

Fame, Tradition and Narrative: Homer's Iliad [Weekly readings]

[View Online](#)

259 items

Compulsory items for purchase: (2 items)

The Iliad of Homer - trans. Richmond A. Lattimore, 2011

[Book](#) | Essential

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | Essential

WEEK 1: Introduction and Iliad book 1 (6 items)

First Hour: Orientation and Introductory Lecture: (1 items)

'Fame, Tradition and Narrative: key themes and advice for studying the Iliad.'

Second Hour: Group Work (5 items)

Read Iliad book 1 and the secondary reading for your group and make notes on the following questions:

Achilles group: is Agamemnon wholly or solely in the wrong in this book? (refer to specific evidence from the text)

Briseis group: How does the narrator establish his authority to tell this tale in book 1? What aspects of its style and presentation suggest that this poem stems from an oral tradition and is designed for live performance? (refer to specific examples).

Chryses group: What is the relationship between the quarrel between Agamemnon and Achilles and the subsequent scene on Olympus? What does this divine scene add?

Secondary Reading: (4 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 11-43, 45-64 (all groups)

Affronts and Quarrels - D. Cairns

[Chapter](#) | (Achilles group)

The mortal hero: an introduction to Homer's Iliad - Seth L. Schein, 1984

Book | Chapter 1 (Briseis group)

Manhood and Heroism - M. Clarke

Chapter | Esp. pp. 74-86 (Chryses group) [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

WEEK 2: Iliad book 2 / the use of similes (26 items)

First Hour: Group Work

Achilles group (3 items)

Read 2.1-393. How are we to view Agamemnon's 'trial' of the men here? Does it make sense? What do we learn of Agamemnon's and Odysseus' character and roles?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 65-74.

Agamemnon's role in the Iliad - O. Taplin

Chapter

"The City-Sacker Odysseus" in Iliad 2 and 10 - Adele J. Haft, 1990

Article | Just read pp. 37-45. (Article contains Greek but line numbers match Lattimore exactly.)

Briseis group: (3 items)

Read 2.207-393. Why do you think Thersites gets to be in the Iliad? What does this scene tell us about the world of the Greek heroes and the role of speech-making in the poem?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 65-74

The language of heroes: speech and performance in the Iliad - Richard P. Martin, 1989

Book | Chapter 3

Thersites in the 'Iliad' - N. Postlethwaite, 1988

Article

Chryses group: (5 items)

Read 2.484-877 and note maps in Lattimore, pp. 69-72. What can the 'Catalogue of Ships'

and 'catalogue of Trojan contingents' tell us about how the Iliad was composed and the poem's narrative technique. What does the catalogue of ships – and the way in which it is introduced – do for the narrator's status and does it 'fit' with the rest of the poem?

Secondary Reading: (5 items)

Catalogue of Ships - O. Dickinson

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 65-67

The Iliad: a commentary, Vol. 1: Books 1-4 - G. S. Kirk, 1985

Book | pp. 168-189 [Very detailed and not a priority for the class]

The Trojan Catalogue - I. Rutherford

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Catalogues - E. Minchin

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Second Hour: Presentations and Discussion: the use of similes

Presentation 1: (6 items)

Look at the unique series of similes at 2.455-83. Discuss their coherence and possible functions.

Secondary Reading: (6 items)

Similes and other likenesses - R. Buxton

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

The Iliad: a commentary, Vol. 5: Books 17-20 - Mark W. Edwards, G. S. Kirk, 1991

Book | pp. 24-91

Similes - M. Edwards

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 38-9

Similes in the Homeric poems - Carroll Moulton, 1977

Book

Similes in the Iliad - Carroll Moulton, 1974

Article

Presentation 2: (7 items)

Look at the following similes in their context and discuss their impact: 8.555-561; 11.556-63; 20.495-7, 18.600-1, 3.33-5, 16.6-10. What sorts of poetic and narrative function do the poem's similes have?

