

Homer's *Odyssey*

CLAS 362-01: Intermediate Greek Poetry
Macalester College, Spring 2016, Beth Severy-Hoven
Drop In Hours: Office 318 Old Main Fridays 10:45am - 12 and
Walking Consultation at Leonard Center Indoor Track Mondays 2 - 3pm

OR CONTACT FOR AN APPOINTMENT

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Moodle Site: <http://moodle.macalester.edu>

In this course, students will:

- improve their ability to read ancient Greek;
- become familiar with a number of scholarly approaches to Homeric epic;
- improve their skills in oral communication, including discussing and analyzing epic poetry and giving informal and formal presentations of their own and others' work; and
- improve their skills in written communication, particularly complex disciplinary writing characteristic of scholarship in the field of Classics.

To develop your newly-acquired ability to read Greek, we will read from Homer's *Odyssey* using a commentary for beginning students and review grammar and vocabulary together and on your own. We will have regular quizzes to check your progress, and we will translate together during each class period, sometimes from prepared passages and sometimes at sight.

To engage with the epic as literature, we will read all of the *Odyssey* in translation (one of the finest adventure stories ever told), and we will read overviews of the field, reviews of recent books and a couple of journal articles. This work will help you select a topic to pursue in an original, thesis-driven research paper engaging with the Greek text of Homer's *Odyssey*. Each student will develop their project by completing a number of activities across the term, including finding and evaluating existing scholarship, closely reading a related passage in Greek, and presenting your ideas and arguments to the class. The essay assignment provides an opportunity to apply your ability to read Greek to a literary, linguistic or historical analysis of this ancient text in some depth.

Preparation & Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm	10%
Research Project	30%
Final Exam	20%

Textbooks

The Odyssey of Homer, vol. 1 (1-12). Ed. W.B. Stanford. Bristol Classical Press, 1959/1996.

Homer. Odyssey 1, 6, 9. Beth Severy. Bryn Mawr Commentaries, 1991.

The Odyssey. Homer. Translated by Richmond Lattimore. Harper Perennial, 1965/1991.

A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect. R.J. Cunliffe. University of Oklahoma Press, 1986.

Class Preparation and Participation

The real work of improving your ability to read Greek will happen on a day to day basis as you prepare for class and we read Greek together. You need to come to class having read through the assigned Greek text more than once. You should be prepared to translate the passage without looking at a written English version, although you may have a vocabulary list next to you (not superimposed over your Greek text). By being well prepared, by asking questions (none are too simple or silly!) and being engaged in class, your ability to read Homer's poetry in its glorious original form will improve quickly. Leading the discussion of books of the *Odyssey* in translation and other shared readings also counts toward your participation grade. Attendance will be kept. You will not receive credit for participation if you are absent; after four absences your grade will suffer directly, and more than six absences may cause you to fail the course. You should come to class to read even if you are unprepared – everyone is granted 2 days of being unprepared without penalty to encourage your constant participation.

Quizzes, Midterm and Final

We will have vocabulary quizzes most Wednesdays during the first part of the term, and grammar/translation quizzes online via Moodle over many weekends. Pop quizzes are also possible. A midterm exam will be given on Friday, March 4, and the final is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 8-10am. You must be present in class to take quizzes and exams; late and make-up work will not be accepted except under extreme circumstances. If you have difficulties with the date of any scheduled quiz or exam, please consult with me in advance.

Research Project

The research project is your opportunity to utilize your ability to read Greek in a new way and to engage with the text of the *Odyssey* and scholarship about it in more depth than we have time for in class. More information about the assignments will be provided as each approaches, and specific dates are provided on the schedule. Students will brainstorm together their initial thoughts about a project, present a formal review of three book chapters and/or articles, compose a close reading on a relevant Greek passage, and present their findings to the class. Final papers are due at 5pm on the first day of finals (Thursday, May 5). **Late Submission Policy: If an assignment is not turned in by the designated time, one letter grade will be deducted from the one otherwise earned. For every additional day the assignment is late (24 hrs.), another letter grade will be deducted.**

Individual Student Needs and Skills

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course – everyone learns differently, and I am eager to collaborate with you on making the course work well for you. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities; information is available at <http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/>. Accommodations are made upon the approval of the Assistant Dean of Students, Robin Hart Ruthenbeck. Contact the Office of Student Affairs (651-696-6220) or studentaffairs@macalester.edu early in the semester to schedule an accommodations meeting. It is important to meet early in the semester to ensure your accommodations are approved to ensure you begin the term well.

All students are encouraged to come speak with me about their learning styles and strengths so that we can use them strategically to your best advantage in this class.