

IDS 121.18: TEXTS AND CONTEXTS:

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CLASSICAL GREEK TEXTS

Section: 1:00 MWF SCH 207

This course will focus on three fundamental issues found in Ancient Greek literature: the role of women in society, the role of warfare, and the use of myth to establish group identity. We will be examining a selection of materials from Homer, Herodotus, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides.

This is a short version of my syllabus. Some of the policies set forth herein are more fully elaborated on my website. The version of these policies that will be enforced throughout the semester are to be found there. During the first week of the semester, you should read the extended versions of these policies. My website is www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/ljwaggl/. All university policies will be enforced. The following additional policies apply in my classes.

Attendance	You are expected to be in class, prepared to work, every scheduled class period. Excessive absences will dramatically affect your performance in this class. Should you want an absence excused, either I will need documentation from your program (a letter informing me what the activity is and the dates and times you will be unable to attend class) or a letter from the Office of Student Affairs. Should you use the Office of Student Affairs, please follow their policies. <i>I will not orally waive attendance.</i>
Homework	You are expected to have all of the assigned readings done prior to the class period in which we discuss them. This includes checking the class website and WebCt for changes to the schedule, additional materials you are expected to utilize, as well as any and all online quizzes.
Student Learning	You are to set aside at least two hours of out of class time for every hour you are in class per week. I, then, will expect that you have spent at least six hours per week with this material.
Class Participation	You are expected to participate in class discussions. 100 points of your overall grade is based on class participation.
Grading Policy	I use a 10% gradation scale for evaluating all of your work. Your grade is based on the total number of points you have earned, not the letters assigned to the work. The online, secure grade book on my website is available 24 hours a day. <i>Do not rely on the gradebook in WebCt.</i>

Office hours	Office hours are not replacement class periods. It is impossible to “reteach” extensive portions of this class. If we cannot find a mutual time for an appointment communicate with me via email. Some matters will require office visits and cannot be done by email. I cannot discuss grades by phone or via email. It is illegal.
Incompletes	A grade of incomplete may be granted only when justified by extreme circumstances where there is a reasonable expectation of completing the course.
Extra Credit	Should circumstances merit extra credit, you should be prepared to discuss the matter extensively with me in my office. Extra credit is <i>not</i> available any time after the last two weeks of class. I very rarely offer extra credit.
Late Work	Any assignment, without a written extension, not turned in by the deadline, on paper, will receive a zero.
Cellular Phones	No cellular phones or other such devices are to be used or in the class room. Period. Turn the ringer off. Please do not test me on this.
Professional Conduct	Success in this course depends on consistent attendance and active participation, both in and out of the class room. Students are expected to attend class regularly, since there is no practical way to make up for missed class discussions, group work, or in-class activities. <i>Coming to class unprepared seriously distracts from the group effort. Mere attendance in class is not enough.</i> Students are expected to prepare for class by completing the assignments prior to class. Active participation includes informed and constructive contributions to classroom discussions, positive contributions to collaborative learning projects, active listening, taking notes, etc. Some of the material and topics we will be discussing may be of a sensitive nature. You are expected to conduct yourself with maturity. Be respectful other’s views and others will be respectful of yours.

You are expected to use standard English grammar and spelling on all written work for this class. If you need assistance with this, please consult University Center for Learning Assistance (UCLA) at Stevenson 133. I also post a rubric on my website that exhaustively describes what I am looking for in a written assignment. Please consult it and take it with you to UCLA.

The University policies on cheating on exams, plagiarism of written work or disruption of class will be enforced. The penalties range from censure to expulsion. Please familiarize yourself with these policies. They can be found on pages 7 and 8 of the Student Handbook. I take a dim view of these activities, and usually ask for the offender’s expulsion.

Your degree of success in this class depends on your willingness to explore these topics with an open mind, being respectful of one another's views, and the intensity of work you put into this class. I am committed to your learning and these policies are designed to create a positive learning environment.

Check, prior to class, www.philosophy.ilstu.edu for information concerning class cancellations.

If you have special needs, please either contact Student Services and/or discuss the matter with me, and bring your special needs documentation with you. Any arrangements for alternative testing must be pre-arranged through me and Student Services. ***No Exceptions.***

Grades: The work in this class will consist in several WebCt quizzes that are reading verification quizzes, 2 to 3 take home assignments, group discussion and participation, and a final exam. WebCt quizzes cannot be taken after the class period in which we discuss them. The purpose of these quizzes is to verify that you are reading the materials and staying current in the class. If you are absent for any reason, you are expected to take these quizzes ***prior*** to the date in which we discuss them in class. Remember, these quizzes are online, and can be accessed from any computer. You do not have to be at ISU in order to take them. Ideally, the total number of points that are available this semester is in the neighborhood of 500 to 600 points. (300 for the take home assignments, 100 for the final, 100 for participation, and possible 100 more for small projecty type assignments). Please see my description of how I understand the letter grades on my website.

Group discussion and participation, likewise, cannot be made up if you are absent for any reason. These discussions are in class activities which require your presence in order to engage in them. If, for some reason, you are not able to attend a particular discussion day, then there frankly is nothing that can be done about this.

Expectations: You are expected to bring your text book or copies of the web materials to class on the day in which we discuss them. Please use the versions of these texts that I have selected for this class. The use of variant translations, etc., must be approved by me ***in advance***. I have selected these translations based on their ease of reading, the accuracy of the translations, and their affordability. I speak Ancient Greek, and it is based on my knowledge of that language that I selected these translations. Unless you can demonstrate your ability to read and translate Ancient Greek, then it is advisable that you use the versions of these I have assigned.

You are expected to explore these topics with an open mind and to listen to others (me included). Things in the ancient world were quite a bit different than things presently. As such, there may be topic we may need to explore that may be sensitive in nature. If you are not convinced by something that I or someone else says, you are expected to demonstrate the error by using data and facts, not opinions. This is a learning experience. As such, we are all part of the learning. If you disagree with someone, be polite about it. If not, then others might not be so polite when they disagree with you.

You are expected to check the class website and the class WebCt site prior to each class. You

are expected to check your email and the WebCt mail. This is the means by which I will make you aware of upcoming events, dates, postings, etc. Should you decide not to check your e-mail or WebCt mail, then the onus is on you. You are expected to try to understand the readings even if you do not get it the first time. Trying and not succeeding is as important as trying and succeeding.

Any and all email communications from and to you are made part of the official record of the class. Please take note of the formatting requests on my website concerning email. You should consider the use of email on par with that of regular mail for the purposes of communication in this class. I print and file all emails sent to me by students, and hence this is taken as part of the official class record. Keep this in mind when you email me. I should further mention that I keep all of these communications for the purpose of having a complete record of the class. I cannot and will not use email for the purpose of communicating grades or other private information banned by law.

This is an introductory level course in Ancient Greek literature. As such, there are a number of topics and texts that we will not have the opportunity to cover. I see this course as an overview of several genres of literature. This course is intended to provide you with the needed background and familiarity with Ancient Greece and Ancient Greek literature, so that, if you choose, you can continue with studying or reading other texts on your own or in another course. I have attempted to focus on a few more interesting aspects of this remaining literature that continue to spark interest in contemporary discussions. I am a classicist, and I am a philosopher by profession. I am well aware that you probably are not either a classicist nor a philosopher. Neither of these are expected of you. Bring your curiosity and desire to learn with you and the willingness to explore and the texts will do the rest.