

College of the Humanities
Carleton University
HUMS 1200B

Humanities and Classical Civilization
Fall 2019

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays, from 1pm to 2:30pm

Course Description:

This course aims to do two things. Through the study of a wide variety of texts from different periods and of different genres, it will serve as an introduction to the history of ancient Greek civilization and the ideas that animated it. But no less crucially, the course will also teach students how to write a sound, undergraduate-level, exegetical essay. Thus, it is both a 'content' course and a 'skills' course, and these two aims will go hand in hand: students will achieve an understanding of the 'content' of the course primarily by putting what they learn about the theory of good exegesis and exegetical writing into practice both in class and at home. And their understanding of the 'content' will deepen as they perfect their reading and writing abilities.

Prerequisites: first-year standing in the Bachelor of Humanities program.

Lectures: Wednesdays and Fridays, from 11:35am to 12:55pm, in 303 Paterson Hall

Required Texts: The following texts are available at Singing Pebble Books (206 Main Street, across from Saint-Paul's University and a few doors down from the Green Door restaurant; tel. 613-230-9165).

- Aristophanes. *Lysistrata and Other Plays*. Tr. A.H. Sommerstein. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2002.
- Homer. *The Iliad*. Tr. R. Fagles. Ed. B. Knox. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1990.
- Homer. *The Odyssey*. Tr. R. Fagles. Ed. B. Knox. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1996.

- Lefkowitz, M. & Romm, J. (Eds.) *The Greek Plays: Sixteen Plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides*. New York: Modern Library, 2017.

Online Reading:

- MacIsaac, D. G. *The Humanities Writing Guide*.

This text will be made available to you on cuLearn. You are advised to read it. It is an invaluable resource for learning how to analyze a text and write an exegetical essay.

Excerpts from other ancient authors we will be looking at will be posted to cuLearn.

Recommended Texts:

- Pomeroy, S. et. al. *A Brief History of Ancient Greece*. Third edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Ruvinsky, Maxine. *Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer's Resource*. Second edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press Canada, 2009
- Strunk, W. & White E.B. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

I will not be placing an order for these books. However, they are each in their own way extremely useful. The last two in particular will remain of use to you throughout your studies (and beyond). I therefore especially recommend that you purchase them, either through your neighbourhood bookseller or through a vendor online (Amazon, for example).

Grades: Grades will be based solely on individual, academic merit as judged against absolute standards. Grades will not be adjusted to achieve a supposedly normal distribution or manipulated in any other way.

Grades for the course will be based on the following:

Attendance	10%
Participation	5%
First exegetical assignment	10%
Second exegetical assignment	15%
Third exegetical assignment	25%
Take-home examination (exegetical essay)	35%
Total	100%

- I will distribute handouts describing the nature of, and my expectations for, each of the components of your final grade listed above.
- At the end of the course, you will be assigned a letter grade corresponding to your final percentage, according to the standard Carleton University grading scale (which can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar online here:
<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/>).

Learning Outcomes:

With respect to the assimilation of course content:

- Students should come away from this course with a solid understanding of each of the individual texts studied in it in terms of their narrative structures, overarching arguments, themes and core ideas, intended audiences, literary devices, and so on.
- They should also have a grasp of some of the lines of development and influence that can be traced between them, as well as some of the differences in genre, treatment of themes, and conceptualization of core ideas, that can be discerned between them.
- Furthermore, through our study of these representative texts, students should leave the course with a general sense of the major events, ideas, and artistic, social, cultural, institutional, and economic developments, that characterize the different periods in Ancient Greek history.

With respect to the acquisition of skills:

- Students should come away from the course able:
 - (1) to analyze a literary work of whatever genre and length into its parts, and thus identify its conclusion(s) and antecedent plot developments or supporting premises;
 - (2) to understand how the text's various sections or premises work together to entail or bring about a certain conclusion;
 - (3) represent this analysis and understanding visually in the form of a text-outline;
 - (4) explicate this analysis and understanding clearly and concisely by way of a short, written exegetical assignment based on a detailed plan;
 - (5) and argue in writing, on the basis of a detailed plan, in support of a particular thesis using exegesis to buttress their claims.

Course Requirements at a Glance:

- To pass this course, students will have to:
 - Regularly attend, and do the readings assigned for, the course lectures;

- Complete all of the course assignments; and
- Submit a completed take-home examination
- Failure to complete *all* of the course assignments and/or the take-home examination and/or attend course lectures regularly will result in the grade 'F'.

