

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

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Classics 9000 (Core Course)

Fall 2020 (on-line)
First Segment

Greek Literature

Course Outline

The Core Course is intended to introduce graduate students to basic scholarly methods and problems in the central areas of the discipline. The section on Greek and Latin literature will focus on the main generic divisions in archaic and classical literature, and discussion will be built around the consideration of particular interpretative problems. Emphasis will fall on both the reading of ancient texts and modern scholarship on them. Each class will begin with lectures on the relevant aspects of literary and scholarly history, and proceed to discuss the texts and the selected scholarship.

Students are not required to read the ancient texts in the original, but discussion in class will frequently refer to issues of language. For the purposes of this class it is unimportant what translations are used, and students are encouraged to make use of on-line resources, such as the Perseus database or Loebson-line. The modern scholarship marked with an asterisk (*) is also easily available electronically, and should be consulted; Texts not accessible are occasionally referred to and listed in a bibliographical note below.

Evaluation

The grade for the section (worth 25% of the final mark) will be derived from:

- Class participation (25%)
- A take-home test (essay questions) (December exam period) (75%)

Schedule and Readings

Week 1: September 9

Introduction: Philology and Interpretation

- Textual Criticism Handouts (no preparation required)

Weeks 2-3: September 16 and 23

Epic: Oral Theory and Oral Epic? Primary and Secondary Epic?

Ancient Texts:

- *Iliad* 9 (especially the Embassy to Achilles)
- Vergil, *Aeneid* 9. 176-445

Bibliographical note:

- J. M. Foley, "Oral Tradition and its Implications," in I. Morris and B. Powell (eds), *A New Companion to Homer* (Leiden 1997) 146-173
- A. Parry, "Have We Homer's *Iliad*?" *Yale Classical Studies* 20 (1966) 175-216 = *The Language of Achilles and Other Papers* (Oxford 1989) 104-140

Week 4-5: September 30 and October 7*Greek and Roman Lyric: Fragments and Contexts*

Ancient texts:

- Theognis 19-30
- Anacreon fr. 13 Gentili = 358 *PMG*
- Pindar, *Olympian* 1
- Horace, *Odes* 1.37

Modern scholarship:

- *M. Marcovich, "Anacreon fr. 358 *PMG*," *American Journal of Philology* 104 (1983) 372-383
- *L. Woodbury, "Gold Hair and Grey, or the Game of Love: Anacreon fr. 13 (358) *PMG* = 13 Gentili," *Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association* 109 (1979) 277-287 = *Collected Writings* (Atlanta 1991) 325-334
- *A. Köhnken, "Time and Event in Pindar *O.* 1.25-53," *Classical Antiquity* 2 (1983) 66-76 = *Darstellungsziele und Erzählungsstrategien in antiken Texten* (Berlin 2006) 306-317

Week 6: Oct. 14

- *Greek Drama: Tragic Hero, Comic Hero, and the Polis*
- *Poetry to Prose*

Ancient Texts:

- Sophocles, *Oedipus Tyrannos*
- Aristotle, *Poetics* 13
- Aristophanes, *Frogs*

Bibliographic Note:

- W. Burkert, "Oedipus, Oracles, and Meaning: From Sophocles to Umberto Eco," *The Samuel Stubbs Lecture* 1 (Toronto 1991) = *Kleine Schriften* 7 (Göttingen 2007) 53-72
- M. S. Silk, "Serious Issues and 'Serious Comedy,'" in *Aristophanes and the Definition of Comedy* (Oxford 2000) 301-349

Week 7: Oct. 21*Philosophy (1): Fragments and Doxography*

Ancient Texts:

- Presocratics handout

Bibliographic Note:

- C. H. Kahn, *Anaximander and the Origins of Greek Cosmology* (New York 1960) 166-196
- *G. E. L. Owen, "Eleatic Questions," *Classical Quarterly* 10 (1960) 84-102

Week 8: Oct. 28*Philosophy (2) and Oratory: Systems and Persuasion*

Ancient Texts:

- Plato, *Apology of Socrates*

Bibliographic Note

- C. H. Kahn, *Plato and the Socratic Dialogue: the Philosophical Use of a Literary Form* (Cambridge 1996) 1-35

Roman Literature:

Graecia capta ferum uictorem cepit et artis
intulit agresti Latio

Bibliographical Note:

- G. B. Conte, *Latin Literature: A History* (Baltimore 1999)
- G. Hutchinson, *Greek to Latin: Frameworks and Contexts for Intertextuality* (Oxford 2013) [Not for the faint of heart.]

Test after last class