

CLA 320

Masterpieces of Classical Literature:
Greek and Roman Epic

Fall 2019
TuTh 1:30-2:45pm
214 Daniels Hall

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Dr. Gary Mathews

E-mail: gary_m@ncsu.edu

Office: 227 Withers

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm (or by appointment)

COURSE INFORMATION:

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or instructor's permission

GEP Requirements Satisfied: Humanities Requirement & Global Knowledge Co-requisite

CHASS Requirements Satisfied: Literature I (GRP 503), Literature II (GRP 504)

Other Requirements Satisfied: May be used in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Classical Studies minor concentrations in Greek, Latin and/or Classical Culture

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Study of great works of Greek and Latin literature in a genre such as tragedy, comedy, epic or lyric, with attention to both literary merit and cultural importance. All readings in English. May be taken up to three times in different genres for credit.

This semester we will read and discuss four of the most influential Greek and Roman epics both for their own times and for later Western literature and culture: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (8th century BC Greece), Apollonius Rhodius' *Argonautika* (3rd century BC Hellenistic Egypt), and Vergil's *Aeneid* (late 1st century BC Augustan Rome). We will pay attention to the aesthetic form and rhetorical intentions of the epic genre; to the significance of each poem to the society of its time; and to the enduring questions about the meaning and value of life these great works of literature have raised.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course requires first and foremost intensive student preparation for class meetings, followed up by active engagement with the instructor and other students in class. Students should expect to spend at least three hours working outside of class for every 75-minute class session, primarily on careful study of assigned readings and associated study guides, and to spend additional time on review for tests and preparation of written and oral assignments. Classes will mostly consist of general discussion based on

the study guides for each epic, with occasional instructor lectures to provide essential background information and possibly occasional group discussions. As a further aid to promote active class engagement, all students, working in groups of two, will be responsible once during the semester for leading discussion of selected questions from the study guides.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbooks:

Homer, *Iliad*, trans. Richmond Lattimore.
Edition: 1st (University of Chicago Press, 2011)
ISBN: 9780226470498
Cost: New \$15.00

Homer, *Odyssey*, trans. Emily Wilson.
Edition: 1st (W. W. Norton, 2018)
ISBN: 9780393356250
Cost: New \$18.95

Apollonios Rhodios, *Argonautika*, trans. Peter Green.
Edition: Expanded (University of California Press 2008)
ISBN: 9780520253933
Cost: New \$31.95

Vergil, *Aeneid*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald.
Edition: Revised (Vintage 1990)
ISBN: 9780679729525
Cost: New \$13.00

Online Resources: A variety of supplementary course materials for required or recommended reading or viewing will be posted online in Moodle, with links to further online materials and library resources for research on course assignments.

No other course materials or expenses are required.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the term, students will be able to:

1. Identify key factors in the social and historical contexts of the epic genre during the times of Homer, Apollonius and Vergil.
2. Understand the principles of epic verse and composition, both oral (Homer) and literary (Apollonius and Vergil).
3. Recognize the main linguistic and stylistic devices used in epic and analyze their function, so as to appreciate and explain the distinct literary value of each epic.
4. Analyze and interpret the themes treated in Greek and Roman epic in relation to the society within which each epic was created.
5. Use basic research resources to assess a current topic in the scholarly study of epic.

GEP OBJECTIVES:

These learning outcomes will support the broader objectives of GEP Humanities and Global Knowledge courses, as follows:

Each course in the Humanities category of the General Education Program will provide instruction and guidance that help students to:

1. Engage the human experience through the interpretation of human culture;
2. Become aware of the act of interpretation itself as a critical form of knowing in the humanities;
3. Make academic arguments about the human experience using reasons and evidence for supporting those reasons that are appropriate to the humanities.