Secondary Reading: (7 items)

Similes and other likenesses - R. Buxton

[Chapter](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

The Iliad: a commentary, Vol. 5: Books 17-20 - Mark W. Edwards, G. S. Kirk, 1991

[Book](#) | pp. 24-91

Similes - M Edwards

[Article](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 38-9

Homer on life and death - Jasper Griffin, 1980

[Book](#) | [Use index]

Similes in the Iliad - Carroll Moulton, 1974

[Article](#)

Character, narrator, and simile in the Iliad - Jonathan L. Ready, 2011

[Book](#) | [Use index]

WEEK 3: Iliad 3-7 / gender and heroism, Greeks and Trojans (23 items)

First Hour: Group Work

Achilles group (3 items)

Read all of Book 3. How far are the Trojan characters in this book represented negatively? How is Helen represented and used in this book?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 83-93, 325-7

Homer: poet of the Iliad - Mark W. Edwards, 1987

[Book](#) | pp 188-97

Helen in the "Iliad" "Causa Belli" and Victim of War: From Silent Weaver to Public Speaker - Hanna M. Roisman, 2006

[Article](#)

Briseis group: (5 items)

Read Books 4-5. What is the tone and function of Agamemnon's 'review' of the men at 4.220-421? What narrative and thematic functions are served by Diomedes' aristeia in book 5 and the entry of Hector into the battle?

Secondary Reading: (5 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 94-118.

The language of heroes: speech and performance in the Iliad - Richard P. Martin, 1989

Book | Chapter 2

Diomedes - O. Anderson

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Aphrodite - B. Currie

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Dione - O. Lyons

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Chryses group: (3 items)

Focus on the meeting of Glaucus and Diomedes at 6.119-236 and the duel between Hector and Ajax at 7.1-321. What do these episodes tell us about heroic 'values' and how enemies interact in the Iliad?

Secondary Reading (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 94-118

Iliad, book VI - Barbara Graziosi, Johannes Haubold, 2010

Book | pp. 34-40

The Wits of Glaucus - Ruth Scodel, 1992

Article

Second Hour: Presentations and Discussion: Book 6 – Hector and the women of Troy.

Presentation 1: (5 items)

What do we learn about Hector and his priorities through his encounter with Helen, Hecabe and Andromache in Book 6?

Secondary Reading (5 items)

The Divided World of Iliad VI - Marylin B. Arthur, 1981

Article

Gender and Homeric Epic - N. Felson, L. M. Slatkin

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Iliad, book VI - Barbara Graziosi, Johannes Haubold, 2010

Book | pp. 40-47

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 119-129

Like a Woman: Hector and the Boundaries of Masculinity - Thomas Van Nortwick, 2001

Article

Presentation 2: (5 items)

What is Andromache's role in Book 6 and how might an original archaic or classical audience have viewed her words and actions?

Secondary Reading (5 items)

Early Greece: The Origins of the Western Attitude toward Women - M. Arthur, 1973

Article

Gender and Homeric Epic - N. Felson, L.M. Slatkin

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Iliad, book VI - Barbara Graziosi, Johannes Haubold, 2010

Book | pp. 40-56

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 119-129

The mortal hero: an introduction to Homer's Iliad - Seth L. Schein, 1984

Book | Chapter 6

WEEK 4 Iliad 8-12 / The Embassy to Achilles and the Character of Achilles (24 items)

First Hour: Group Work

Achilles group (3 items)

Read Book 10 (the so-called Doloneia). It has been argued that this book was a later addition to the Iliad and is surplus to requirements. Do you agree with this? Jones calls the

opening 'dull' and the attack on Rhesus 'crude and unheroic': is this fair?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp.164-169

Iliad 10 and the poetics of ambush: a multitext edition with essays and commentary -

Casey Dué, Mary Ebbott, 2010

[Book](#) | Esp. Chapter 1. [An external online edition is available via the 'online resource' link.]

Seeing in the dark: kleos, tragedy and perception in Iliad 10 - J. Hesk

[Chapter](#)

Briseis group: (4 items)

Read Book 11, focusing on lines 598-848. What is the significance of these scenes for the rest of the poem? What is the paradigmatic force of Nestor's big speech to Patroclus?

