

Greek 125: Greek Lyric Poetry

Fall Term, 2007
Block E, MWTh12-1
Rabb 335

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Rabb 130

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm or by appointment

Course Content

Close reading of select fragments of Archilochus, Theognis, Alcman, Sappho, Alcaeus, Anacreon, Simonides, Bacchylides, and an epinician or two of Pindar. The course will comprise instruction in language at this level along with literary analysis of the poetry. Instruction in the language of these poems is complex in itself: it comprises learning the forms of a poetic language which is the product of a performance tradition, learning several dialectal flavors (Ionic, Doric, Aeolic) of it, and learning the 'poetry of grammar,' as Roman Jakobson called it, the way in which poets manipulate the conventions of their language and tradition for expressive purposes. Then there is the literary analysis of the poems, in this instance by way of the disciplines of philology and linguistics and the study of the poetics of performance traditions.

Reading List

Text

D. R. Campbell, *Greek lyric poetry : a selection of early Greek lyric, elegiac, and iambic poetry*, 2nd edition, Bristol, 1982

Other (newly available) primary texts will be distributed digitally.

Secondary sources (more will be added)

Bell, M. 1995. "The Motya Charioteer and Pindar's *Isthmian 2*." *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome* 40:1-42

E. Benveniste, trans. E. Palmer, *Indo-European language and society*, Coral Gables, 1973

E. Benveniste, trans. M. E. Meek, *Problems in general linguistics*, Coral Gables, 1971

Roman Jakobson, *Selected Writings, III: Poetry of Grammar and Grammar of Poetry*, The Hague, 1962-68

A. Lord, *The Singer of Tales*, 2nd ed., ed. by G. Nagy and S. Mitchell, Cambridge, 2000

G. Nagy, *Poetry as Performance: Homer and Beyond*, Cambridge, 1996

———, *Pindar's Homer: the lyric possession of an epic past*, Baltimore, 1990

———, *Comparative Studies in Greek and Indic Meter*, Cambridge, 1974

M. L. West, ed., *Greek lyric poetry: the poems and fragments of the Greek iambic, elegiac, and melic poets (excluding Pindar and Bacchylides) down to 450 B.C.*, Oxford, 1994