Each course in Global Knowledge will provide instruction and guidance that help students to achieve at least 2 of the following:

1. Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from different societies;
2. Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural practices and their dynamic relations to other historical contexts;
3. Explain how a culture changes in response to internal and external pressures.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance:

Regular attendance and active participation are not only required, but as explained above, are vital to your success in the course. Being on time is equally important, as late arrivals can cause serious disruption of other students' and the instructor's concentration. Frequent late arrival will affect your participation grade; see the criteria for the preparation and participation grade below.

Absences:

Students will not be penalized for a reasonable number of **excused absences**. Per University regulations, excused absences must fall into one of two categories: sanctioned anticipated situations and documented emergency situations. Anticipated situations (e.g., participation in official University functions, court attendance, religious observances, or military duty) must be submitted in writing to the instructor at the beginning of the semester or at least one week prior to the anticipated absence. Emergency situations (e.g., student illness, injury or death of immediate family member) can be documented here: <https://dasa.ncsu.edu/students/absence-verification-process/>; documentation must be completed within one week of returning to class. There is no NC State policy regarding a reasonable number of excused absences that an instructor should allow without penalty. But multiple absences for any reason can seriously affect a student's ability to succeed in a course or raise a question of fairness to other students. Therefore, if a student has excused absences that accumulate beyond three (3) (e.g., due to extended illness), the student must consult with the instructor about fulfillment of course requirements or a penalty of (1) percentage point off the final course grade will be applied for each additional excused absence.

Students will also be allowed two (2) **unexcused absences** without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond two will subtract one (1) percentage point from the final course grade.

Students are responsible for all work missed and for any assignments announced on a day they were absent, whether the absence was excused or unexcused. For further information about NC State University policy regarding attendance and absences, see the NC State Attendance Policy (<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03>).

Adverse Weather: In the event of class cancellation due to adverse weather, check for announcements in email and Moodle giving instructions for keeping up with the course work. For more information about campus adverse weather procedures, read the NC State Adverse Weather Policy (https://www.ncsu.edu/human_resources/benefits/leave/adverseweather.php). Check email, news, the NCSU home page, or call 919-513-8888 for the latest campus information.

LATE AND MAKE-UP WORK:

Make-ups of the midterm tests or final exam will be allowed only in the event of appropriately documented excused absence (e.g., acute illness or injury). Except in case of emergency (again, appropriately documented), no class presentation or writing assignment will be accepted late without the prior permission of the instructor. Such permission will be granted only for very good reason, i.e., not because you procrastinated or didn't anticipate conflicts with other course work or employment.

IMPORTANT NC STATE ADMINISTRATIVE DATES:

First day of classes: Wednesday, August 21

Last day to add a course or drop a course without a W grade: Wednesday, September 4

Last day to initiate schedule changes or change to credit only: Friday, October 18

Fall Break: Thursday, October 10

Thanksgiving Holiday: Thursday, November 28

Last day of classes: Friday, December 6

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Preparation and Participation (12%): Students are expected to come to class with the text to be discussed and the assigned reading for the day completed and to make regular contributions to class discussion. Failure to come to class prepared and/or to make regular contributions will count against your grade (see Preparation and Participation Grading Rubric below). See Attendance Policy above for detailed policies on attendance and absences.

Use of cell phones, PDAs, and other electronic devices to talk, text, surf, check email, etc. during class is forbidden. Please turn off and put such devices away prior to class and do not bring them back out until class is over. Use of a personal computer to access course documents or take notes is permitted, but if you are caught using it for any other purpose, that's it, no second chances, you won't be allowed further use of it.

2. Class Presentation (15%): All students, working in pairs, will give a short presentation to the class on a topic related to our study of the epics, on a date to be determined by each pair. Detailed instructions will be provided in class and on the course web site.
3. Short Essays (15%): There will be two 3-4 page essays asking you to engage imaginatively in a sustained manner with the stories told in two of the epics under study. Detailed instructions will be provided in class and on the course web site.