Secondary Reading: (4 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 170-183

Nestor the Good Counsellor - Hanna M. Roisman, 2005

[Article](#)

Homeric soundings: the shaping of the Iliad - Oliver Taplin, 1992

[Book](#) | pp. 155-177

The Paradigmatic Nature of Nestor's Speech in Iliad 11 - Victoria Pedrick, 1983

[Article](#)

Chryses group: (4 items)

Read Book 12. What is the significance of lines 1-35 on the Greeks' wall? How does the wall develop the battle narrative? What is the significance of the exchange between Hector and Polydamas (175-250) and between Glaucus and Sarpedon (251-330)?

Secondary Reading: (4 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 184-191

Homer's Trojan theater: space, vision, and memory in the Iliad - Jenny Strauss Clay, 2011

[Book](#) | pp. 56-68 [Available in the library and as an e-book]

The poet's voice: essays on poetics and Greek literature - Simon Goldhill, 1991

[Book](#) | Chapter 2

Manhood and Heroism - M. Clarke

[Chapter](#) | [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

Second Hour: Presentations and Discussion: The Embassy to Achilles and the Character of Achilles

Presentation 1: (6 items)

How does the embassy episode in Book 9 deepen the poem's portrayal of Achilles? Does he reject an 'heroic code'?

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 147-163

Homeric Words and Speakers - Jasper Griffin, 1986

[Article](#)

The language of heroes: speech and performance in the Iliad - Richard P. Martin, 1989

[Book](#) | Chapter 5. [An external online edition is available via the 'online resource' link]

The Language of Achilles - M. D. Reeve, 1973

[Article](#) | [You can match the Greek to Lattimore via line numbers]

The mortal hero: an introduction to Homer's Iliad - Seth L. Schein, 1984

[Book](#) | Chapter 4

Ransom, revenge, and heroic identity in the Iliad - Donna F. Wilson, 2002

[Book](#) | Chapter 2

Presentation 2: What is the role of Phoenix in book 9? (5 items)

Secondary Reading: (5 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 147-163

Homer beside himself: para-narratives in the Iliad - Maureen Alden, 2001

[Book](#) | pp.222-242

Iliad, Book nine - Jasper Griffin, Homer, 1995

[Book](#)

Achilles' Teachers: Chiron and Phoenix in the 'Iliad' - C. J. Mackie, 1997

[Article](#)

Mythological Paradeigma in the Iliad - M. M. Willcock, 1964[Article](#)**WEEK 5: Books 13-17 / The 'Homeric Question' / repetition and orality**

(28 items)

First Hour: Group Work**Achilles group** (3 items)

Read books 13-15. Here we have an ebb and flow of fighting between Trojans and Greeks, culminating in the Trojans' ascendancy as they press close to the Greeks' ships. How does 'Homer' shape the narrative here? What are the most vivid and entertaining episodes or descriptions in these books and what function do they serve?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)**Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations** - Peter V. Jones, 2003[Book](#) | pp. 192-221**Homer's Trojan theater: space, vision, and memory in the Iliad** - Jenny Strauss Clay, 2011[Book](#) | pp. 68-86 [Available in the library and as an e-book]**The Iliad: a commentary, Vol. 4: Books 13-16** - Richard Janko, G. S. Kirk, 1992[Book](#) | [e.g. pp. 168-207 on 14.153-353]**Briseis group:** (4 items)

Read books 16-17. What aspects of these books create a sense of pathos and tragedy concerning the death of Patroclus? Does it make sense to use the term 'tragedy' in the context of Homeric epic?

