

**GREEK EPIC**  
**GRS 300 (A01) 2012**  
**M Th 1 p.m.-2.15 p.m.**  
**Clearihue A203**  
**CRN 27269**  
**PROF. INGRID E. HOLMBERG**  
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**OFFICE HOURS TUES. 12.30-2.30 p.m** or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course is intended to provide a close examination of the genre of epic in ancient Greek literature: we will be reading Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and *Jason and the Golden Fleece* (or the *Argonautica*) of Apollonius Rhodius. The prerequisites are GRS 100 (Greek and Roman Civilization), GRS 200 (myth), or permission from the department/instructor. In this course, we will examine the notion of genre, epic's narrative of its own construction, its inclusivity or exclusivity, its representation of gender, and its function as social and moral commentary.

Many lectures will be accompanied by required reading which will either be linked to the Moodle site or will be on reserve for the class; because of changing copyright regulations this portion of the course is in progress. I will provide a second document with readings and how to access them. Moodle will also contain the syllabus, the essay topics, the bibliography, and links to helpful sites and images. I have also put books on reserve.

**Texts**

Homer, *Iliad*. Translated by Richmond Lattimore.

Homer, *Odyssey*. Translated by Richmond Lattimore.

Apollonius Rhodius, *Jason and the Golden Fleece*. Translated by Richard Hunter.

**Grading Policy**

Your grade will be based on:

Midterm Examination, Thursday, Mar. 1	25%	
Essay, due Thursday, April 5		40%
Final examination (TBA)	35%	

**You must complete all the requirements of the course in order to receive a passing grade.** Dates for exams and papers are generally non-negotiable in fairness to all the students. Consult the exam schedule before making your travel plans for the spring; I will not accommodate individual requests for an adjustment in the examination schedule.

Your final grade will be a letter grade based on the aggregate of paper, mid-term examination and final examination in conformity with the percentage table below. These letter grades correspond to the grading schema on page 38 of the University calendar. Please note that my percentages are slightly higher than average.

100-96% = A+	75-71% = B-
95-91% = A	70-66% = C+
90-86% = A-	65-56% = C
85-81% = B+	55-50% = D
80-76% = B	49-0% = F

### **Long Essay**

The long essay must be between 2500-3000 words, about 10 pages. Essays can be a few pages longer without penalty; short essays will be penalized 4% for each 250 words. I will provide a list of suggested topics for the essay before the end of January. I encourage students, however, to come up with individual topics **in consultation with the instructor.**

Please review the University guidelines for **PLAGIARISM** on pp. 33-34 of the University calendar and the Department of Greek and Roman Studies' guidelines about integrity in the preparation of term papers ([http://web.uvic.ca/grs/web\\_pages/integrity.php](http://web.uvic.ca/grs/web_pages/integrity.php)). I will not hesitate to enforce the university's policies on plagiarism. Students will submit their papers both in hard copy to the instructor AND electronically through TurnItIn.com, a plagiarism detecting program. I will only read papers submitted to me in hard copy; I will not print out (or read) individual papers which I receive by e-mail.

You may also find useful our department's guide to writing essays ([http://web.uvic.ca/grs/web\\_pages/writing\\_guide.php](http://web.uvic.ca/grs/web_pages/writing_guide.php)) and other links to databases and bibliographies on the department website. Please remember, however, that you must approach unedited, unreviewed, unmonitored

information on the web with extreme caution. I will be providing detailed guidelines for the essay when I hand around the topics.

## **Syllabus**

Thurs., Jan. 5	Introduction Oral Tradition Genre of Epic
Monday, Jan. 9	<i>Iliad</i> 1-3 Setting Up the Narrative Class, Gender, and the Past
Thursday, Jan. 12	<i>Iliad</i> 4-6 Mythology Duels and Troy
Monday, Jan. 16	<i>Iliad</i> 7-9 Prophecy and the Embassy to Achilles
Thursday, Jan. 19	<i>Iliad</i> 10-12 Battle, Death, and Healing
Monday, Jan. 23	<i>Iliad</i> 13-15 <i>Dios Apate</i>
Thursday, Jan. 26	<i>Iliad</i> 16-17 Patroklus
Monday, Jan. 30	<i>Iliad</i> 18-19 Shield of Achilles
Thursday, Feb. 2	<i>Iliad</i> 20-23 Hector and Achilles
Monday, Feb. 6	<i>Iliad</i> 24 Resolution?
Thursday, Feb. 9	<i>Odyssey</i> 1-3 Introduction, Authorial Power

Families, Marriage and Political Organization

Monday, Feb. 20	<i>Odyssey</i> 4-6 Telemachus, Calypso, Nausikaa
Thursday, Feb. 23	<i>Odyssey</i> 7-9 Narrative[s]
Monday, Feb. 27	<i>Odyssey</i> 10-12 Circe, Kalypso, and the Underworld
Thursday, Mar. 1	MIDTERM
Monday, Mar. 5	<i>Odyssey</i> 13-15 Arrival in Ithaca
Thursday, Mar. 8	<i>Odyssey</i> 16-19 Does she or doesn't she?
Monday, Mar. 12	<i>Odyssey</i> 20-22 Stringing the Bow and Revenge
Thursday, Mar. 15	<i>Odyssey</i> 23 24 Reunion and Resolution
Monday, Mar. 19	<i>Argonautica</i> Introduction Epic Hero Revisited?
Thursday, Mar. 22	<i>Argonautica</i> 1 Heroes Embark Herakles
Monday, Mar. 26	<i>Argonautica</i> 2 Prophecies Travel
Thursday, Mar. 29	<i>Argonautica</i> 3 Medea: Hero and the Maiden

Monday, Apr. 2

*Argonautica 4*  
Magic  
Return Trip

Thursday, Apr. 5

Review