

# The Hero in Ancient Greece and Rome

01:190:377 Fall 2006

Tues, Thurs 1:10-2:30 pm (4<sup>th</sup> Period)

Scott Hall 214, CAC

Leah Kronenberg  
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Office Hour: Tuesdays 3-4 pm and by appt

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## Course Description

This course will explore the literary, religious and cultural importance of heroes in the ancient world. We will use primarily literary evidence to study their role in ancient society, though modern cinematic renditions of their epic adventures, however cheesy and cringe-inducing, will be liberally interspersed with the great works of Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Apollonius of Rhodes, and Virgil. Using these sources, we will attempt to understand what a hero was to the Greeks and the Romans and to figure out why the stories of these larger-than-life figures continue to have meaning today.

## Course Website

The course website is accessible through the WebCT homepage. Go to <https://webct.rutgers.edu> and follow the instructions for logging in as a student. You will need to have a NetID and password to access the website.

## Required Texts (Available at RU Ferren Mall bookstore)

- 1) *Iliad*. Homer. Tr. Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Publishing 1997. ISBN 0-87220-352-2
- 2) *Odyssey*. Homer. Tr. Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Publishing. 2000. ISBN 0-87220-484-7
- 3) *Sophocles. The Complete Plays*. Tr. Paul Roche. Signet Classic. ISBN 0-451-52784-4
- 4) *Euripides. Medea, Hippolytus, Heracles, Bacchae*. Stephen Esposito, ed. Focus Classical Library. ISBN 1-58510-048-X
- 5) *Apollonius of Rhodes. Jason and the Golden Fleece*. Tr. Richard Hunter. Oxford World's Classics. ISBN 0-19-283583-1
- 6) *Virgil. Aeneid*. Tr. Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Publishing. ISBN 0-87220-731-5

## Grading and Evaluation

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|---|-----|
| 1. Attendance and class participation             | 10% |
| 2. Test #1 (Tues, Oct 17))                        | 25% |
| 4. Test #2 (Tues, Nov 16)                         | 25% |
| 5. Final Exam (Mon, Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> 8-11 am) | 40% |

Note: the Final Exam will be cumulative. There will be no make-ups given on tests (except for documented emergencies or religious holidays) or extra-credit assignments. Readings are due for the class under which they are listed.

## Schedule (subject to change)

### Week 1

Tues Sept 5  
Introduction

Thurs Sept 7  
The Greek Hero

### Part I: Homeric Epic

### Week 2

Tues Sept 12  
Homer, *Iliad* Books 1, 3, 6

Thurs Sept 14  
*Iliad* Books 9, 10, 16

### **Week 3**

Tues Sept 19  
*Iliad* Books 18, 19, 22

Thurs Sept 21  
*Iliad* Books 23, 24

### **Week 4**

Tues Sept 26  
*Odyssey* 1-4

Thurs Sept 28  
*Odyssey* 5-8

### **Week 5**

Tues Oct 3  
*Odyssey* 9-12

Thurs Oct 5  
*Odyssey* 13-16

### **Week 6**

Tues Oct 10  
*Odyssey* 17-20

Thurs Oct 12  
*Odyssey* 21-24

### **Week 7**

Tues Oct 17  
**Test #1 (Homer)**

Part II: Greek Tragedy

Thurs Oct 19  
Sophocles, *Ajax*

### **Week 8**

Tues Oct 24

*Philoctetes*

Thurs Oct 26  
*Oedipus the King*

### **Week 9**

Tues Oct 31  
*Oedipus at Colonus*

Thurs Nov 2  
Euripides, *Hippolytus*

### **Week 10**

Tues Nov 7  
*Heracles*

Thurs Nov 9  
*Bacchae*

### **Week 11**

Tues Nov 14  
**Test #2 (Tragedy)**

Part III: Post-Homeric  
Epic

Thurs Nov 16  
Apollonius of Rhodes, *Jason  
and the Golden Fleece*

### **Week 12**

Tues Nov 21  
*Jason and the Golden Fleece*

Thurs Nov 23-NO CLASS  
\*THANKSGIVING\*

### **Week 13**

Tues Nov 28  
Virgil, *Aeneid* 1-3

Thurs Nov 30  
*Aeneid* 4-6

### **Week 14**

Tues Dec 5  
*Aeneid* 7-9

Thurs Dec 7  
*Aeneid* 10-12

### **Week 15**

Tues Dec 12  
Review