

CLCV 2008 | ENGL 2012: Greek & Roman Epic

Time & Location

Remote

Instructor

Yukai Li

Email

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Office Location

Paterson 2A56

Office Hours

TBD

Course Description

We will be reading in their entirety the three major epic poems of Greek and Roman antiquity: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and the *Aeneid* of Vergil. Through lectures, writing assignments, and discussion participation, students will explore the nature of epic poetry and ancient literature more broadly, the mythological content, the themes and problems of the poems themselves, their place in historical and social context, and their afterlife in later history and literature.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding of the conditions and nature of ancient epic.
- Firm grasp of the plot and action of Homeric poems and the *Aeneid*.
- Understanding of main scholarly and interpretive problems.
- Ability to articulate and make arguments about major themes and problems.

Texts

Lattimore, R. 2011. *The Iliad of Homer*. ISBN: 0226470490

— 2007. *The Odyssey of Homer*. ISBN: 006124418X

Lombardo, S. 2005. *Aeneid*. ISBN: 0872207315

You may use other translations if you have good reasons to do so, but be prepared to do a little work matching line numbers between the different versions.

Grading

- Writing assignment 1: 10%
- Writing assignment 2: 15%
- Writing assignment 3: 30%
- Quizzes: 2 x 15%
- Final exam: 15%

Remote and asynchronous learning

- This course will be asynchronous, but with some deadlines during it that will ensure everyone is roughly on the same page. Those deadlines where we will all be synced up will be the two quizzes. *Everyone will do the quizzes on the same day.* The quizzes are open book, but you will need to have followed the material in order to complete them in time.

- The first quiz will take place **Oct 8** (week 5)
- The second quiz will take place **Nov 12** (week 9)
- Everyone will also do the final exam on the same day, with the date to be scheduled by the exam service.
- In between these dates, you will determine your own pace through the material, with the only constraint being the speed at which I upload recorded lectures. I will maintain a rate of at least two lectures per week, but will try to get ahead of that rate for the eager among you. Usually, the first lecture will focus on the reading for the week, and the second on a special topic.
- One further set of deadlines relate to a series of progressive writing assignments. You will be producing three pieces of writing:
 - First, an exegesis (~400 words) of a short passages. You will choose a short passage of less than 100 verses and create 1) an outline of the passage, 2) notes on prominent themes in it, and 3) a prose explanation of how the passage develops the narrative and the themes of the poem. This is an exercise in focused, close attention to a small part of a literary work, with the goal of making you think through the connections between part and whole in an organised way.
 - Second, a comparison (~800 words) between two passages. Building on the work of the previous exercise, you will choose two passages which share the same character, theme, or other commonality. You will produce an outline and explication as before, though somewhat briefer, and add a comparison of where the two passages differ in their treatment of the character or theme you have chosen.
 - Third, an essay of moderate length (~1,200 words) answering your choice from a list of interpretive questions. This will require you to use the following skills you have developed: 1) choosing passages relevant to your question, 2) explicating their relation to a problem or theme, and 3) comparing their treatment of the same theme. In addition, you will draw from these comparisons a nuanced answer to the question you have chosen.
- The deadlines for the writing assignments are as follows:
 - Part 1: **Oct 1**
 - Part 2: **Nov 5**
 - Part 3: **Dec 10**
- There will be a forum on CULearn where you can post any questions you might have. I will check and reply at least weekly. Before posting, please take a moment to see if the question has not already been answered, either in this syllabus or in previously posted questions. Students should also feel free to post replies or further discussions to any topic on this forum.

Exam notes

- There will be a multiple choice, knowledge-based, open book and open notes final during exam period. This is designed to encourage a strong grasp of the plot, and should not be challenging if you have followed all the materials through the semester.

Statement on Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Course Schedule

Week	Readings and special topics		Important dates
Week 1	Intros	Traditional poetry, orality, epic	
		Homeric contexts	
Week 2	<i>Iliad</i>	I-VI; heroes	
Week 3		VII-XII; fame and honour	
Week 4		XIII-XVIII; ecphrasis	Oct 1: Writing assignment 1 due
Week 5		XIX-XXIV; echoes	Oct 8: Quiz 1
Week 6			
Week 7	<i>Odyssey</i>	i-vi; women	
		vii-xii; difference & juxtaposition	
Break (Oct. 26-30)			
Week 8	<i>Odyssey</i>	xiii-xviii; the scar	Nov 5: Writing assignment 2 due
Week 9		xix-xxiv; post-Homeric epic	Quiz 2 (Nov 12)
Week 10	<i>Aeneid</i>	I-IV; Vergil's career	
Week 11		V-VIII; Roman contexts	
Week 12		IX-XII; epic receptions	
Week 13	Overflow and miscellany		Dec 10: Writing assignment 3 due



Humanities

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

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- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
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[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Academic Integrity Process](#)

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Parental Leave: The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

Religious obligation: Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident of or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support.](#)

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. [More information.](#)

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

1. Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals](#)

[Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal](#)

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#). Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall
GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
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Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
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