Secondary Reading: (4 items)**Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations** - Peter V. Jones, 2003[Book](#) | pp. 222-247**Tragic form and feeling in the Iliad** - R. Rutherford[Chapter](#) | Ch.8**Tragic Form and Feeling in the Iliad** - R. B. Rutherford, 1982[Article](#) | [Original with Greek not translated version of this article.]**Arms and the Man: Euphorbus, Hector, and the Death of Patroclus** - William Allan, 2005[Article](#)

Chryses group: (2 items)

Read book 16 and list one example of each type of narrative feature which you think might relate to the epic's 'oral-derived' status. Which of these features enhance the the power of the narrative? 16.419-683: discuss the significance of the death of Sarpedon and its handling by Homer

Secondary Reading: (2 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 11-23, 32-43, 222-237

The mortal hero: an introduction to Homer's Iliad - Seth L. Schein, 1984

Book | Esp. chapter 2

Second Hour: Presentations and Discussion: The Homeric Question / Repetition, tradition and Orality

Presentation 1: (11 items)

What is the 'Homeric Question'? What do we do with the arguments for 'oral composition' advanced in various ways over the years?

Secondary Reading: (11 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp.11-23, 32-43.

The Homeric Question - R. Fowler

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Unitarians - M. L. West

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Analysts - M. L. West

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Neoanalysis - M. Edwards

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Speeches - M. L. Finkelberg

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Doloneia - M. Alden

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Homeric Question - M. L. West

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Oral-Formulaic Theory - D. Elmer

Article | Available in the library and as an e-book.

The Homeric Poems as Oral Dictated Texts - Richard Janko, 1998

Article

Homeric questions - Gregory Nagy, 1996

Book

Presentation 2: (6 items)

Do the 'repetitive', 'traditional' and 'oral-derived' features of Homeric poetry require us to take a different approach to 'literary criticism' to Homer than that which we would take with an epic poem which is not 'oral-derived' (e.g. Apollonius' *Aronautica* or Virgil's *Aeneid*)?

Secondary Reading: (6 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp.11-23, 32-43

The Homeric Question - R. Fowler

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Formulas, Metres and Type Scenes' - R. Fowler

Chapter

Oral tradition and its implications - J. M. Foley

Chapter

The Iliad: an unpredictable classic - D. Lateiner

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Modern Theoretical Approaches to Homer - J. Peradotto

Chapter

WEEK 6: Books 18-22 / The Shield of Achilles (22 items)

First Hour: Group Work

Achilles group (3 items)

Read Book 18. 1-368 and Book 19. Critics have discussed these parts of the Iliad in terms of 'turning points' for the narrative. What sorts of turning points are there? What is the role of Thetis in Book 18?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 248-258 and 262-270

Nature and culture in the Iliad: the tragedy of Hector - James M. Redfield, 1994

[Book](#) | [Use index]

The Wrath of Thetis - Laura M. Slatkin, 1986

[Article](#) | [Also in D. Cairns, Oxford Readings in Homer's Iliad (Oxford 2001)]

Briseis group: (3 items)

Read Books 20 and 21. In what ways, and how far, do these books establish Achilles' credentials as a fighter and a warrior bent on revenge? Why do Aeneas and Achilles spend so long talking (or 'flyting') before fighting in book 20?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 271-286

Homer on life and death - Jasper Griffin, 1980

[Book](#) | [Use index]

Homeric Flyting and How to Read It: Performance and Intratext in Iliad 20.83-109 and 20.178-258 - J. Hesk, 2006

[Article](#)

Chryses group: (3 items)

Chryses: Read Book 22. What poetic, narrative and thematic features of the actual duel between Hector and Achilles make it so effective?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 287-297

Homeric Pathos and Objectivity - Jasper Griffin, 1976

[Article](#)

Iliad: Book XXII - Irene J. F. de Jong, Homer, 2012

[Book](#) | Introduction and use index

Second Hour: Presentations and Discussion: The Shield of Achilles / Book 22

Presentation 1: (5 items)

Read Book 18, but focus on lines 468-617. What is the significance of the scenes depicted

on the shield of Achilles?

Secondary Reading: (5 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 248-261

Homer's Trojan theater: space, vision, and memory in the Iliad - Jenny Strauss Clay, 2011

Book | pp. 1-9

Reading the Shield of Achilles: Terror, Anger, Delight - Stephen Scully, 2003

Article

The Shield of Achilles within the 'Iliad' - Oliver Taplin, 1980

Article | [Reprinted in D. Cairns (2001) Oxford Readings]

The shield of Homer: narrative structure in the Iliad - Keith Stanley, 1993

Book | [use index: not actually all about the shield]

Presentation 2: (6 items)

In what ways does Book 22 engage an audience's sympathy for Hector and the Trojans?