4. Midterm Tests (18%): The midterm tests will require students to (a) provide basic explanations of literary/historical terms and concepts relating to the works studied, (b) identify key characters in the works, and (c) identify and discuss passages from the works. There will be previews of both midterms so that you will know the kinds of questions to prepare for.
5. Research Paper (20%): The paper will be 7-8 pages in length and due on Tuesday, November 19. Proper MLA citation must be used for direct and indirect quotes and in the bibliography. In the paper you will explore a key topic in the interpretation of one of the epics under study, in response to a professional academic article that you will choose from your own research. Your choice article to respond to and a brief explanation of your interest in this article will be due Tuesday, October 29. Detailed instructions for the paper assignment will be provided in class and on the course web site.
6. Final Exam (20%): The final exam will not be comprehensive, in that any passages you are asked to identify and discuss will be taken only from the works studied after the second midterm, but it will ask you to make comparisons in an essay format among the works studied throughout the semester. Otherwise, the format will be similar to the two midterms. There will also similarly be a preview of the final exam.

Letter Grades:

All work under each grade component will be averaged on a 100-point scale, and then the component averages will be combined in the ratios above to yield your final numerical score out of 100. The course letter grade will be determined according to standard NC State letter grading. (For more information about NC State grading policies see <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03>.)

98 - 100 = A+	93 - 97.99 = A	90 - 92.99 = A-
88 - 89.99 = B+	83 - 87.99 = B	80 - 82.99 = B-
78 - 79.99 = C+	73 - 77.99 = C	70 - 72.99 = C-
68 - 69.99 = D+	63 - 67.99 = D	60 - 62.99 = D-
0 - 59.99 = F		

Preparation & Participation Grading Rubric:

The following are the criteria for the preparation and participation portion of the course grade:

A+ (100%)	Outstanding effort. Student meets and exceeds all criteria for an "A."
A (95%)	Student is always very well prepared and attentive, always responds when called on and volunteers often with pertinent answers or questions.
B (85%)	Student is generally prepared and attentive, responds when called on and volunteers on occasion.

C (75%)	Student is usually prepared but shows evidence of being unprepared or inattentive on occasion, usually responds when called on but sometimes has trouble responding, and does not volunteer often; may sometimes arrive late.
D (65%)	Student is unprepared, inattentive, never volunteers, or often comes to class late.
F (0%)	Student exhibits a lack of concern for the class, sleeps in class, always arrives late, or disturbs the class.

WRITING AND SPEAKING TUTORIAL SERVICES:

If writing is difficult for you, please visit the Writing and Speaking Tutorial Services to review drafts of assignments before they are due. The Service offers free one-on-one consultation with experienced tutors who can help with all levels and stages of writing. There are six locations around campus that offer drop-in services. For more information see <https://tutorial.dasa.ncsu.edu/writing-speaking/>.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT-ONLY (S/U) GRADING:

In order to receive a grade of S, students are required to take all exams and quizzes, complete all assignments, and earn a grade of C- or better. Conversion from letter grading to credit only (S/U) is subject to university deadlines. Refer to the Registration and Records calendar for deadlines related to grading. For more details see <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-15>.

AUDITING:

Students interested in auditing the course should consult with the instructor. Information about and requirements for auditing a course can be found at <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-04>.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

Incomplete grades will be given at the instructor’s discretion and only in the event that a student who has finished most of the course work cannot complete the course due to unforeseeable circumstances beyond his/her control. If an extended deadline is not authorized by the instructor or department, an unfinished incomplete grade will automatically change to an F after either (a) the end of the next regular semester in which the student is enrolled (not including summer sessions), or (b) the end of 12 months if the student is not enrolled, whichever is shorter. Incompletes that change to F will count as an attempted course on transcripts. The burden of fulfilling an incomplete grade is the responsibility of the student. For more information see <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03>.

