

## The Hero in Ancient Greece and Rome

01:190:377 - Spring 2008

M-W 2:15-3:35 pm ~ Ruth Adams 207

Instructor: Emily M. Allen ~ [emiallen@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:emiallen@rci.rutgers.edu)

Office Hour: Mondays 12-1 pm and by appointment. Please *always let me know whether you intend to come to office hours* so you don't overlap with each other and so we can decide together ahead of time whether we are going to meet in RAB (DC) or on CAC.



Athenian Jar, Detail, From Grave at Eleusis (Attica). Mid 7th Century B.C. Polyphemus Blinded By Odysseus. Museum at Eleusis.

**Required Texts** - Available at RU bookstore or on the web at Amazon.

Assignments must be read in these translations. Bring the relevant text to class with you on the weeks where it is assigned.

- 1) *Iliad*. Homer, trans. Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Publishing 1997. ISBN 0-87220-352-2
- 2) *Odyssey*. Homer, trans. Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Publishing. 2000. ISBN 0-87220-484-7
- 3) *The Epic of Gilgamesh: A New Translation*, trans. Andrew George. Penguin. 0-14-044721-0

### Course Description:

Who and what was a hero in Antiquity? How different is our modern conception of the hero? This course offers an exploration of the role and significance of ancient heroes and heroines as a window onto some of the fundamental social, political and religious values and beliefs of the Greek and Roman worlds.

### Course Goal:

To learn how to do a close reading of the works of Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Apollonius of Rhodes, and Virgil. To thus acquire knowledge of some of the main literary sources regarding the ancient hero, and learn to formulate informed critical opinions about them.

### Course Website:

You will receive an invitation to the **Sakai course website** soon after our first class, on which you will find the course syllabus and various links. Login with your RU netID username and password. Throughout the term, resources and announcements will be posted to this site. Please check the website, and the "Announcements" section in particular, very regularly.

- 4) *Oresteia. Aeschylus*, trans. Hugh Lloyd-Jones. University of California Press. ISBN 0-520-083288
- 5) *Sophocles. The Complete Plays*, trans. Paul Roche. Signet Classic. ISBN 0-451-52784-4
- 6) *Euripides. Medea, Hippolytus, Heracles, Bacchae*, trans. Stephen Esposito, ed. Focus Classical Library. ISBN 1-58510-048-X
- 7) *Apollonius of Rhodes. Jason and the Golden Fleece*, trans. Richard Hunter. Oxford World's Classics. ISBN 0-19-283583-1
- 8) *Virgil. Aeneid*, trans. Stanley Lombardo. Hackett Publishing. ISBN 0-87220-731-5

### Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and class participation	20%
2. Quizzes	20%
4. Midterm	20%
5. Final Exam	40%

### Notes:

- There will be **no make-ups given on tests** (except for documented emergencies or religious holidays)<sup>1</sup> or extra-credit assignments. Papers or other forms of work may not be substituted for any of the tests.
- After the first test, all the rest are **cumulative**, including the final, ie they all require knowledge of the material covered in the previous tests.
- Quizzes (~10-15 mins) will take place at the beginning or at the end of class. They will comprise straightforward questions (often multiple choice and/or identifications) based on the readings you have been assigned up until the day of the quiz. Among other things, you may be asked to identify quotations from the week's readings. The lowest quiz grade (eg a zero owed to an absence) will be dropped.
- Midterm and final exams will comprise multiple choice questions, identifications (including quotations from readings) + mini essay(s).
- **Final Exam:** the final exam will occur during exam period at the time scheduled by the Registrar. The exam will take place in our usual classroom, RAB 207.

### Weekly Reading Assignments / Tentative Schedule (subject to change):

- Note: Readings are due for the class under which they are listed. **Please bring the text to class with you for the weeks on which it is assigned.**
- Abbreviations: "wp" = Sakai course webpage. "Iliad 10-15" = read *Iliad* books 10 through 15 (included)
- Study questions will be posted on the wp under "Announcements" or Resources. You will receive e-mail notification on your Rutgers account anytime something new is posted. **You are responsible for checking your e-mail (and the site) regularly.**

#### Week 1:

Wedn. Jan 23 Introduction.

#### Week 2:

Mon. Jan. 28, Wedn. Jan.30 : The Greek Hero. Comparative approach. *Iliad* Books 1-9.

