

CLAG 202 Intermediate Ancient Greek II: Homer  
Spring Semester 2020



Roman Mosaic: *Odysseus and the Sirens*, Tunis, ca 100 CE

**Course Instructor:**

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HOURS AVAILABLE	T/Th. 14.30-15.30 Faculty Room
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**Class Meetings:**

DAY	HOURS
Monday/Wednesday:	08:45-10:20
Classroom:	TBA

**Required Text**

Homer, *The Odyssey* Books 9-12 (Copy of the original text will be provided in class)

**Recommended Dictionaries and Grammars**

Autenrieth, G. 1984, *Homeric Dictionary*, transl. by R. Keep, London  
Cunliffe, R.J. 1963, *A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect*, Norman, OK  
Liddell, H.G., Scott, R. 1945, *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*, Oxford  
Smyth, H.W., 2010, *Greek Grammar*, Oxford

**Suggested Secondary Literature**

Finley, M. I. 1954. *The World of Odysseus*. New York: The Viking Press  
Fowler, R. (ed.), 2004. *The Cambridge Companion to Homer*. Cambridge: CUP  
Powell, B. B. 2004. *Homer*. London: Blackwell Publishing

**Course Description**

The course will introduce the student to one of the earliest literature products of mankind, the work of the poet(s) known as Homer. From the classical period up to modern times the *Odyssey* has been widely

read and commented upon, while many of its key-themes, inserted stories and sub-narratives have been a source of inspiration for various works of art (from poetry and opera to painting and sculpture). The primary aim of this course is to approach various episodes of the *Odyssey* (e.g. the Cyclops, Sirens, Circe and Calypso, journey to the Underworld) from both a linguistic and cultural perspective. The students will recognize language structures, analyze the grammatical and syntactical forms used in simple and complex sentences and enrich their vocabulary, while practicing and advancing their skills in translation from Greek into fluent English.

In addition, aspects pertaining to the place of the text in its mythological and historical contexts will be addressed: can the work itself echo the non-so-mythical past of the Greek people; does it reflect events that marked the early 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC; which are the traits of the epic hero of the *Odyssey* in comparison to the hero of the *Iliad*; how does the epic relate to the values of contemporary society and its people; can we place the *Odyssey* in the context of the epic poetry produced in the eastern Mediterranean; how is the figure of Odysseus transformed from the archaic and classical period to late antiquity and beyond (cf. e.g. Odysseus as the spiritual hero of the neoplatonic philosophers or the Odysseus of James Joyce)? Focusing primarily on our text we will also bring into discussion evidence from other media, such as inscriptions, papyri, mosaics, vase paintings, as well as modern scholarship. Finally, in the framework of our class activities we will watch parts of modern documentaries on *Odyssey* and Odysseus.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Read, translate and analyze into fluent English texts of original Greek
- Access and evaluate appropriate resources, e.g. dictionaries, word lists, commentaries, grammar and syntax references, websites
- Utilize the acquired knowledge in order to proceed to independent translation of phrases and small passages
- Explain and discuss key features of the Greek world as learned through the study of language

## Course Requirements

One year of Greek

## Tests and Exams

In this course you will have six quizzes, the midterm and the final exam. Each quiz will cover the previous reading assignment translated in class. It will consist of translation (one passage, ca. 20 lines long), grammar and syntax exercises. The lowest quiz will be dropped. Both the midterm and the final exams will consist of the translation of 3-4 passages already discussed in class, the sight translation of a short passage, for which some vocabulary will be given, and grammar and syntax questions. The final exam will have an additional short essay section where students will answer a question on Homer and his world. The final will examine the material covered after the midterm (it will not be cumulative).

## Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

35% Final

30% Midterm

25% Quiz

10% Participation-Attendance

**Grading Scale:**

A+ 100-98	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D+ 69-67	F 59-
A 97-93	B 86-83	C 76-73	D 66-63	
A- 92-90	B- 82-80	C- 72-70	D- 62-60	

**Class Participation:**

You are expected to participate in class, to speak up, to ask questions and contribute to the discussions. Collaborative discourse is a vital element of this course and thus you are encouraged to be curious, to have different interpretations and, of course, share your thoughts. Your active presence in classroom will be graded.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance is required. Our course is designed to promote teamwork; one of its methodological tools is to create a small community between the co-students and the instructor who all strive to achieve a specific goal, while also having fun. Consequently your attendance is essential to the educational objectives of this course. Absences are recorded and have consequences. Illness or other such compelling reasons which result in absences should be reported immediately in the Student Affairs Office.

**Policy on Original Work:**

Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. (Check Student handbook, pg 9)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Director of Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

**Class Schedule**

Week	Day/Date	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
1	Jan 27-30	
2	Feb 3-6	Feb 5: Quiz 1
3	Feb 10-13	
	Feb 18-22	Field Trip Peloponnese
4	Feb 24-27	Feb 26: Quiz 2
5	Mar 2-5	Mar 4: Quiz 3
6	Mar 9-12	MIDTERMS
	Mar 17-21	Field Trip Northern Greece/ Thessaloniki
7	Mar 23-26	

8	Mar 30-Apr 2	April 1: Quiz 4 April 3: M/U M/W class
9	Apr 6-9	April 8: Quiz 5
10	Apr 21-23	
11	April 27-30	April 29: Quiz 6
12	May 4-7	May 4-5 Student Conference! May 8 Reading Day
	May 11-14	FINAL EXAMS

**Final Exam:** Monday 11 May, 09:30, classroom: CB-4

*N.B. Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning*

## Intermediate Greek – Some Frequently Asked Questions

### What do I need to bring in this class?

Your original Greek text, a notebook and a pen/pencil.

Since we will be using grammar and syntax charts often, don't forget to bring some color markers! Studies have shown that the use of colors triggers memory and it can improve your reading and learning comprehension!

A file folder will be really useful, so that you organize better your notes, assignments and the additional material that will be distributed in class. By keeping organized, you will increase highly your productivity for this class: you will save time looking for things and you will feel more confident!

Most importantly! Come in class with a positive mood and a mind eager to learn! See each class as a unique chance to discover more, to practice your already acquired knowledge and to communicate with your colleagues and your instructor!

### Can I use electronic devices in class?

Recent studies have demonstrated that the use of electronic devices might hamper the learning pace for a large number of students and they have related it to poorer class performance. Moreover, research suggests that note-taking on laptops or other devices is less effective than when done by hand. Actually, even having our cell phones on the table in front of us might diminish our learning abilities!

### What is the homework for this course?

#### *Assignments*

Your main assignment for each class will be the preparation of the translation assigned. Preparing a translation demands persistent and determined effort. So be prepared! Especially in the first weeks, producing your own translation will be a challenging process that will take up much of your time. However, as you practice, you will realize that many words are repeated; each author has his/her own idiolect which you will get used to. Keep in mind that preparing a translation is part of your learning, so don't allow "online interferences" in this process. Look ahead: when you will have achieved your goal you will find it really rewarding!

#### *Reviewing*

As we go on reading the *Odyssey* we will come across grammatical and syntactical structures that you might have already discussed in your first year(s) of learning Greek. We will of course comment on them but we will also try to review the major topics of Greek grammar and syntax based on your needs, wishes and preferences. Accordingly, additional non-graded exercises will be assigned so that you test your skills.

## *Practice makes Perfect!*

Plan to spend 20 hours per week on average for this class. Try to devote some time *every day* to this course. Your everyday practice is important not only for the progress of each one of you individually but also so that you tune in with the rest of the learning team.

## **How can I succeed in this course?**

The key to the success for this course is PARTICIPATION. Participation can actually take many different forms:

Ask questions, answer questions, take notes, discuss with the instructor and your fellow students, contribute your ideas and thoughts, play the games that have been designed especially for this course, write on board, co-operate with your fellow students, teach each other, feel inspired and inspire others!

Doing your homework will boost your participation: as you will see, many times the assigned exercises serve as the basis for the next day's discussion; if you have prepared them, you will feel more confident and more eager to participate.

## **Communication with the instructor and email policy**

You can meet me during my office hours, or, if this doesn't work for you, we can arrange meetings at another time.

I will answer to your emails during work-hours (Monday through Friday) and within 24 hours from the time that I have received it. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please email me again, because your email was probably lost. On the weekends I will try to check emails but I will respond only to urgent issues.

## **3 Ways to get the most out of this class!**

- Read the Latin aloud as often as your living/studying condition allows
- Make Latin part of your daily routine! Do an assignment, even a small one, every day!

Form a study group and meet up with other students to prepare for class