

Greek and Roman Epic
CLHU –U244
W 6:20-9:05 PM

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Office 336C Bobet
MWF 9:00-10:00 and by appointment
X3843 (NB--please email or see me in person rather than call)

Greek and Roman Epic

Goals and Objectives In this class we will study the literary genre of Epic poetry, specifically its literary form, its thematic content, the cultures that fostered it initially, and its change over time. The goals for the course are...

1. To encourage and sharpen the skill of close reading, to spend time reading and discussing the original texts rather than secondary analyses.
2. To foster analytical skills through class discussion and responses to the texts and to other students' ideas.
3. To polish writing skills through weekly in-class assignments and later through a mid-length paper.
4. To appreciate the role of Epic poetry within both ancient and modern culture, to be able to discuss how Epic affects/reflects society and vice versa.
5. To increase general knowledge of the cultures of the ancient world and select medieval and modern cultures.
6. To highlight aspects of the Jesuit mission (specifically concerns about the role of the individual within society) through the exploration of how the Epic hero challenges established social/political authority.

Academic Resource Center Loyola provides help and support for students with special needs and/or disabilities. All students who think they may need or benefit from these services should contact the Academic Resource Center (ARC) at 504.865.2990. Students who need alternate venues for exams and/or extended time for exams ***MUST*** obtain documentation from and permission through ARC prior to the exams in this class and present it to the instructor ***prior*** to the exam.

Hurricanes, Disasters, Evacuations, Etc. Students are encouraged to monitor the official Loyola site (www.loyno.edu) for information regarding the University's response to disasters. Please check your email regularly and be aware that should an extended evacuation occur, many classes will resume online via Blackboard. For the University's official policy on such matters, see www.loyno.edu/studentaffairs/hurricane.emer.plan.html

Texts Required for this course

Please be sure to get these particular editions. They are widely available both new and used.

Iliad

Homer, trans. Stanley Lombardo
Hackett Publishing Company
Paperback, 1997
978-0872203525

Odyssey

Homer, trans. Stanley Lombardo
Hackett Publishing Company
Paperback, 2000
978-0872204843

Aeneid

Virgil, trans. Stanley Lombardo

Hackett Publishing Company
Paperback, 2005
978-0872207318

Metamorphoses: A New Translation by Charles Martin

Ovid, trans. Charles Martin
W.W. Norton and CO.
Paperback, 2005
978-0393326420

Grading Scale and Explanation of Requirements

Attendance		5%
Participation/Discussion	30%	
Weekly Writing	40%	
Paper		25%

Attendance since *this class meets only 14 times*, attendance will be part of the grade in order to encourage your presence and reward your perseverance. Should you have to be absent, please arrange with me ahead of time for make-up work.

Participation/Discussion is more than simply being present in class. It means coming to class with the day's reading done and being able to contribute to class discussion in a meaningful way, or better yet volunteering to lead the discussion on a certain topic. Please note that credit for participation is also something that accrues over time; you cannot make up for missed time by participating like crazy for a couple of days.

Weekly Writing since this class meets only 14 times, we will not be having traditional "exams"; we will do small bits of directed writing and/or extemporaneous responses in almost every class. Please be aware that this means, if you miss class, you miss something that will be graded. Also, be assured that these assignments will not be "pop quizzes"; I will tell you ahead of time what we will be working on for the week so that you will be ready to do well.

Paper is NOT A RESEARCH PAPER. This is meant to be a mid-length (6-8 pages) conference style paper that emphasizes an analysis of a select passage or scene within your chosen epic and relates it to one of our four primary texts. Much more will be said about the paper during class and written instructions for the paper's contents will be available.

Missing Days, "Make Up" Work If you know you will miss a class, *tell me ahead of time ASAP* and we can arrange for any assignments missed to be submitted without penalty. Those who miss class without speaking to me ahead of time run the risk of missing chunks of their grade or having their work penalized. All Make Up Work must be done before the next week's class.

How to do well Missing this class is like skipping a whole week of "day" classes, so the best way to do well is to come to class. Even if you are ridiculously busy, come to class. Even if you feel confident that you have a profound understanding of the text, come to class. Even if you are hopelessly behind in the readings, come to class. *Just come to class.*

Schedule of Readings and Topics

Please be aware that there may be handouts given out in class. Also, please check BlackBoard regularly for postings.

Week 1 August 27

Introduction: Who are these Pesty Greeks and What is Epic, Anyway? Introduction to Hesiod's *Theogony*

Week 2 September 3

Reading Due: *Theogony* (online)

Introduction to the *Iliad*: Troy: Where the Men are Handsome, the Women are Beautiful, and the Children are Above Average

Week 3 September 10

Reading Due: *Iliad* Books 1-6

Week 4 September 17

Approval for "epic" selection for paper

Reading Due: *Iliad* Books 9, 16, 21, 22

Week 5 September 24

Approval for "epic" selection for paper

Reading Due: *Iliad* Books 23-24

Ancient Fan Fiction?: Quintus of Smyrna and the *Posthomerica*

Introduction to the *Odyssey*: Jack Sparrow as modern Odysseus: the appeal of the Wanderer and the Trickster

Week 6 October 1

Reading Due: *Odyssey* Books 1-5

Week 7 October 8

Reading Due: *Odyssey* Books 6-12

Week 8 October 15

Focus for paper due

Reading Due: *Odyssey* Books 22-23

The Value of Hellenistic Epic: Apollonius of Rhodes and the *Argonautica*

Introduction: They say America is Rome. Does that make Virgil Tom Clancy?—Manufacturing Heroics in the *Aeneid*

Week 9 October 22

Focus for paper due

Reading Due: *Aeneid* Books 1-4

Week 10 October 29

Reading Due: *Aeneid* Books 6-9

Week 11 November 5

Reading Due: *Aeneid* Books 11-12

When is Epic really not Epic: Lucretius and the *De Rerum Natura*

Introduction: When is Epic really not Epic Redux—Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

Week 12 November 12

Reading Due: *Metamorphoses* Books 1-3

Week 13 November 19

Reading Due: *Metamorphoses* ---WILD CARD! YOUR CHOICE OF 3 EPISODES FROM BOOKS 4-13! BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED!

Rough Draft Conferences

Week 14 November 26

W Thanksgiving Break—No Classes

Week 15 December 3

Rough Draft Conferences

Reading Due: *Metamorphoses* Books 14 and 15

My Silver Age Romance?: Epic on Life Support—Statius' *Thebaid*

**Paper Due Wednesday December 10th by 5:00 PM
in my office (Bobet 336C)**