

Classics 171: Greek Epic, Athenian Drama

Fall 2009

Instructor: Lenny Muellner, Rabb 130.

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10-11 am or by appointment.

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Requirements: Class participation, three 5-6 page papers.

Syllabus:

Monday, August 31: Introduction. Social structure of Ancient Greece. Panhellenism. Literature and Poetry in Greece. Athenian Imperialism. Literature and Politics in Athens. Poetry as a performance medium. Epic poetry, its composition and interpretation.

Wednesday, September 2: *Iliad* Scroll 1.

Monday, September 7: no class

Wednesday, September 9 [Brandeis Monday]: *Iliad* Scrolls 2-8

Monday, September 14: *Iliad* Scrolls 9

Wednesday, September 16: *Iliad* Scroll 10-16

Monday, September 21: *Iliad* Scroll 16-18

Wednesday, September 23: *Iliad* Scroll 19-23

Monday, September 28: No class

Tuesday, September 29 [Brandeis Monday]: *Iliad* Scroll 24

Wednesday, September 30: *Odyssey* Scrolls 1-5, 6-8

Monday, October 5: No class

Wednesday, October 7: *Odyssey* Scrolls 9-12

Monday, October 12: *Odyssey* Scrolls 9-12

Wednesday, October 14: *Odyssey* Scrolls 13-21

Monday, October 19: *Odyssey* Scrolls 22-24 **First paper due**

Wednesday, October 21: Introduction to Athens, Tragedy, and Comedy: Sophocles, *Philoctetes*

Monday, October 26: Aeschylus, *Persians*

Wednesday, October 27: Aeschylus, *Suppliants*

Monday, November 2: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*

Wednesday, November 4: Sophocles, *Antigone*

Monday, November 9: Euripides, *Phoenician Women*

Wednesday, November 11: Euripides, *Cyclops* **Second paper due**

Monday, November 16: Euripides, *Helen*

Wednesday, November 18: Euripides, *Alcestis*

Monday, November 23: Euripides, *Bacchae*

Wednesday, November 25: Euripides, *Bacchae*

Monday, November 30: Aristophanes, *Birds*

Wednesday, December 2: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* **Final paper due**

Required Books:

Please use the translations given below. It's not just a matter of me imposing my judgment: you won't be able to follow discussions of the specific words of the texts in class or share their words with your fellow students, because different translations diverge a lot. There's also the messy problem that happens when I am reading a paper by you based on your reading of another translation that I may or may not have.

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. S. Lombardo, Hackett Publishing Company; (June 1, 1997)
ISBN: 0872203522

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. S. Lombardo, Hackett Publishing Company; (March 2000)
ISBN: 0872204847

Aristophanes, *Birds and Other Plays*, Oxford University Press paperback;
ISBN 978-0199555673

Aeschylus, *The Complete Aeschylus*, Volume II, ed. P. Burian and A. Shapiro,
Oxford UP paperback, ISBN 978-0195373288

Sophocles, *Antigone*, trans. Reginald Gibbons and Charles Segal, Oxford UP
paperback: ISBN 978-0195143102

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, trans. Stephen Berg and Diskin Clay, Oxford UP
paperback: ISBN 9780195054934

Sophocles, *Philoctetes*, trans. S. Schein, Focus Classical Library: ISBN 978-
1585100866

Euripides, *Alcestis*, trans. W. Arrowsmith, Oxford UP paperback, ISBN 978-
0195061666

Euripides, *Cyclops*, trans. H. McHugh and D. Konstan, Oxford UP paperback, ISBN
978-0195143034

Euripides, *The Phoenician Women*, trans. P. Burian and B. Swann, Oxford UP
paperback, ISBN 0195077083

Euripides, *Helen*, trans. J. Michie and C. Leach, Oxford UP paperback,
ISBN 0195077105

Euripides, *Bacchae*, trans. Catherine Baker, Sarah Fram, Hal Grossman, Jon Lewis,
Tod Kulkin, Gayle McElvain, Sam Petsonk, Ben Powell, Ben Woodring, and Leonard
Muellner: <http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/classics/Bacchae2006.html>