

The Iliad and the Odyssey

Code: 104206
ECTS Credits: 6

| Degree | Type | Year | Semester |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 2503702 Ancient Studies | OB | 2 | 2 |
| 2504394 English and Classics Studies | OB | 2 | 2 |

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Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

Teachers

Pau Sabate Marques

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 explained more briefly at lectures.

Competences

Ancient Studies

- 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 texts applying knowledge of genres, metrics and stylistics.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

English and Classics Studies

- Apply the methodology of analysis and knowledge of genres, metrics and stylistics to comment on literary texts and analyse the culture and history of English-speaking countries and the ancient world.
- Demonstrate grammatical knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages and its application to the analysis and comprehension of Greek and Latin texts.
- Interpret written texts in Latin and Greek to learn about classical history and civilizations.
- Produce effective written work or oral presentations adapted to the appropriate register in distinct languages.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order 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 texts on features of the Greek imaginary, ways of thinking and mentality.
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. Translate fragments of the proposed Greek works.
9. 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.* 1.1-187: Proem; a plague; quarrel between Akhilleus and Agamemnon.

2. *Il.* 6.399-413 and 429-502: Hektor and Andromakhe's farewell.

3. *Il.* 22.289-366: Individual combat between Hektor and Akhilleus; Hektor's death.

4. *Od.* 1.1-27: Proem; gods and goddesses meet at Olympus.

5. *Od.* 6.56-70 and 110-185: Nausicaa asks her father for a wagon and mules to go to the river with her servants; meeting of Nausicaa and Odysseus at the river.

6. *Od.* 9.353-414: Odysseus and Cyclop Polyphemus.

7. *Od.* 21.404-434: Odysseus pass the bow's trial.

8. *Od.* 23.173-189: Penelope puts Odysseus to the test of the marriage bed.

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 | 35 | 1.4 | 1, 2, 9, 6, 3, 5, 7 |
| Explanation of the subject's theoretical contents | 10 | 0.4 | 3, 5 |
| Type: Supervised | | | |
| Consulting additional bibliography | 10 | 0.4 | 2, 3, 5 |
| Supervised translations | 9 | 0.36 | 1, 9, 6, 7 |
| Writing the review | 5 | 0.2 | 2, 6, 3, 5 |
| Type: Autonomous | | | |
| Exercises and translations | 35 | 1.4 | 1, 2, 9, 6, 3, 5, 7 |
| Reading and review of Hesiod's Theogony | 20 | 0.8 | 2, 6, 3, 5 |
| Reading of Homer's Iliad | 20 | 0.8 | 2, 6, 3, 5 |

Assessment

This subject/module does not incorporate single 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 students consider 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.

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.

Plagiarism

In the event that the student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Procedure for reviewing grades

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (Moodle) of the procedure to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

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. Also, to participate in the reassessment procedure, students must have obtained a minimum grade of 3.5.

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 reached 5 in the final weighted average mark, can resit at the reevaluation. Only two translation exam's marks at the most, besides the review and the reading control, can be resitted.

Assessment Activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|--|-----------|-------|------|-------------------|
| Attendance and active participation in lectures | 10% | 0 | 0 | 1, 9, 5, 7, 8 |
| Reading control of Homer's Iliad | 10% | 1.5 | 0.06 | 2, 6, 3, 5 |
| Review of Hesiod's Theogony | 10% | 0 | 0 | 2, 6, 3, 4, 5 |
| Written translation exam with dictionary and metrical, literary and sociocultural commentary of the Odyssey (2nd modular exam) | 25% | 1.5 | 0.06 | 1, 9, 3, 5, 7, 8 |
| Written translation with dictionary exam and metrical, literary and sociocultural commentary of the Iliad (1st modular exam) | 25% | 1.5 | 0.06 | 1, 9, 3, 5, 7, 8 |
| Written translation without dictionary exam of in-class translated texts of the Iliad and Odyssey | 20% | 1.5 | 0.06 | 1, 9, 3, 7, 8 |

Bibliography

Compulsory handbook

Ruipérez, Martín S. y colaboradores, *Antología de la Ilíada y de la Odisea*, Madrid: Fundación Pastor de Estudios Clásicos 1990 [available at the webpage: interclassica.um.es (secció "hemeroteca") o at fundacionpastor.e.telefonica.net].

Basic bibliography

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Software

Microsoft Teams