

# Heroes — Homer's *Odyssey* (GRK 381) Spring '07

*Andrew Scholtz, Instructor*

Room: 1106  
Time: TR 10:05–11:30  
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## General Description

In this advanced ancient Greek course, we shall explore the concept of the hero in Homer's epic of mythic return: the *Odyssey*. While first and foremost a class in ancient Greek poetry studied in the original language, “Heroes — Homer's *Odyssey*” will maintain a consistent focus on the theme of heroism.

- What is a hero/heroine?
- How does the *Odyssey* gender the heroism of its protagonists?
- How has the question been approached in the past? What have we to add to that?
- In what ways is the *Odyssey* an “odyssey”?

We shall read the entire *Odyssey* in translation, though we shall mostly work on translating and comprehending the original Greek. Format: Topical readings; daily translation, discussion, quizzing; occasional student reports, including a short project on Homer, heroism, myth, and art; midterm; final exam. Full-time students who successfully complete the course will qualify for a generous award under provisions of the Levin Fund tuition incentive program. For details, visit:

[http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~grk102/syllabus.htm#tuition\\_incentive](http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~grk102/syllabus.htm#tuition_incentive)

## Specific Goals

- To improve students' reading skills in Greek through reading aloud, translating, reviewing and analyzing grammar, scanning, quizzing, testing
- To gain an appreciation of the *Odyssey* as an *artistic* artifact
  - To study how it addresses human concerns, and attempts to convey them to its audience

- To gain an appreciation of the *Odyssey* as a *historical* artifact
  - To study the social, political, and cultural climate within which Homer and his characters operated
- To gain experience and confidence in presenting ideas and leading discussion

## Texts

- Required: Access to the *Odyssey* in Greek
 

Allen, Thomas W. *Homeri opera*. Oxford Classical Texts. 2 ed. Vol. 3–4. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1917. (Via Blackboard.)

Homer. “*Odyssey*.” *Perseus under Philologic*. Spring 2008. 2 Feb. 2009  
 <<http://artfl.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/philologic/citequery.pl?dbname=greekbeta&query=Hom.%20Od.%201>>.

---. “*Odyssey*.” *Perseus 4.0*. 23 September 2008. 2 Feb. 2009  
 <<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text.jsp?doc=Perseus:text:1999.01.0135>>.

Stanford, William Bedell. *The Odyssey of Homer*. 2 ed. London and New York: Macmillan; St. Martin's Press, 1971. (Via Blackboard.)
- Required: A good English translation of the *Odyssey*, for instance
  - Fagles (Penguin, 1999)
  - Lattimore (Harper, 1999)
  - Lomabardo (Hackett, 2000)
  - FitzGerald (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004)
- Strongly Recommended: A good Homeric Greek-to-English dictionary:
  - Cunliffe *A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect* (Oklahoma, 1977)
  - Autenrieth *Homeric Dictionary* (Focus, 2000)

## Attendance

- **Required!** A pattern of absence/tardiness will lower your grade and could prevent your passing the course.

## Course Work

- **Reading of texts**, with oral and written translation thereof
- Regular **quizzes** thereon — vocab & translation
- Occasional **scansion exercises** relating to dactylic hexameter
- Occasional **written translation** as homework assignment
- A **formal oral presentation** on a topic relating to Homer's *Odyssey*

You will (1) pick a topic relating to Homer's *Odyssey*, the text on which we shall focus (see topic handout). Prior to class on **12-Feb**, you will have picked this topic in consultation with the instructor (office conference). (2) On the basis of primary read-

ing and secondary research, you will on **21-Mar** present an oral presentation on your topic. To accompany your presentation, you will distribute to all others in the class (including the instructor) a handout

- Outlining your presentation
- Noting primary-text passages addressed
- Providing *full bibliography* in MLA style

## **Assessment**

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| participation, oral recitation         | 25% |
| assigned written translation, scansion | 25% |
| quizzing                               | 30% |
| oral presentation                      | 20% |