

The Iliad and the Odyssey

Code: 104206
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503702 Ancient Studies	OB	2	2

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Carlos Varias García
Laura Lucas González

Prerequisites

It is highly recommended to have passed the subjects *Elements of Greek Language* and *Greek Narrative Texts* of the 1st year of the Degree in *Sciences of Antiquity*, as well as to have taken the subject *Greek Historiography and Philosophy* in the first semester of the 2nd year.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This subject belongs to the branch "Greek Philology", and is a compulsory subject of the second year.

The subject deals with the origins and characteristics of Greek epic poetry, and its continuity, through the study of the two major Greek epic poems in Antiquity: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, which mark the beginning of Greek literature. A selection of passages from the Homeric poems, taken from the book: *Antología de la Iliada y de la Odisea*, by M. S. Ruipérez and collaborators, will be translated by students.

At the end of the semester students must be able to:

- translate and comment rightly passages from both Homeric poems,
- identify the thematic and formal characteristics of Greek epic poetry,
- appreciate what Homeric poems have contributed to western cultural legacy.

Furthermore, students will have to explain in detail the contents of the two compulsory readings in translation: Homer's *Iliad* and Hesiod's *Theogony*, an author who will be explain more briefly at lectures.

Competences

- Apply grammatical knowledge acquired in the analysis and comprehension of Latin and Greek texts.
- Be able to express oneself orally and in writing in the specific language of history, archaeology and philology, both in one's own languages and a third language.
- Interpret texts written in Latin and Greek to understand the history and Classical civilisations.
- Make a commentary on a literary text applying knowledge of genres, metrics and stylistics.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the morpho-syntactic components of a Greek text, identifying those that are internal to a particular literary genre or dialect.
2. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
3. Explain the context of the literary works whose characters, topics and clichés were passed down to the following tradition.
4. Extract information from the Greek and Latin texts on aspects of realia especially related to their historical and cultural context.
5. Identify in the Greek texts the characteristics of a particular literary genre.
6. Preparing an oral and written discourse in the corresponding language in a proper and organized way.
7. Translate fragments of the Greek works proposed.
8. Write a metric commentary on a Greek text in verse.

Content

A. List of topics

1. Introduction to Greek epic poetry
 - 1.1. Origins of Greek epics. "Aoidoi" (singers) and "rhapsodes" (reciters).
 - 1.2. The oral tradition. The formulaic style.
 - 1.3. The epic language.
 - 1.4. The historical background of Greek epic poetry.
 - 1.5. The 'Epic Cycle' and other heroic poems.
2. The Homeric poems: *Iliad*, *Odyssey*
 - 2.1. The Homeric Question: The issue of the making of the Homeric poems.
 - 2.2. Structure and contents of *Iliad*.
 - 2.3. Structure and contents of *Odyssey*.
 - 2.4. The Homeric societies and their cultural values.
 - 2.5. Other poems ascribed to Homer.
 - 2.6. Transmission, modern editions and Homer's survival.
3. The *Homeric Hymns*
4. Hesiod
5. Apollonius of Rhodes and the renewal of the Epic in Hellenistic times.

B. Selection of passages to be translated

1. *Il.* 1.1-244: Proem; a plague; quarrel between Akhilleus and Agamemnon; Akhilleus' wrath.
2. *Il.* 6.399-413 and 429-502: Hektor and Andromakhe's farewell.
3. *Il.* 22.248-366: Individual combat between Hektor and Akhilleus; Hektor's death.
4. *Od.* 1.1-27: Proem; gods and goddesses meet at Olympus.
5. *Od.* 9.353-414: Odysseus and Cyclop Polyphemos.
6. *Od.* 21.404-434: Odysseus passes the bow's trial.

C. Reading of Homer's *Iliad* and Hesiod's *Theogony* in translation

Methodology

The subject, eminently practical, will be organized in two groups according to the levels established in the first year and in the subject *Greek Historiography and Philosophy* of the first semester of the 2nd year.

The methodology of this subject will consist on alternating theoretical explanations from every topic listed in the previous section, with the translation of the authors' passages already cited, according to the level of each group.

