

# DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

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## Classics 9000 (Core Course I)

Fall 23  
First Segment

### Literature

#### Course Outline

*Lesen, viel lesen, sehr viel lesen, möglichst viel lesen.*  
(Read, read a lot, read even more, read as much as possible.)\*

*Man ist nicht umsonst Philologe gewesen, man ist es vielleicht noch, das will sagen, ein Lehrer des langsamen Lesens.*

(I have not been a philologist for nothing, perhaps I still am, that is to say, a teacher of slow reading.)†

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 literature will focus on reading ancient literature critically by considering the main generic divisions in Greek and Latin 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 Greek and Latin, 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 (the on-line Loeb Classical Library is convenient). The modern scholarship marked with an asterisk (\*) is also easily available electronically; PDFs of the other texts will be posted on OWL.

### Evaluation

The grade for the section (worth 1/3 of the final mark) will be derived from:

- Participation (25%)
- A test (essay questions) (Nov. 8) (75%)

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\* Friedrich Ritschl, "Zur Methode des philologischen Studiums," *Opuscula Philologica* (Leipzig 1879) 5.19–32, at 28.

† Friedrich Nietzsche, Preface (§ 5) to *Morgenröte* (1881) = *Werke: Kritische Gesamtausgabe* 5.1 (Berlin and New York 1971).

## Schedule and Readings

### Week 1: September 13

#### *Philology and Interpretation (I): Textual Criticism*

- PDF posted on OWL

### Week 2: September 20

#### *Philology and Interpretation (II): Scholarship and Lexicography*

- PDF and PowerPoint slides

### Week 3: September 27

#### *Epic: Oral Theory and the Epic Tradition*

##### Ancient Texts:

- *Odyssey* 9 (Polyphemus episode)
- Vergil, *Aeneid* 3.588-691

##### Modern scholarship:

- 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: October 4

#### *Lyric and Personal Poetry*

##### Ancient texts:

- Pindar, *Olympian* 1
- Horace 4.2
- Propertius 3.1

##### Modern scholarship:

- G. O. Hutchinson, "Horace and Archaic Greek Poetry," *Talking Books: Readings in Hellenistic and Roman Books of Poetry* (Oxford 2008) 162-176 [originally in S. J. Harrison (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Horace* (Cambridge 2007) 36-49]

Week 5: October 11

*Drama: Tragic Hero, Comic Hero, and the Polis*

Ancient Texts:

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

Modern scholarship:

- 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

Week 6: October 18

*Philosophy: Fragments, Doxography, Dialogues*

Ancient Texts:

- Procratic handout
- Plato, *Apology of Socrates*

Modern Scholarship:

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

Week 7: October 25

- From Greece to Rome

*Graecia capta ferum uictorem cepit et artis  
intulit agresti Latio*

Plautus, *Menaechmi*

Seneca, *Medea*

Modern Scholarship:

- \*D. Feeney, "The Beginnings of a Literature in Latin," *JRS* 95 (2005), 226-240

Week 8: November 8

Test