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 287-297

Homer on life and death - Jasper Griffin, 1980

Book | [Use index]

Iliad: Book XXII - Irene J. F. de Jong, Homer, 2012

Book | [Introduction and use index]

Nature and culture in the Iliad: the tragedy of Hector - James M. Redfield, 1994

Book | [Use index]

The mortal hero: an introduction to Homer's Iliad - Seth L. Schein, 1984

Book | [Use index]

Pity and pathos in Homer - M. Scott, 1979

Article

WEEK 7: Books 23-24 / Pathos, supplication and Tragedy (23 items)

First Hour: Group Work

Achilles group: (3 items)

Read Book 23.1-257. How does this focus on Achilles, Patroclus' ghost and threats to Hector's body have a wider significance for the poem as a whole?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 298-301

A "Beautiful Death" and the disfigured corpse in Homeric epic - J.P. Vernant

[Chapter](#)

The theme of the mutilation of the corpse in the Iliad - Charles Segal, 1971

[Book](#)

Briseis group: (4 items)

Read the games at 23.257-897, focusing especially on 257-652. How and why does Homer detail these games (especially the chariot race and its aftermath) so extensively?

Secondary Reading: (4 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 298ff;

The Iliad: a commentary, Vol.6: Books 21-24 - N. J. Richardson, G. S. Kirk, 1993

[Book](#)

Cunning intelligence in Greek culture and society - Marcel Detienne, Jean Pierre Vernant, Janet Lloyd, 1978

[Book](#) | chapter 1 [on the chariot race]

Achilles in Control? Managing Oneself and Others in the Funeral Games - A. Kelly

[Chapter](#)

Chryses group: (3 items)

Read Book 24.1-187. In what ways does this opening to the final book of the Iliad make it a fitting ending to the plot and themes of the Iliad?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

[Book](#) | pp. 30-37 and pp. 309-323

Iliad, book XXIV - C. W. Macleod, 1982

[Book](#) | pp. 8-35.

A “Beautiful Death” and the disfigured corpse in Homeric epic - J.P. Vernant

Chapter

SECOND HOUR: PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION: Pathos, supplication and tragedy: the significance of Book 24.

Presentation 1: (6 items)

In what ways does Book 24 exhibit what we would now call 'tragic' sensibilities?

Secondary Reading: (6 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 30-37 and pp. 309-323.

Iliad, book XXIV - C. W. Macleod, 1982

Book | pp. 1-16.

The mortal hero: an introduction to Homer's Iliad - Seth L. Schein, 1984

Book | chapter 5.

Tragic form and feeling in the Iliad - R. Rutherford

Chapter

Tragic Form and Feeling in the Iliad - R. Rutherford, 1982

Article | Original article with Greek not translated .

Notes on Tragic Visualizing in the Iliad - L/ Slatkin

Chapter

Presentation 2: (5 items)

Discuss the way in which Book 24 manipulates the motifs of supplication, lament and the treatment of corpses.

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 30-37 and pp. 309-323.

K. Crotty The Poetics of Supplication: Homer's Iliad and Odyssey (Ithaca 1994). On order

A “Beautiful Death” and the disfigured corpse in Homeric epic - J.P. Vernant

Chapter

The theme of the mutilation of the corpse in the Iliad - Charles Segal, 1971

Book

Homer's 'Iliad': its composition and the motif of supplication - Agathe Thornton, 1984

Book

WEEK 8: Historicity and 'Homeric society'/ is there a polis in this text? / Gender roles (28 items)

FIRST HOUR: GROUP WORK

Achilles group: (5 items)

In what sense might the Iliad represent an 'historical' society? What 'contemporary meaning' might it have had for its intended first audience?

Secondary Reading: (5 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 20-23.

The Use and Abuse of Homer - Ian Morris, 1986

Article | [recommended: NB: reprinted in D. Cairns Oxford Readings in Homer's Iliad (Oxford 2001)]

Homer's Society - R. Osborne

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Society, Homeric - K. Raaflaub

Chapter | [recommended starting points. Note that Raafalub sees Homeric society as more 'consistent' and related to the (slightly earlier) real society of the poem's first audiences than many scholars do] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Historicity of Homer - K. Raaflaub

Chapter | [recommended starting points. Note that Raafalub sees Homeric society as more 'consistent' and related to the (slightly earlier) real society of the poem's first audiences than many scholars do] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Briseis group: (4 items)

what is the significance of warfare for our interpretation of the Iliad's relationship with Greek history?

Secondary Reading: (4 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 39-43;

Greece in the making, 1200-479 BC - Robin Osborne, 2009

Book | Ch.5 [Available in the library and as an e-book.]

The Homeric Way of War: The 'Iliad' and the Hoplite Phalanx (I) - Hans Van Wees, 1994

Article

The Homeric Way of War: The 'Iliad' and the Hoplite Phalanx (II) - Hans Van Wees, 1994[Article](#)**Chryses group:** (3 items)

what specific aspects of the Iliad make us sceptical that it can represent any 'real society' or single historical period?). You could start by thinking about the boar's tusk helmet at 10.261-5 and Ajax's shield in book 7.

Secondary Reading: (3 items)**Who's Who in 'Homeric' Society?** - A. G. Geddes, 1984[Article](#)**An Historical Homeric Society?** - A. M. Snodgrass, 1974[Article](#)**Greece in the making, 1200-479 BC** - Robin Osborne, 2009[Book](#) | Ch.5 [Available in the library and as an e-book.]**SECOND HOUR: PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION: is there a polis in this text?****Presentation 1:** (8 items)

Do the Iliad and Odyssey contain events, scenes, language or motifs which in some way point to the poems being 'aware' of the concept of the polis as a political community? Why is this question important?

Secondary Reading: (8 items)**Reciprocities in Homer** - Walter Donlan, 1982[Article](#)**The world of Odysseus** - M. I. Finley, 1979[Book](#) | Other editions available in the library.**The Use and Abuse of Homer** - Ian Morris, 1986[Article](#) | [recommended: NB: reprinted in D. Cairns Oxford Readings in Homer's Iliad (Oxford 2001)]**Homer's Society** - R. Osborne[Chapter](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.**Homeric Society** - K. Raaflaub[Chapter](#)**Polis** - K. Raaflaub[Chapter](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Society, Homeric - K. Raaflaub

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Homer and the sacred city - Stephen Scully, 1994

Book | Read pp 1-15.

Presentation 2: (6 items)

What does the Iliad have to say about gendered social roles and functions?

Secondary Reading: (6 items)

Early Greece: The Origins of the Western Attitude Toward Women - M. Arthur, 1973

Article

The Divided World of Iliad VI - Marylin B. Arthur, 1981

Article

Gender - L. E. Doherty

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Manhood and Heroism - M. Clarke

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Gender and Homeric Epic - N. Felson, L.M. Slatkin

Chapter | [highly recommended] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Women - D. Lyons

Chapter | [good starting point] Available in the library and as an e-book.

WEEK 9: Ethics and Values in Homeric Heroism: honour, shame, cooperation and competition (30 items)

FIRST HOUR: GROUP WORK

Achilles group: (7 items)

what moral and social concepts drive the Homeric hero to be competitive? Think of some examples of competitive values and behaviour from the text.

Secondary Reading: (7 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 23-6

Homeric Values and Homeric Society - A. W. H. Adkins, 1971**Article** | [discredited but still worth reading]**Values** - D. L. Cairns**Chapter** | [recommended starting point] Available in the library and as an e-book.**Shame** - D. L. Cairns**Chapter** | [recommended starting point] Available in the library and as an e-book.**Honor** - D.L. Cairns**Chapter** | [recommended starting point] Available in the library and as an e-book.**Responsibility** - C. Gill**Chapter** | Available in the library and as an e-book.**Homeric morality** - Naoko Yamagata, 1994**Book****Briseis group:** (6 items)

what moral and social concepts drive the Homeric hero to be cooperative? Think of some examples of cooperative values and behaviour from the text.

Secondary Reading: (6 items)**Affronts and quarrels in the Iliad** - D.L. Cairns**Chapter****Values** - D. L. Cairns**Chapter** | [recommended starting points] Available in the library and as an e-book.**Shame** - D. L. Cairns**Chapter** | [recommended starting points] Available in the library and as an e-book.**Honor** - D. L. Cairns**Chapter** | [recommended starting points] Available in the library and as an e-book.**Morality in Homer** - Michael Gagarin, 1987**Article****Euboulia in the Iliad** - Malcolm Schofield, 1986**Article** | [also in Cairns (ed.) Oxford Readings]**Chryses group:** (3 items)

in what ways does the concept and value of reciprocity underpin the Iliad?

Secondary Reading: (3 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 23-6

Reciprocities in Homer - Walter Donlan, 1982

Article

Reciprocity in ancient Greece - 1998

Book | [includes: G. Zanker 'Beyond reciprocity: The Akhilleus-Priam scene in Iliad 24', 73 -92, and N. Postlethwaite 'Akhilleus and Agamemnon: generalized reciprocity', 93-104]

SECOND HOUR: PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Presentation 1: (7 items)

To what extent is 'Homeric society' a 'shame culture'?

Secondary Reading: (7 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 23-6

Aidōs: the psychology and ethics of honour and shame in ancient Greek literature -

Douglas L. Cairns, 1993

Book

Values - D. L. Cairns

Chapter | [recommended starting points] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Shame - D. L. Cairns

Chapter | [recommended starting points] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Honor - D. L. Cairns

Chapter | [recommended starting points] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Homeric Society: A Shame-Culture? - J. T. Hooker, 1987

Article

Morals and Values in Homer - A. A. Long, 1970

Article

Presentation 2: (5 items)

'It is not true that its dominant values are agonistic and individualistic' (Cairns 2001, p. 21). Can honour promote cooperative values in the Iliad?

Secondary Reading: (5 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 23-6

Conflict and Community in the Iliad - W. Allan, D. Cairns

Chapter

Affronts and quarrels in the Iliad - D. L. Cairns

Chapter | [recommended]

Euboulia in the Iliad - Malcolm Schofield, 1986

Article | [also in Cairns (ed.) Oxford Readings]

Homeric morality - Naoko Yamagata, 1994

Book

WEEK 10: The Gods and Fate: the 'role' of the gods / fate as tradition / fate and free will (30 items)**FIRST HOUR: GROUP WORK****Achilles group:** (4 items)

What do scenes on Olympus contribute to the poem's atmosphere?

Secondary Reading: (4 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | 26-32

Homer: the resonance of epic - Barbara Graziosi, Johannes Haubold, 2005

Book | especially chapter 3.

Homer on life and death - Jasper Griffin, 1980

Book | esp. pp. 144-204

The Gods in Homeric Epic - E. Kearns

Chapter | [recommended] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Briseis group: (5 items)

How important is Thetis for our understanding of the Iliad?

Secondary Reading: (5 items)

Gods and Men in the Iliad and the Odyssey - Wolfgang Kullmann, 1985[Article](#)**The Wrath of Thetis** - Laura M. Slatkin, 1986[Article](#)

The above article is also in:

The Wrath of Thetis - L.M. Slatkin[Chapter](#)**The mortal hero: an introduction to Homer's Iliad** - Seth L. Schein, 1984[Book](#) | ch. 2.**Chryses group:** (6 items)

What are the key modes of interaction between men and gods which the Iliad depicts? In what ways are these interactions important to the poem?

Secondary Reading: (6 items)**Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations** - Peter V. Jones, 2003[Book](#) | pp. 26-32**The Homeric gods: poetry, belief and authority** - C. Emlyn-Jones[Chapter](#)**Hiketeia** - John Gould, 1973[Article](#) | [a key study of supplication]**The Gods in Homeric Epic** - E. Kearns[Chapter](#) | [recommended] Available in the library and as an e-book.**Prayer** - D. Lateiner[Chapter](#) | Available in the library and as an e-book.**Divine and Human Causation in Homeric Epic** - A. Lesky[Chapter](#)**SECOND HOUR: PRESENTATIONS and DISCUSSION****Presentation 1:** (7 items)

Agamemnon blames Atê for his disastrous actions in Book 19. Use the case of Agamemnon to discuss the problems of free will and fate in the Iliad.

