

Literary Humanities, Fall 2015, Section 47

*Hamilton 303, Tuesday and Thursday, 2:10-4:00 p.m.*

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Office hours: 614 Philosophy; *Tuesday, 4-6 p.m.; Thursday, 1-2 p.m.*

***Bold type indicates major differences from the standard syllabus.***

**Sept 8, 10** Homer, *The Iliad*, tr. **Fitzgerald (Farrar, Straus; ISBN 0374529051)** (*not the Lattimore translation used by other sections!*)

**Sept 15, 17** *The Iliad* (continued)

**Sept. 22, 24** Homer, *The Odyssey*, tr. **Fitzgerald (Farrar, Straus; ISBN 0374525749)** (*not the Lattimore translation of the Odyssey used by other sections!*)

**Sept 29, Oct 1** *The Odyssey* (continued)

***Draft first paragraph of first paper due Sept 29 (to discuss in office hours)***

**Oct 6, 8** Genesis (**chapters 1-27 only**); Job

**Oct. 13, 15** Herodotus, *The Histories* (Oxford). Readings listed below:

Book 1.1-140 (pp. 3-64); Book 2.35-45, 2.112-20 (pp. 108-14, 137-41); Book 3.1-38 (pp. 169-86); Book 7.1-58, 7.100-5, 7.201-39 (pp. 404-28, 438-41, 475-88)

**Oct. 20, 22** Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (Chicago)

***First paper due Oct. 22***

**Oct 27, 29** Sophocles, *Oedipus* (**in Sophocles I, Chicago; ISBN 0226311511**)

**Nov 5, 10** Euripides, *The Bacchae* (**in Euripides V, Chicago; ISBN 0226308987**)

**Nov 12** Aristophanes, *The Frogs* (**in Frogs and Other Plays, Penguin; ISBN 0140449698**)

**Nov 17, 19** Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Penguin). Readings listed below:

Book 1.1-49, 1.139-46 (pp. 35-64, 118-23); Book 2.34-55 (pp. 143-56); Book 3.36-50, 3.69-85 (pp. 212-23, 236-45); Book 5.84-116 (pp. 400-8); Book 6.8-32 (pp. 414-29)

**Nov 24** Plato, *Symposium* (Hackett)

**Dec 2, 4** Virgil, *Aeneid*, tr. **Fitzgerald (Vintage; ISBN 0679729526)** (*not the Mandelbaum translation used by other sections!*)

***Second paper due Dec. 4***

**Dec 8, 10** *Aeneid* (continued)

***See the next page for details of the course requirements.***

*Notes on the reading list:* This section uses a different reading list from the standard Literary Humanities reading list, which means you will need to have five different books from those in the standard set, and you will not need two others from the standard set. The five books can all be found at BookCulture on 112th Street; ask for the books for my section of Lit. Hum. Or order them on line, using the ISBN numbers on the other side of the page. These are the differences:

***Iliad:*** We read the moving and exciting translation by **Robert Fitzgerald**, published by Farrar, Straus; not the boring translation by Richmond Lattimore.

***Odyssey:*** We read the moving and exciting translation by **Robert Fitzgerald**, published by Farrar, Straus; not the boring translation by Richmond Lattimore.

**Sophocles:** We read his *Oedipus* (not on the standard reading list)

**Aristophanes:** We read his *The Frogs* (in *Frogs and Other Plays*, published by Penguin) (not on the standard reading list)

***Aeneid:*** We read the moving and exciting translation by **Robert Fitzgerald**, published by Vintage, not the boring translation by Allen Mandelbaum

We do not read the standard reading list's fragments of Sappho or the *Heroides*, the least interesting of all of Ovid's poems

*Requirements:* **Two intelligent and well-written essays** and a **one-hour final exam** (anyone who needs extra time may have *two* hours to complete the exam); attendance at *every* class. The papers should each be between 1,000 and 1,500 words long; any paper longer than 1,500 words will get a grade of F. Each paper *must* begin (below the title) with a *very brief quotation from one of the works on the syllabus printed as an epigraph*. Then the opening sentence or sentences of the essay itself must *directly* interpret the words of the quotation. Do *not* begin with empty generalizations or with any other kind of fluff and blather that your high-school teachers encouraged you to use when starting a paper. The rest of the paper must gradually work outward from your opening sentences to an interpretation of a larger part of the book or the book as a whole. In other words, your paper must demonstrate that you can connect the details of a book to its overall meaning and design.

Absolutely no smartphones, cell phones, tablets, laptops, netbooks, ultrabooks, messaging devices, iPods, MP3 players, CD players, DVD players, video players, game consoles, settop boxes, internet-connected eyewear, radios, televisions, still cameras, video cameras, sound recorders, headphones, virtual-reality headsets, or global positioning devices; absolutely no electronic devices of any kind unless required for medical reasons. Anyone who writes, sends, reads, or even receives a text message or e-mail during class—or while you wait in the classroom for class to begin—will be banished. Turn off all devices *before* entering the classroom. No baseball caps; no hipster hats; no head coverings of any kind unless required by your religion or for medical reasons. No passive-aggressive questions (for example, the kind that begin “*My problem with this book is*” or “*Speaking as a*”). Bathroom visits during class are strongly discouraged.