

USem 9b
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Hours: MWTh 10-11, 12-2; F 10-12

Spring, 2008
C. Walker
Rabb 138

Reading Schedule

January	16	Introduction
	21	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 1-4 (Robert Fitzgerald translation)
	23	<i>Odyssey</i> 5-8
	28	<i>Odyssey</i> 9-12: Underworld in the Middle
	30	<i>Odyssey</i> 13-16
February	4	<i>Odyssey</i> 17-20
	6	<i>Odyssey</i> 21-24: return in the end
		Paper 1 (3-5 pp.;15%)
	11	Euripides, <i>Alcestis</i> (in Grene & Lattimore, <i>Euripides 1</i>) Discussion: Heracles, god and human
	13	Aristophanes, <i>Frogs</i> : the comic Underworld
***** Spring Break*****		
	25	Epic and dramatic Underworlds Midterm Assessment
	27	Paper 2 (4-6 pp.; 20%) Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 1-2 (Robert Fitzgerald translation)
March	3	<i>Aeneid</i> 3-4: Roman literate reworking of Homeric lit
	5	<i>Aeneid</i> 5-6: geography and system of Underworld
	10	<i>Aeneid</i> 7-8: Hercules, again
	12	<i>Aeneid</i> 9-10: conflicts of the old and new orders
	17	<i>Aeneid</i> 11-12: Rome and the new order
	19	<i>Aeneid</i> : conclusion
	24	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , pp 94-99, 209-61 (Rolfe Humphries translation): Juno, Hercules, and Orpheus
	26	Epic and attitude
April	2	Paper 3 (4-6 pp.; 20%)
	7-9	<i>The Gospel of Luke</i> : the impact of Christianity
	14-16	Medieval and modern tales (handout)
*****Passover Break*****		
	28-30	The Descent of Inanna (in Wolkstein and Kramer, <i>Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth</i>)
May	2	Final Paper (25%)

Books should be available in the Brandeis B&N bookstore, as well as the library.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Some ground rules and advice:

1. Please use the assigned translations, as that will make citations and wording consistent and uniform. Texts are available for purchase in the bookstore and on loan in the library. If you have difficulty acquiring a text from either source, please tell me; I often have extra texts or can Xerox for you.
2. Although I do not deduct for absences, I do assign grades for class participation, and absent folk do not participate. I cannot make you talk, so the quality and content of the discussions depend heavily on the attitudes and preparation of you and your associates.
3. Since this class is a SEMINAR, it will seriously disadvantage you to put off the reading. Your verbal contributions will undoubtedly reveal your lack of preparation, and mere physical presence is insufficient. I strongly urge that you do the readings in advance, preferably more than once. You might best read the entire text through, then review the specific assignment just before class; this will allow you time to deliberate upon paper topics and write (and revise) at some leisure. I see little point in buying notes, as these “aids” are frequently misleading, if not outright wrong. Similarly, secondary scholarship is at your discretion, provided that you document it appropriately, but the time is often better spent in doing your own analysis.
4. According to university statistics, I am not an easy grader; do not expect an A unless you are willing to do exceptional work (by MY standards). Nevertheless, my self-image is as a reasonable and understanding person, so please see me about ANY problems, temporary, permanent, documented, or suspected, concerning USem and your performance therein.
5. Because my agenda for this course is to teach you to have confidence in reading texts and skill in writing thesis-driven papers, **academic integrity, as defined by the Student Handbook, is essential.** Any violations will have serious repercussions.
6. Grading
 - a. Your grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Paper 1 (3-5 pp.)	15%
Paper 2 (4-6 pp.)	20%
Paper 3 (4-6 pp.)	20%
Comprehensive essay	25%
Class participation	20%
 - b. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in dropping a grade level for each day late. Failure to submit an assignment will result in an E (= 0), cause for failing the course regardless of other grades. All papers should be submitted in hard copy, at the beginning of the class at which they are due.