CAREER SERVICES FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJORS:

Explore career options related to your major, make decisions about your major or minor, build resumes and cover letters, prepare for interviews, develop internship/job search strategies, maximize career fairs, and more through the Career Development Center, 2100 Pullen Hall (<http://careers.ncsu.edu>). Make appointments through ePACK: <https://ncsu-csm.symplicity.com/students/>.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Regardless of discipline, honest and rigorous scholarship is at the foundation of a Research I institution. Students are bound by the academic integrity policy as stated in the NC State Code of Student Conduct: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>. Students are required to uphold the university pledge of honor and exercise honesty in completing every assignment. Violations of academic integrity will result

in referral to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation of a failing grade for the assignment, and they will be reported to the department head.

ELECTRONICALLY HOSTED COURSE COMPONENTS:

Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via electronic tools like email or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course. For more information see <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-08-00-11>.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with the Disability Resource Office at Holmes Hall, Suite 304, 2751 Cates Avenue, Campus Box 7509, 919-515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.01).

<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-01>.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

NC State University provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, NC State affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation also is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. For NC State's policies and regulations covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliation please see <http://policies.ncsu.edu/category/campus-environment> or <https://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-04-25-05/>. Any person who feels that he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 515-3148.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND RULES:

Students are responsible for reviewing the following PRRs which pertain to their course rights and responsibilities:

<http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-04-25-05> (Equal Opportunity Non-discrimination Policy),

<http://oied.ncsu.edu/home/> (Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity),

<http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01> (Code of Student Conduct),

<http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03> (Grades and Grade Point Average),

<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-15> (Credit-Only Courses)

<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-04> (Audits), and

<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03> (Incompletes).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and posted in Moodle.

First Class (August 22) – Introduction to Course

UNIT 1. HOMER'S *ILIAD*

Week 1 (August 27-29)

Tuesday: *Iliad*, Books 1-3

Thursday: *Iliad*, Books 4-6

Week 2 (September 3-5)

Tuesday: *Iliad*, Books 7-9

Thursday: *Iliad*, Books 11-14

Week 3 (September 10-12)

Tuesday: *Iliad*, Books 15-18

Thursday: *Iliad*, Books 19-22

Week 4 (September 17-19)

Tuesday: *Iliad*, Books 23-24

Thursday: **First Midterm Test**

UNIT 2. HOMER'S *ODYSSEY*

Week 5 (September 24-26) – First Short Essay Due Tuesday, September 24

Tuesday: *Odyssey*, Books 1-3

Thursday: *Odyssey*, Books 4-6

Week 6 (October 1-3) – Student Presentations Start This Week

Tuesday: *Odyssey*, Books 7-10

Thursday: *Odyssey*, Books 11-14

Week 7 (October 8-10)

Tuesday: Introduction to Classical Studies Research. See Research Paper Assignment in Moodle.

Thursday: **Fall Break**

Week 8 (October 15-17) – Second Short Essay Due Thursday, October 17

Tuesday: *Odyssey*, Books 15-19

Thursday: *Odyssey*, Books 20-23

Week 9 (October 22-24)

Tuesday: *Odyssey*, Book 24

Thursday: **Second Midterm Test**

UNIT 3. APOLLONIUS RHODIUS' *ARGONAUTIKA*

Week 10 (October 29-31) – Research Paper Topic Due Tuesday, October 29

Tuesday: *Argonautika*, Book I

Thursday: *Argonautika*, Book II

Week 11 (November 5-7)

Tuesday: *Argonautika*, Book III

Thursday: *Argonautika*, Book IV

UNIT 4. VERGIL'S *AENEID*

Week 12 (November 12-14)

Tuesday: *Aeneid*, Book I

Thursday: *Aeneid*, Books II-III

Week 13 (November 19-21) – Research Paper Due Tuesday, November 19

Tuesday: *Aeneid*, Books IV-V

Thursday: *Aeneid*, Books VI-VII

Week 14 (November 26)

Tuesday: *Aeneid*, Books VIII-IX

Thursday: **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15 (December 3-5)

Tuesday: *Aeneid*, Books X-XI

Thursday: *Aeneid*, Book XII

Final Exam: Thursday, December 12, 1:00-3:00 pm