

**The Iliad and the Odyssey**

Code: 104206  
ECTS Credits: 6

**2024/2025**

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

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## Teachers

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## Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

## 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* and of the Degree in English and Classical Studies, 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.

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

### 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 formular 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 Polyphemos.
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

## Activities and Methodology

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

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.

Note: 15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the timetable established by the centre/title, for the complementation by the students of the assessment surveys of the teaching staff's performance and the assessment of the subject.

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.

## Assessment

### Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and active participation in lectures	10%	0	0	1, 9, 5, 7, 8
Examen de literatura	15%	1.5	0.06	2, 6, 3, 4, 5
Written translation exam with dictionary and metrical, literary and sociocultural commentary of the Odyssey (2nd modular exam)	30%	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)	30%	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	15%	1.5	0.06	1, 9, 3, 4, 7, 8
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This subject/module does not incorporate single assessment.

## Evaluation

Class attendance and participation in activities are mandatory and assessable, and weigh 10% of the overall grade, as listed in the table of continuous assessment activities. This qualification will be suspended in cases of absence of more than 25% of the classes.

The assessment is organized around exams with theory and practice, in which students will have to demonstrate mastery of the various skills worked on: translation and commentary, knowledge of the literary, historical, social and ideological context and of realia .

The two translation exams with a dictionary will contain language, metric and poetic exercises related to the translated text.

The translation exercise without a dictionary will be done on one or several fragments previously translated and discussed in class.

The literature exam will have a theoretical part corresponding to the syllabus covered, and a practical part on the two compulsory readings.

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

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

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.

## Absence

In case of absence from an assessment activity, if the absence is planned, the student must notify the teacher in advance. If it is unforeseen, he will notify the teacher as soon as possible. In any case, absence from an assessment activity must be justified with an official document. Since the dates of the assessment activities will be known to the students from the beginning, absences due to driving tests or trips will not be considered justified.

## 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.

## Bibliography

### Main handbook

Ruipérez, Martín S. y colaboradores, *Antología de la Ilíada y de la Odisea*, Madrid: Fundación Pastor de Estudios Clásicos 1990

### Basic bibliography

Carlier, Pierre, *Homero*, Madrid 2005.

Guzmán Guerra, Antonio, *Manual de métrica griega*, Madrid 1997.

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

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Varias, Carlos, "La poesía épica", Madrid: <http://www.liceus.com>, 2005. 21 pág. ISBN: 84-9822-192-7.

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### Additional bibliography

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Kanavou, Nikoletta, *The Names of Homeric Heroes. Problems and Interpretations*, Berlin 2015.

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Manolea, Christina-Panagiota (ed.), *Brill's Companion to the Reception of Homer from the Hellenistic Age to Late Antiquity*, Leiden 2021.

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Catalan and Spanish translations of *Iliad* and *Theogony*

Hesíode, *Teogonia*. Traducció de Francesc J. Cuartero Iborra. Martorell: Adesiara, 2012.

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## Software

Microsoft Teams

## Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	2	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed