

Humanities 101: The Ancient Greek World

Fall 2011

TTh 12:45-2:05

Ms. Dobbs (dobbs@grinnell.edu)

Office: Harry Hopkins House 104, ext. 3108

Office Hours: TTh 4-5 or by appointments

"As is the generation of leaves, so is that of humanity.
The wind scatters the leaves on the ground, but the live timber
burgeons with leaves again in the season of spring returning.
So one generation of men will grow while another
dies."

The Iliad, 6.146-50

Description: We'll do close reading and discussion of some wonderful literary, historical, and philosophical works from ancient Greece for our own pleasure and in order to practice critical thinking, speaking, and writing.

Texts: (N.B. you need these particular translations.)

Homer: *The Iliad*, trans. Richard Lattimore

The Odyssey, trans. Robert Fitzgerald

--- *Greek Tragedies Volume 1*, 2nd ed., ed. David Grene and Richard Lattimore

Aristotle: *Poetics*, trans. Hippocrates Apostle

Thucydides: *The Peloponnesian War*, trans. Rex Warner

Plato: *The Symposium*, trans. Christopher Gill

Edward J. Corbett & Sheryl Finkle: *The Last Days of Socrates*, trans. Hugh Tredennick and Harold Tarrant

Edward J. Corbett & Sheryl Finkle:

The Little English Handbook, 8th ed. (optional, but you need a grammar handbook)

Schedule:

The assignments listed below should be **completed** by the date noted. Please be aware that the reading assignments for *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Peloponnesian War* are substantial. Please do not read the **introductory** material in any of our texts; you are welcome to read all other textual notes, appendices, etc.. After you've done an assigned reading once, use the Study Questions I hand out before each new text in order to prepare for class. Come to every class discussion ready to share your responses to these questions and with any other thoughts or questions you have.

8/25 Introduction to course.

The Iliad, Book 1 (16 pages; read before our first class)

Week ASSIGNMENT

Week 1

8/30 *The Iliad*, Books 2-4 (51 pages)

9/1 *The Iliad*, Books 5-8 (69 pages)

Week 2

9/6 *The Iliad*, Books 9-12 (72 pages)

9/8 *The Iliad*, Books 13-15 (58 pages)

Look carefully at the "Example Argument" I hand out on 9/6. What do you notice about its construction? Be prepared to describe the features you notice. How does it begin? Can you identify its thesis? How does it move from sentence to sentence? Can you see a connection in thought between the ideas in one sentence and the next, between one paragraph and the next? How does the argument end?

Create a sentence that you could defend in an argument on the same topic as that for this example argument.

Assignment of topic for Argument 1.

Week 3

9/13 *The Iliad*, Books 16-20 (87 pages)
Argument 1 (250-word paragraph) due

9/15 *The Iliad*, Books 21-24 (77 pages)

Week 4

9/20 *The Odyssey*, Books I-II (31 pages)
Deadline for choosing the date of your oral presentation

9/22 *The Odyssey*, Books III-VIII (107 pages)

Week 5

9/27 *The Odyssey*, Books IX-XII (80 pages)

9/29 *The Odyssey*, Books XIII-XIX (143 pages)
Assignment of topic for Argument 2

Week 6

10/4 *The Odyssey*, Books XX-XXIV (87 pages)
Argument 2 (500-550 words) due
Oral presentations of arguments

10/6 Looking back at *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

Week 7

10/11 **Midsemester exam**

10/13 Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (read the entire play quickly to get a sense of what happens; prepare lines 1-782 carefully.)

Fall Break

Week 8

10/25 *Agamemnon*, 783-end
Assignment of topic for Argument 3

10/27 Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (Again, read the entire play to get an overall sense, but prepare lines 1-863 carefully.)

Week 9

11/1 *Oedipus the King*, 864-end
Argument 3 (750-800 words) due
Oral presentations of arguments

11/3 Aristotle, *Poetics*, 1-23 (Sections 1-19)

Week 10

11/8 Aristotle, *Poetics*, 29-33 (Sections 23-25 [1]-[6]); 35 ("In general")-38 (Sections 25-26)

11/10 Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, 35-67

Week 11

11/15 *The Peloponnesian War*, 72-123

11/17 *The Peloponnesian War*, 124-39 (to "Meanwhile the Athenian fleet"); 143-64 (start with "In the same winter")

Week 12

11/22 *The Peloponnesian War*, 168-73; 194-245

11/24 Thanksgiving

Week 13

11/29 *The Peloponnesian War*, 400-29; 455-65; 503-16; 525-37

12/1 Plato, *The Symposium*, 3-36

Week 14

12/6 *The Symposium*, 37-64

12/8 Plato (in *The Last Days of Socrates*), *The Apology* 37-67 and *Crito* 76-92

12/14 **Final exam** at 2 PM