Secondary Reading: (7 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 26-32

Atê - D. Cairns

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Introduction to 'Oxford Readings in Homer's Iliad' - D. Cairns

Chapter | esp. pp. 12-20

Responsibility - C. Gill

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Divine and Human Causation in Homeric Epic - A. Lesky

Chapter

Double Motivation - H. Pelliccia

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Disaster Revisited: Ate and the Litai in Homer's Iliad - N. Yamagata

Chapter

Presentation 2: (6 items)

'Homer's gods are very human and humanly intelligible'. In what senses is this true?

Secondary Reading: (6 items)

Homer's Iliad: a commentary on three translations - Peter V. Jones, 2003

Book | pp. 26-32

Homer: the resonance of epic - Barbara Graziosi, Johannes Haubold, 2005

Book | especially chapter 3.

Homer on life and death - Jasper Griffin, 1980

Book | esp. pp. 144-204

The Gods in Homeric Epic - E. Kearns

Chapter | [recommended] Available in the library and as an e-book.

Some aspects of the gods in the Iliad - M. M. Willcock, 1970

Article

Homeric morality - Naoko Yamagata, 1994

Book | [See Part 1 on the gods' (im)morality - highly recommended]

WEEK 11: 'Reception of the Iliad and Revision session (17 items)

FIRST HOUR: PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Presentation or group discussion: (9 items)

a) 'Logue is a major example of how modern receivers confront the unacceptable in Homer' (Hardwick 2004, p. 348). Briefly illustrate and evaluate.

Primary Reading: (6 items)

have a look at least one of Christopher Logue's volumes of poetry based on the Iliad:

War music: an account of books 16 to 19 of Homer's Iliad - Christopher Logue, Homer, 1981

Book

Kings: an account of books one and two of Homer's Iliad - Christopher Logue, 1992

Book

The husbands: an account of books three and four of Homer's Iliad - Christopher Logue, 1994

Book

See also some of this put together in one volume:

War music: an account of books 1-4 and 16-19 of Homer's Iliad - Christopher Logue, 2001

Book

See Greenwood's appendix (below) for the detailed publication history and further relevant volumes

Secondary Reading: (2 items)

Shards and suckers: contemporary receptions of Homer

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Logue's Tele-Vision: Reading Homer from a Distance - E. Greenwood

Chapter | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Presentation or group discussion: (2 items)

b) 'She has truly made, to borrow a phrase from Stephen Spender, a "miniature Iliad", taut, fluid and graceful, its tones knelling like bells into the clear air, ringing out in remembrance of all the untimely dead' (Philip Womack in The Telegraph). What kind of 'reception' of the Iliad is Alice's Oswald's Memorial?

Primary Reading: (1 items)

Memorial: a version of Homer's Iliad - Alice Oswald, 2013

Book

Presentation or group discussion: (4 items)

c) 'In comparison with Sophocles, Petersen is downright modest in his modifications' (Ahl in Winkler (ed.) 2007, p.172). Briefly make a case for Troy (2006, Warner Bros) being adequate to its Homeric pedigree.

Primary and secondary viewing/reading (3 items)

Troy: from Homer's Iliad to Hollywood epic - Martin M. Winkler, 2007

Book | Available in the library and as an e-book.

Review of Winkler (ed.), Troy: From Homer's Iliad to Hollywood Epic - Mary-Kay Gamel, 2007

Article

Troy - (dir.) Wolfgang Petersen, 2009

Audio-visual document | Try to look at the film itself (a copy will be available)

SECOND HOUR: REVISION:

We will discuss a past paper and techniques for answering the exam's comment and essay questions. We will also discuss revision techniques and the key themes of the course.