#### Week 3:

Mon. Feb.4, Wedn. Feb. 6: *Iliad* 10 - 15

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: Times for make-up tests will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Week 4

Mon. Feb. 11, Wedn. Feb. 13: *Iliad* 16-22. Time allowing: discussion of *Troy*.

Week 5: **\*\*Get started on your reading early – the reading load is slightly heavier for this week and week 6.\*\***

Mon. Feb. 18, Wedn. Feb.20: *Iliad* 22-24 and *Gilgamesh* pp. i-lv, 1-69

Week 6

Mon. Feb. 25, Wedn. Feb. 27: *Gilgamesh* pp.70-100, 141-208

Week 7

Mon. Mar.3, Wedn. Mar. 5: *Odyssey* 1-7. Time allowing: discussion of *Star Wars*.

Week 8

Mon. Mar. 10: *Odyssey* 8-14

Wedn. Mar. 12: IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION: see “Announcements” on wp for details on structure of the exam and what to review.

Week 9

**Mon. Mar. 17, Wedn. Mar. 19: SPRING RECESS: NO CLASS.** Take advantage of spring break to get reading done for the following week (week 10) and get a head start for week 11’s (rather hefty) reading.

Week 10

Mon. Mar. 24, Wedn. Mar 26: *Odyssey* 15-24

Week 11

Mon. Mar. 31, Wedn. Apr. 2: Aeschylus, *Oresteia*: read the entire trilogy – all three plays (*Agamemnon*, *Libation Bearers*, *Eumenides*).

Week 12

Mon. Apr. 7, Wedn. Apr. 9: *Jason and the Golden Fleece*.

Week 13

Mon. Apr. 14: Sophocles, *Ajax*

Wedn. Apr. 16: Euripides, *Heracles*

Week 14

Mon. Apr.21: Euripides, *Medea*

Wedn. Apr. 23: *Aeneid* 1-4

Week 15

Mon. Apr. 28: *Aeneid* 5-9

Wedn. Apr. 30: *Aeneid* 10-12.

### Week 16

Mon. May 5: Review Session.

### **Policies regarding Coursework and Grading: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

As a member of this class, you are responsible for understanding and complying with these policies.

- **Attendance:** Each class meeting contributes to your participation grade. Every three absences = a drop of one grade on your final grade. Absences may be excused with proper documentation from a doctor or dean. **Important:** be courteous to your instructor and to your fellow students: remember to turn miscellaneous electronic devices (pagers, cellphones, Ipods, etc.) off during class!
- **Class Participation:** Active participation is essential to your fully benefitting from the class. You will be called on from time to time, but don't be shy – please go ahead and volunteer! Aim at contributing at least one thoughtful and substantive comment or question during each class period.
- **Punctuality, being prepared:** Adequate participation also means being **on time for class**, having your books and class materials with you, having the reading (and any other assignment for that day) completed, and being alert and attentive.
- **Study Questions:** Most reading assignments will have study questions to accompany them. These questions will be posted on the course website, under “Announcements.” You should receive an e-mail notification whenever these are posted, **but it is your responsibility to look for any study questions for each reading assignment.** Be prepared to discuss the questions in class.
- **Communication:** The Sakai website for the course and its Mail Tool and Announcements will be the primary way in which I will communicate with you outside of class. Login with your Rutgers e-mail username and password. Go to the site to find anything you may have missed or lost: syllabus, etc. All assignments will be posted there under “Announcements” or “Resources,” as will any review or supporting materials for the mid-term and final exam. **Check the “Announcements” section regularly.** For all course-related e-mail, use your Rutgers e-mail account. **You are responsible for any information I send to that address. Check it frequently.** As soon as possible, exchange contact information with another student or students in the class. In the event you have to miss a class, you will need to find out what you missed and get the notes. Also, please let me know in advance, in person or by e-mail, if you must miss a class for religious or medical reasons. Bring a note from the dean or doctor to the next class so your absence can count as excused.
- **Plagiarism/Cheating:** For details regarding Rutgers’ policy on plagiarism and academic integrity, see <http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/intro.html>. Any instances of plagiarism or cheating on any work for this course will result in a score of zero for that piece of work. A second offence will receive a failing grade for the course. During tests, all belongings must be put away, including cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.

NOTE: Plagiarism includes failing to properly cite sources. If you are not sure how to cite a source, please ask.