Attended lectures will be basically practical. The professor will devote time to:

1. Reading, translating and commenting the programmed texts' selection.
2. Giving to students means to can increase gradually the quantity of translated text.
3. Correcting the texts daily translated by the students, individually or in groups.
4. Commenting the linguistic, literary and sociocultural contents of the translated texts, focusing in particular on the aspects relating to their later tradition.
5. Explaining contents which help to contextualise the text.

Students will have to be responsible for bringing every day the text to be translated and commented.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Exercises of translation and commentary	30.5	1.22	1, 2, 8, 6, 3, 4, 5, 7
Explanation of the subject's theoretical contents	15	0.6	3, 4, 5
Type: Supervised			
Consulting additional bibliography	10	0.4	2, 3, 4, 5
Supervised translations	10	0.4	1, 8, 6, 7

Writing the review	5	0.2	2, 6, 3, 4, 5
Type: Autonomous			
Exercises and translations	35	1.4	1, 2, 8, 6, 3, 4, 5, 7
Reading and review of Hesiod's Theogony	20	0.8	2, 6, 3, 4, 5
Reading of Homer's Iliad	20	0.8	2, 6, 3, 4, 5

Assessment

Evaluation

The evaluation of this subject is continuous and will be done according to the evaluation activities which are stated in the table below.

Given the eminently practical nature of this subject and in order to make a gradual learning of the contents, it is very important that the student considers the regular attendance at lectures and the execution and assessment of exercises, translations and several questions proposed in lectures within the periods stipulated by the professor, in order to show the understanding and use of the contents explained by the professor.

It is an essential requirement to obtain a minimum grade of 4 in each of the assessment activities to make a weighted average of all the grades that make up the final grade, an average that must reach 5 to pass the course.

In the event that the tests cannot be done in person, their format will be adapted (maintaining their weighting) to the possibilities offered by the UAB's virtual tools. Homework, activities and class participation will be done through forums, wikis and / or discussion discussions through Teams, ensuring that all students can access them.

The student will receive the grade of Not assessable as long as he / she has not completed more than 30% of the assessment activities.

Plagiarism

In the event that the student commits any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade of an assessment act, this assessment act will be graded with 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instructed. In the event of several irregularities in the evaluation acts of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0.

Procedure for reviewing grades

At the time of each assessment activity, the teacher will inform the students of the procedure and date of revision of the grades in the Moodle space of the classroom.

Reassessment procedure

To participate in the reassessment, students must have previously been assessed in a set of activities whose weight is equivalent to a minimum of 2/3 of the total grade.

Reaching a minimum mark of 4 in every evaluation activity is an essential requirement to do the final weighted average mark, which must be 5 or more to pass the subject. Only students who have failed an exam or a review with a mark below 4, or have not reach 5 in the final weighted average mark, can resit at the reevaluation. Only two exam's marks at the most, or one exam's mark and the reading control, besides the review, can be resitted.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Participation in lectures	10%	0	0	1, 8, 4, 5, 7
Reading control of Homer's Iliad	15%	1.5	0.06	2, 6, 3, 4, 5
Review of Hesiod's Theogony	10%	0	0	2, 6, 3, 4, 5
Written translation exam and metrical, literary and sociocultural commentary of the Iliad (1st modular exam)	30%	1.5	0.06	1, 8, 6, 3, 4, 5, 7
Written translation exam and metrical, literary and sociocultural commentary of the Odyssey (2nd modular exam)	35%	1.5	0.06	1, 8, 6, 3, 4, 5, 7

Bibliography

Compulsory handbook

Ruipérez, M.S. y colaboradores, *Antología de la Iliada y de la Odisea*, Madrid: Fundación Pastor de Estudios Clásicos 1990 [available at the web page: interclassica.um.es (secció "hemeroteca") or at fundacionpastor.e.telefonica.net].

Basic bibliography

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Lesky, A., "La epopeya homérica" in *Historia de la literatura griega*, Madrid 1969, pp. 31-113.

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Additional bibliography

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Morris, Sarah P.; Laffineur, R. (eds.), *EPOS. Reconsidering Greek Epic and Aegean Bronze Age Archaeology. Proceedings of the 11th International Aegean Conference, Los Angeles, 20-23 April 2006 (= Aegaeum 26)*, Liège-Austin 2007.

Mylonas Shear, Ione, *Tales of Heroes. The Origins of the Homeric Texts*, New York-Athens 2000.

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Software

Microsoft Teams