Attendance:

- *Attendance and participation are critical components of all courses in the liberal arts. Thus, a pattern of non-attendance will in and of itself constitute sufficient grounds for my awarding a final course grade of 'F'.*
- This means that you must attend lectures regularly or you will fail the course automatically. If you find yourself having to miss more than two or three sessions, you will have to justify your absences, and the onus will be on you to do so (I will not chase after you). You will not be penalized if there are legitimate reasons for your repeated absences.
- Furthermore, it is your responsibility to stay on top of any materials covered, to find out about and obtain any materials distributed, and to enquire about any announcements made during lectures you must miss for whatever reason.

Submission Guidelines:

- All written assignments for this course are to be submitted in *two formats*: (1) an electronic copy uploaded to a file folder prepared for that purpose in cuLearn; (2) a paper copy submitted in class.
- Your assignment will be considered submitted when *both* the paper copy and the electronic copy have been received. Assignments will be considered late as long as *both* have not been received.
- All uploaded documents must be in MS Word (i.e., .doc or .docx) format. Documents in any other file format will not be considered submitted, and late penalties will accrue, until the MS Word document is submitted.
- Do not upload your document a second time in order to fix a minor issue since the second submission date and time will replace the original one. If you need to re-submit, do so by emailing the document to me directly at erik.stephenson@carleton.ca

Late Assignments:

- Electronic copies of each assignment must be submitted *before* class on the day they are due. Paper copies must be submitted *at the beginning of class* on the same day.
- Assignments will be considered submitted *only* when *both* the electronic and the paper copies have been received. Assignments will be considered late as long as both have not been received.

- Assignments will be docked 3% (or one third of a letter grade) for each calendar day after their due-date. Late penalties on assignments accompanied by a medical certificate or other proof of a legitimate reason for lateness will be adjusted accordingly.
- Late assignments will very quickly sink to a grade of 'F'. Hand in your assignments on time.
- Even an assignment that is so late it will merit a grade of 0%(F) must be completed or you will fail the course.

Plagiarism:

- Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. A professor who suspects a student has plagiarized an assignment is required to turn the matter over to the Dean. Students found guilty of plagiarism can receive a 0% for the assignment or a grade of 'F' for the whole course. In extreme cases, they can even be suspended or expelled from the university.
- If you use ideas or language from secondary sources in your assignments without citing those sources properly, you will have committed plagiarism, and I will have no choice but to hand over your work to the Dean for investigation.
- Submitting the same work as another student also constitutes plagiarism. Therefore, although I encourage you to help each other, if you hand in an assignment that is substantially the same as another student's, I will have to turn both of them in to the Dean to be investigated for plagiarism.
- Please read the full Departmental policy on plagiarism, which can be found on the final page of this course syllabus.

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

#	Dates:	Readings:
1	4 September	Introduction to the course and to the writing of exegetical essays
2	6 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 1-5
3	11 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 6-10
4	13 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 1-15
5	18 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 16-20
6	20 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 21-24
7	25 Sept.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 1-5; first exegetical assignment due
8	27 Sept.	No class due to Ontario Universities' Fair
9	2 October	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 6-10
10	4 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 11-15
11	9 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 16-20
12	11 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 21-24
13	16 Oct.	Selected poems by Alcaeus, Theognis, Archilochus, and Solon;

		excerpts from Hesiod's <i>Works and Days</i> ; "Solon Visits Croesus" in Herodotus' <i>Histories</i>
14	18 Oct.	On Sparta: Poetry by Tyrtaeus (available in cuLearn); second exegetical assignment due
15	30 Oct.	The Persian Wars: Excerpts from Herodotus' <i>Histories</i> (available in cuLearn)
16	1 November	Aeschylus, "Prometheus Bound" in <i>The Greek Plays</i>
17	6 Nov.	Sophocles, "Antigone" in <i>The Greek Plays</i>
18	8 Nov.	Euripides, "Bacchae" in <i>The Greek Plays</i>
19	13 Nov.	Excerpts from Thucydides' <i>The Peloponnesian War</i> (available in cuLearn)
20	15 Nov.	The Sophists (selected fragments available in cuLearn); third exegetical assignment due
21	20 Nov.	Pre-Socratics (selected fragments available in cuLearn)
22	22 Nov.	Aristophanes, <i>The Clouds</i>
23	27 Nov.	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (available in cuLearn)
24	29 Nov.	Epicurus (selections available on cuLearn) and Epictetus, <i>The Handbook</i> (also available on cuLearn).
25	4 Dec.	Essay plan workshop (essay plan due two days later: December 6th)