

GK 312: Homer's *Iliad*
Unique #: 32585
MWF 1-2 pm
WAG 112
Spring 2015

Instructor: Amy Lather
Email: amy.lather@utexas.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays and
Fridays, 2-3:30, and by
appointment
Office Location: WAG 207
Course Website: Canvas

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the language, syntax, and style of Homer's *Iliad*. Class time will be spent translating, reading aloud, and analyzing the original Greek text, but we will also discuss the style and contents of the poem as well as the cultural context in which it was composed. For this reason, we will be reading a selection of scholarly articles over the course of the semester in addition to the assigned Greek readings.

The course has two primary aims: 1) to improve the student's knowledge of Greek syntax, grammar, and vocabulary and 2) to introduce the student to the main scholarly issues related to the Homeric corpus. By the end of the semester, you will be able to read approximately 40 lines of Homer per class and will have gained enough familiarity with Homeric Greek such that you should be able to sight-read typical passages of Homer.

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in GK 311 or equivalent coursework in Intermediate Greek with the approval of instructor.

Course Schedule:

Our reading schedule will largely be dictated by the reading pace of the class. For the first week or so, I will ask you to read for a certain amount of time (e.g. 2 hours) rather than a certain amount of text in order to get a sense of your reading speed. Accordingly, as the semester progresses and you become more comfortable with reading Homer, the amount of reading will increase. Reading schedules that cover a few weeks at a time will be distributed throughout the semester and posted on Canvas.

In addition, please consult the section below for a list of due dates for written assignments and the dates for exams and quizzes.

Schedule of Important Dates:

January 23: Last day of the official add/drop period. After this date, you need the approval of the dean to add or drop a course.

February 4: Last day to add a course or drop with refund

January 30: Quiz #1

February 6: Quiz #2

February 13: Exam #1

February 27: Quiz #3

March 13: Exam #2

March 16-21: Spring Break

March 23: Commentary #1 Due

April 10: Exam #3

April 20: Quiz #4

May 1: Commentary #2 Due

May 8: Last class day

May 19: (Tuesday), **Final Exam: 9am-12pm**

*Note that this is the last day of finals: **no early finals will be given**, so please make your summer plans accordingly

Required Texts:

- 1) Benner, A.R. *Selections from Homer's Iliad*. 2007 (the 2001 is also fine). [also available as a Google book, but you should own a hard copy since computers/iPads are not permitted in class]
- 2) Cunliffe, R.J. *A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect*. 2012. [required even if you already have a lexicon: a dictionary specific to Homer will make your life a lot easier]
This is also available online at the following website:
<http://www.tlg.uci.edu/cunliffe/#eid=1&context=lsj>
- 3) Lattimore, R. *Homer's Iliad* (translation). The 2011 edition with an introduction by Richard Martin is preferable, but older editions are also fine.

*Other required reading materials (e.g. scholarly articles) will be distributed during class.

Canvas: I will use our course website to upload files/articles and list websites and online resources that may be useful to you, so please check it regularly (it is also where I will post grades).

Components of Course Grade

Synopsis of Grade Breakdown:

Class attendance & participation: 10%

Commentary assignments: 10%

Quizzes: 15%

Exams: 40% (total)

Exam 1: 10%, Exam 2 & 3: 15% each

Final Exam: 25%

Grading Scale:

Grades will be based on the following scale:

93-100=A

90-92.9=A-

87-89.9=B+

83-87.9=B

80-82.9=B-

77-79.9= C+

73- 76.9=C

70-72.9=C-

67- 69.9=D+

63-66.9=D

60- 62.9=D-

0-60 F

Pass/fail and credit/no credit students must earn a grade of at least 75% in order to receive "credit" or "pass".

1) Class attendance and participation: 10%

Attendance: You should plan to attend and participate in every class. However, each student is entitled to 2 "free" absences, which means that your attendance grade will not be affected for missing 2 days. However, after missing more than 2 classes, unless you have a legitimate excuse (examples of which are outlined under "Make-up Policy"), each subsequent missed day will result in a 1% deduction from your attendance grade.

Participation: You should come to each class with your homework done and ready to contribute to class discussion. This does NOT mean that you need to have everything prepared *perfectly* in order to participate: an "A" participation grade means that you were consistently willing to volunteer to translate and ask or answer questions. If you come to class and sit silently and/or are texting the whole time, I will count that as an unexcused absence (which means that your attendance/participation grade will drop by 1% as per the schema outlined above).

