

CLAS 362: Intermediate Greek – Poetry (*Hom. Od. 1 and 9*)

Instructor: Dr. Brian V. Lush

Meeting Time and Location: MWF, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, Old Main 003
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Office hours and location: Old Main 318
MWF 2:15 – 3:25 PM
and by appointment

Course Overview:

This course will seek to accomplish the following learning objectives:

- 1) Students will learn the essentials of Homeric style, morphology, meter and grammar.
- 2) Students will improve their knowledge of ancient Greek vocabulary, grammar and syntax by way of reading Homeric epic.
- 3) Students will become familiar with a number of scholarly approaches to Homeric epic, and will substantially improve their ability to discuss and analyze epic poetry.
- 4) Students will strengthen their analytical skills by producing an original, thesis-driven research essay that engages directly with the Greek text of Homer's *Odyssey*.

As your instructor, I am committed to providing assistance to encourage your success in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Contact the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Lindreman, at 651.696.6220 or via e-mail at lindrem@macalester.edu to make an appointment. It is important to meet early in the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and that you begin the semester successfully.

Finally, *do not be afraid of making mistakes in class, or of asking questions whose answers you may think are "obvious" or "simple."* There are no obvious answers in ancient Greek (and particularly in Homeric Greek!), and my job is not to chastise or embarrass you for not knowing an answer. Rather, my role is to answer your questions to the best of my ability, and to guide you in learning a magnificent but often difficult language. Providing that you've worked hard on your homework assignments and studied, you will never be punished for asking questions or making mistakes.

Evaluation and Composition of Grade:

Your grade in this course will be determined according to the following breakdown of assignment percentages:

Preparation and Participation:	20%
Quizzes:	25%
Scansion Exercises:	5.5%
Topic Submission:	1%
Thesis-Statement Submission:	1.5%
Philology/Close Reading Exercise:	5%

Student Recitation:	3.5%
Presentation of Research:	3.5%
Research Essay:	20%
Final Exam:	15%

Required Course Texts:

Cunliffe, R.J. *A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect*. University of Oklahoma. 1986.
Homer. *The Odyssey*. Trans. R. Lattimore. Harper Perennial. 1991.
Severy, B. *Homer. Odyssey 1, 6, 9*. Bryn Mawr. 1991.
Stanford, W.B. (ed.). *The Odyssey of Homer*, vol. 1. Bristol Classical Press. 1996.

Daily Discussion and Translation:

Most course meetings will be occupied with the translation of Homer's Greek text, and the discussion of issues of grammar, syntax, morphology, style and meter. Where time permits, we will also engage periodically in discussion of the content of Homer's poetry, Bronze Age and Archaic Greek society and culture, scholarly approaches to Homeric epic and the modern reception of Homer's *Odyssey*. This format is intended primarily to establish an intellectual foundation in Homer's language and poetry, and to improve your command of standard, Attic Greek. Further, you will become familiar with the content and thematic substance of Homer's *Odyssey* by way of translating and discussion its first and ninth books.

The Research Essay:

A significant portion of your work will spent in preparing a polished, thesis-driven research essay of 10 – 12 pages, which engages directly with Homer's Greek and employs both primary and secondary source material. A number of activities have been built into our class schedule intended to help you on your path to composing an engaging and original examination of Homeric epic. These activities will include:

- 1) submission of a topic statement that will generally describe the question/issue that you wish to address about Homer's *Odyssey*
- 2) submission of a specific and demonstrable thesis statement for your essay
- 3) completion of a philology/close reading exercise of 2 – 3 pages in which you will engage directly with Homer's Greek in a way relevant to you essay
- 4) three article/book chapter reviews (to be presented and discussed in class) of secondary sources useful for your essay
- 5) presentation of the finding of your research projects at the end of the semester

Quizzes and Final Exam:

In lieu of the traditional series of midterm examinations, your increasing command of Homeric Greek will be evaluated in a series of seven quizzes that will occur roughly every two weeks. Each quiz should take roughly 20 – 25 minutes, and will include (1) translation into English, (2) a few grammar/syntax questions about the passage(s), and (3) rudimentary questions about the

sections of the *Odyssey* read in translation. Examination of your knowledge of Homeric Greek will culminate in a final examination that will cover the poetry read and discussed in class over the course of the semester.

Student Recitations:

On Wednesday, April 28th, students will recite a passage from Homer of at least ten lines in front of the class. Memorization and recitation were integral parts of education in the ancient world, and recitation will also provide us with a tangible reminder that Homeric epic was, once upon a time, orally and extemporaneously composed and transmitted to audiences all over the Greek world. Its beauty therefore resides not only in its timeless content and themes, but in its music and sound. Recitations will occur in a friendly, encouraging and enjoyable environment framed as a celebration of our new familiarity with Homeric Greek.

