading will be available on the course's Blackboard site, which you can access through the Manhattanville Library web portal.

Classroom Policies:

1. Class attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences during the semester will be considered as a lack of full participation. Use the two permitted absences for real emergencies.
2. Class participation is an important factor in determining your final grade. In order to participate in a meaningful way, you will need to have completed the reading and writing assignments before each class. A good rule of thumb for this course (and any 1000/2000 level course) is that you will need to spend at least two hours of reading, research and writing for each hour that you spend in class.
3. Absence from an exam will be excused only for reasons of illness or emergency, and only if accompanied by a letter from the Office of Academic Advising. If the absence is excused, no grade will be recorded. If absence is unexcused, a grade of 0 will be recorded. *No make-ups will be given in either case.*
4. Given that you are all adults, it is expected that while in class you will conduct yourself in accordance with generally observed rules of decorum and civility. Arrive for class punctually, and please speak to me before class if you will need to leave before the class period is over. Please do not speak while others are speaking, unless you are asking or answering a question. Please turn cell phones off for the duration of class.
5. If you require special accommodations for exam taking (such as extended time), it is your responsibility to inform the professor of your needs. It is also your responsibility to make arrangements with ARC and/or the HELP center, and to submit the proper paperwork that will allow for arrangements to be made. Requests for special accommodations not made through official channels can not be granted.
6. This course has a zero tolerance policy regarding plagiarism and cheating. You are expected to be aware of, and to conduct yourselves in accordance with the rules regarding academic integrity found in the Manhattanville College Code of Conduct. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported immediately to the Dean of Academic Advising. If confirmed, academic dishonesty in this course will result in a failing grade for the course. Additional sanctions may also be imposed by the Provost.

Grading: Each student's grade will be determined as followed:

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 20%

Writing assignments: 80%

(Library assignment 1, Writing assignments 1 and 2, weighed equally)

Schedule of lectures and assignments:			
	Discussion Topic	Reading	Assignments*
T 8/ 26	Introduction	None	
F, 8/ 29	How do we know about the past?		In-class writing assignment
T, 9/ 2	Library Tour: Meet at the Second Floor Library Lab		
F, 9/ 5	Introduction to the Iliad: Oral and Written traditions		Library Assignment 1
T, 9/ 9	Why was the Trojan War fought?	Iliad Books 1-3	
F, 9/ 12		Iliad Books 4-6	
T, 9/ 16	What roles do the gods play in <i>The Iliad</i> ?	Iliad Books 7-10	Revisions for Library Assignment
F, 9/ 19	What is a hero?	Iliad Books 11-14	
T, 9/ 23		Iliad Books 15-18 W.H. Auden , The Shield of Achilles http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15547 Auden Biography	
F, 9/ 26	Mortals and immortals	Iliad Books 19-22	
T, 9/ 30		Iliad Books 23-24 Read Simone Weil, ERES	
F, 10/ 3	The next chapter: Epic Cycle and the Odyssey	Reading One Aithiopsis Reading Two: Little Iliad Reading Three: Iliouperisis Reading Four: The Nostoi Book 11, The Odyssey	The class will be divided into five small groups, each of which will be responsible for reading and presenting one of these readings.
T, 10/ 7	Archaeology/ Bronze Age I: Greece		
F, 10/ 10	Archaeology/ Bronze Age II: Troy	Fagles, <i>Iliad</i> intro. pp 23-31; "Was there a Trojan War?" Manfred Korfman, <i>Archaeology</i> , vol 57.3, May 2004. Bryce article in Additional Readings on Blackboard	