Things that will lower your attendance and participation grade:

- skipping class
- entering class late/leaving early
- not translating or asking questions
- using phones/iPads/iWhatevers during class

2) Commentary Assignments: 10% (5% each)

Over the course of the semester you will produce two commentaries on two different passages of the *Iliad* (of about 15-20 verses each) that have not been covered by the class readings. In each of these you will provide a translation, scansion, and notes on grammatical and stylistic features of the passage. We will discuss how to write a commentary in further detail as we approach the 1st deadline, but in short, your commentaries will be modeled on class discussions of individual passages.

Commentary #1: March 23

Commentary #2: May 1

3) Quizzes (announced and unannounced): 15%

Announced quiz dates:

Friday, January 30

Friday, February 6

Friday, February 27

Friday, April 20

In addition to these dates, you will also be given several surprise quizzes. You will be allowed to drop one of the announced quizzes.

Typical quiz format: 3-5 verses to translate (taken from a recent assignment), along with syntactical/morphological questions **and/or** vocab/principal parts/sight translation.

No make-ups will be permitted on quizzes, announced or unannounced.

4) Three 50-minute exams (not cumulative): 40% total

Exam 1 (Friday, Feb. 13): 10%

Exam 2 (Friday, March 13): 15%

Exam 3 (Friday, April 10): 15%

Typical exam format: All exams will ask you to translate seen passages covered since the last exam, answer grammatical/morphological questions, and translate an **unseen passage** of Homer. In addition, I may ask you vocabulary questions (inc. principal parts) or questions about meter/scansion.

See "Make-Up Policy" for my policy on making up exams.

5) Final Exam (Tuesday, May 19): 25%

This exam **will be cumulative** and will include the same components seen on the 50-minute exams: seen as well as unseen passages in addition to grammatical/morphological/vocabulary/metrical questions.

Course Policies

Make-Up Policy

In order to be excused from class or to be permitted to make up an exam, you must **provide valid documentation**. The following list includes the only reasons why make-up work may be permitted: athletic commitment (**all athletic conflicts must be brought to my attention during the first two weeks of class**); religious conflict (**notification required at least 14 days in advance**); slip from a medical care facility that you were unable to take your exam due to a medical emergency; family emergency certified by your Dean of Students.

Make-ups are permitted on exams **only** with a documented excuse. Make-up exams will generally be harder than the original exam and must be taken **within one week of the original exam date**. The instructor reserves the right to refuse makeup exams to students who do not meet the criteria described here.

Email Policy:

I will always answer emails within 24 hours (including weekends), and likewise, you are also expected to **regularly check the email address that is registered on UT Direct**. "I didn't get the email" is **not** a valid excuse for missing assignments, so please make sure that the email listed on UT Direct for you is the correct one. In

addition, please make sure that you have enabled Canvas to send you emails: this way you will know right away when I upload something to the site.

Cell Phones/Laptops/Electronics:

The use of any electronic device during class is **not** permitted, including laptops and iPads. Although there are many very useful online tools for studying Greek, these are distracting to you and to other students in a classroom setting, and so I ask you not to use these during class.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

Scholastic dishonesty of any form (such as plagiarism, cheating, and fabrication) will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade (F) for the course and will be subject to University procedures under Appendix C, Section 11 of the General Information Bulletin (<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi0708/app/appc03.html#Chapter-11-Student-Discipline-and-Conduct>). For more information about scholastic dishonesty, contact the Student Judicial Services at 471.2841 or go to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>.

The University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Add/Drop Policy:

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Texas's official add/drop policy. Any requests to drop the course after the fourth week will be handled in accordance with these rules. Be forewarned: you only get to use one of these late drops in your undergraduate career.

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities based **ONLY on a recommendation from Students for Services with Disabilities**. I cannot accommodate any requests that are not directly from the SSD.

Students with disabilities should make known to me any accommodations needed during the first week of the course if possible. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 or 471-4641, or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

Religious Holidays:

Work missed due to a religious holiday may be made up if students supply

documentation of the holiday **at least 14 days ahead of time**. Make-up work must be completed *within a week* of the missed class.

(http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays)

Emergency Evacuation Procedure:

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Please sign and return this page to me no later than **Monday, January 26**

I have read, acknowledged, and accepted all information conveyed in this syllabus, including the grading policy and exam dates.

Name: _____

Date: _____