Scansion Exercises:

Roughly every two weeks, students will complete one of seven scansion assignments meant to increase your mastery of Greek dactylic hexameter. These assignments, to be graded and returned to you by the instructor, are meant to put into practice formally the metrical work that will do during most of our class meetings.

Quiz Make-Up and Attendance Policy:

Quizzes and exams may not be rescheduled or made up unless arrangements have been made with the course instructor at least two days prior to the scheduled examination, or you must provide a documented excuse acceptable to the course instructor. Final judgments about “make-up” exams and quizzes fall ultimately to the instructor.

During the course of the semester, you will be allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in the deduction of two points from your final grade, in addition to the loss of participation points for that day. More than six absences may result in a failing grade for the course. Languages are best learned through regular and directed practice, and your presence in class is required not only for your own edification, but for the benefit of your classmates as well.

Technology in the Classroom:

Since this is a discussion and translation course, we will have little need for laptop computers or other technology during most of our meetings. If you prefer to take notes on a computer as you complete daily assignments, please print a hard copy of those notes, and bring the printout to class instead of the computer itself. Also, be sure to turn off all cellular phones and communication devices, in order to avoid potentially embarrassing class interruptions.

Class Schedule:

N.B.: The following schedule of assignments is subject to alteration at the discretion of the course instructor.

Week 1 (read *Od.* 1-2 in translation)

Monday, January 24 – course syllabus and learning goals/expectations
introduction to primary issues of Homeric diction and scholarship

Wednesday, January 26 – 1.1-15

Friday, January 28 – 1.16-31

Week 2 (read *Od.* 3-4 in translation)

Monday, January 31 – 1.32-47
scansion exercise #1

Wednesday, February 2 – 1.48-67

Friday, February 4 – **Quiz #1** (vv. 1.1-1.67)
1.68-87

Week 3 (read *Od.* 5-6 in translation)

Monday, February 7 – 1.88-112

Wednesday, February 9 – 1.113-143

Friday, February 11 – **Quiz #2** (vv. 1.68-143)
1.144-177

Week 4 (read *Od.* 7-8 in translation)

Monday, February 14 – 1.178-212
scansion exercise #2

Wednesday, February 16 – 1.213-251
topic statement for research essay due

Friday, February 18 – article/book chapter reviews and discussion
article/book chapter reviews due at beginning of class

Week 5 (read *Od.* 9-10 in translation)

Monday, February 21 – 1.252-286

Wednesday, February 23 – 1.287-318
thesis statement for research essay due

Friday, February 25 – **Quiz #3** (vv. 1.144-318)

1.319-344

Week 6 (read *Od.* 11-12 in translation)

Monday, February 28 – 1.345-380
scansion exercise #3

Wednesday, March 2 – 1.381-420

Friday, March 4 – 1.421-444 and 9.1-18

Week 7 (read *Od.* 13-14 in translation)

Monday, March 7 – 9.19-55

Wednesday, March 9 – 9.56-90

Friday, March 11 – **Quiz #4** (vv. 1.319-444 and 9.1-90)
9.91-115

Week 8 (Monday, March 14 – Friday, March 18)

Spring Break (No Classes)

Week 9 (read *Od.* 15-16 in translation)

Monday, March 21 – 9.152-192
scansion exercise #4

Wednesday, March 23 – 9.193-230
philology/close reading exercise due

Friday, March 25 – MCI – course evaluation exercise

Week 10 (read *Od.* 17-18 in translation)

Monday, March 28 – article/book chapter reviews and discussion
article/book chapter reviews due at beginning of class

Wednesday, March 30 – 9.231-271

Friday, April 1 – 9.272-306
scansion exercise #5

Week 11 (read *Od.* 19-20 in translation)

Monday, April 4 – **Quiz #5** (vv. 9.91-306)
9.307-328

Wednesday, April 6 – 9.329-367

Friday, April 8 – 9.368-406

Week 12 (read *Od.* 21-22 in translation)

Monday, April 11 – 9.407-446

Wednesday, April 13 – 9.447-479

Friday, April 15 – 9.480-521
scansion exercise #6

Week 13 (read *Od.* 23-24 in translation)

Monday, April 18 – article/book chapter reviews and discussion
article/book chapter reviews due at beginning of class

Wednesday, April 20 – **Quiz #6** (vv. 9.307-521)
9.522-540

Friday, April 22 – 9.541-566

Week 14

Monday, April 25 – **Quiz #7** (vv. 9.522-566)
student recitations

Wednesday, April 27 – **research project presentations**
scansion exercise #7

Friday, April 29 – **student research presentations**

Week 15

Last Day of Class – **research essays due** to instructor between 3:30 and 4:30 PM
Monday, May 2

Saturday, May 7 – **Final Exam** (comprehensive)
1:30 – 3:30 PM, Old Main 003