T, 10/ 14	Archaeology/ Bronze Age III: Interaction	"History Beneath the Sea," Bass, George, <i>Archaeology</i> : Nov 1998. Vol. 51.6, p 48.	
F, 10/ 17	Troy in Greek Drama: Aeschylus	Foley, ERES Excerpt from <i>Agamemnon</i> , ERES	
T, 10/ 21	Troy in Greek Art I		
F, 10/ 24	Troy in Greek Art II		Writing Assignment 1 due
T, 10/ 28	The Trojan War/Ancient Rome	<i>Aeneid</i> , Excerpts, ERES	
F, 10/ 31	The Trojan War/Ancient Rome	<i>Aeneid</i> , Excerpts, ERES	
T, 11/ 4	The Trojan War in a Christian context: morality and romance	http://librda.mville.edu:2237/ views/ENTRY.html? entry=t179.e578&srn=7&ssi d=426238443#FIRSTHIT	
F, 11/ 7	Medieval versions of the Trojan War Story	Excerpt from Chaucer's "Troilus and Cressyde," ERES	
T, 11/ 11			
F, 11/ 14	The Trojan War/Elizabethan England	Excerpts from Shakespeare's "Troilus and Cressida," ERES	
T, 11/ 18			
F, 11/ 21	Honor in Love and War	Read Edmondson article on Blackboard: Honor according to Aristotle, Thucydides, Shakespeare's Ulysses, and Troilus	
T, 11/ 25	Film Discussion I	Taking notes on films	
F, 11/ 28	No Class		
T 12/2	Film Discussion II	Film screening on Channel 61 or 62.	
F, 12/ 5	Last day of Classes	Film Assignment Due:	Writing Assignment 2 Due

*Details and Instructions for all assignments

Library Assignment 1: Research the biography of Homer, and write a one page comparison of the information presented in three sources, one from each of the following categories.

1. Print based reference material from the Manhattanville library.
2. Electronic reference material from the Manhattanville library web portal.
3. Online reference source (outside of those from the Manhattanville web portal)

Be sure to include correct and accurate citation information for each of your three sources.

Writing Assignment 1:

Due on October 24th, 2008 in CLASS --- Please note that any paper submitted late without the consent of the professor will be penalized a full letter grade.

Please submit a 5 page paper on one of the two the following topics:

1. In *The Iliad*, the idea of heroism in warfare is explored through several different characters. Choose three characters as the focus of your discussion of what the Iliad tells us about what it means to be a hero, particularly in within the context of war.
2. *The Iliad* is the story of the human and divine participation in the Trojan War. Given what we have discussed in class regarding the roles of men and women in Ancient Greek society, why do you think that female characters (both human and divine) feature so prominently? Why doesn't this account of warfare focus exclusively on men in battle? Choose three female characters upon which to base your argument.

Guidelines:

For general guidelines regarding the writing of college papers, see:
http://dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/what.shtml

Your paper must:

- Present an informed argument with a thesis statement.
- Be 5 pages long.
- Be typed and printed on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper
- Be double spaced, using 12 point font and 1 inch margins.
- Have a header that numbers all pages consecutively.
- Use either italics or underlining for the titles.
- Use parenthetical citations for quotations from *The Iliad* citing Book # and line numbers.
- Use footnotes for citing all sources (both paraphrased and direct quotations), including an initial citation for *The Iliad*, which should (in addition to publication information) state "Subsequent citations from this source will be noted parenthetically within the text."
- Include a bibliography.
- Be largely free of errors in spelling, typing, grammar and syntax. In other words, YOU MUST EDIT YOUR PAPERS *BEFORE* YOU TURN THEM IN.

- May be resubmitted with revisions before the end of the semester. The revised grade will be substituted for the original grade.

Grading Criteria:

Meaning: To what extent does this paper present an informed argument that exhibits sound understanding, interpretation and analysis of the task? How well does the paper conform to the requirements of the assigned topics?

Development: To what extent does this paper develop its informed argument using specific and relevant evidence from the subject/text?

Organization: To what extent does this paper present information and interpretation in a logical, appropriately structured manner?

Language Use: To what extent does this paper effectively use words, sentence structure and sentence variety? How sophisticated, appropriate and accurate is the language used?

Conventions: To what extent does the paper exhibit conventional spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, capitalization, grammar and usage.

Citation of Sources: To what extent does the paper exhibit appropriate conventions for citation of direct quotations and paraphrased ideas.