

Course Syllabus
HUM 311 Major Works of Literature: The World Before Modernity
FALL 2020



<https://blog.oup.com/2014/07/scenes-from-the-odyssey-in-ancient-art/>

The Course

This course is an in-depth reading of Homer's *Odyssey*. We aim to do a close reading on this work and try to make comparative analyses referring to other verbal representations such as poetry, novel, and articles and visual representations such as movies and documentaries that have influenced their times and continue to have an impact on our understanding of the world and its cultures. We discuss how to interpret myths, how they affected life within their times, and how they are related to our current time. We also discuss in what ways archetypes as universal symbols or patterns reflect the human culture, history, and consciousness in myths and stories.

Instructor

Muhsin Yanar
muhsin.yanar@sabanciuniv.edu

Classroom and Office at Zoom

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/6254307359?pwd=TVE1em40cnRsZDRDSUd4Nm83ZGJqQT09>

Class Schedule (Live on Zoom)

Wednesday, 14:40-16.40

Thursday, 10:40-11:40

Office Hours (on Zoom)

Thursday, 13:40-14:40 or by appointment

Time-Conflict Policy

Time Conflict requests will not be accepted for HUM 311 Course

Course requirements

Attendance (10) and Participation (10) =%20

- Attendance is compulsory in this course.
- Attendance is taken on an hourly basis during all live sessions. Failure to attend more than two hours requires points to be taken off the overall grade.
- Students who miss 9 hours (regardless of medical reports) in total will automatically receive an N/A grade.
- Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period.
- Please keep your cameras on during all live sessions.
- Prepare and complete all readings and tasks on time.
- Your active participation is critical.

In-class Response Papers 4x5=20%

- The aim of in-class response papers is to concentrate on what you have read and learned.
- On Thursday, you will be given a question or issue to think about. On Friday, you will be expected to write a min. one-page (500 words) essay to present your findings and opinions.
- Make sure that your essay has a title, a proper beginning and a proper conclusion.
- The response paper will be submitted through SuCourse+. The assignment will remain open for submission until 23:00 on Thursdays.
- You may be asked to re-write or revise a response paper.
- Please check the dates of the remaining response papers from the Syllabus and note them down in your calendar.

Midterm Exam 20%, Final Exam 40%

- In your exams you are expected to answer the questions in a proper essay format which mainly consists of; an introduction to an argument, supporting ideas and examples and a conclusion. I expect you to make references to the texts with appropriate citations. Please make sure to understand the question well and plan your essay according to what the question asks from you. Please do not forget to read the exam instructions at all times.

Grading

- Your letter grade as well as exam grades are based on your individual performance.
- Requests for extra work or other compensation will not be accepted. E-mails concerning such requests will not be replied.
- Letter grades are calculated according to the following letter grade scale and are not open to negotiation.

min	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.	min.
59	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96
D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

Academic Honesty Policy

- HUM 311 course does not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense.
- Papers with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense.
- The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee.
- For information on plagiarism, please see Sources and Lectures. For exam and in-class assignment rules, please see Sources and Lectures.

Students with Special Needs

- It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities.
- To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please let us know and contact the Disabled Students Support Unit of CIAD specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu

Core Text

The Odyssey, Homer; translated by Robert Fagles. Penguin Classics. Deluxe Edition. 1997.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1(05-09 Oct):

- *How to Read and Why*, Harold Bloom p. 19-29
- Introduction to Myths and Archetypes
- How to read myths
- “Mythological and Archetypal Approaches”, Wilfred Guerin, *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, p. 182-190

Week 2(12-16 Oct):

- Books I: Athene Visits Telemachus
- Book II: The Debate in Ithaca

Week 3(19-23 Oct):

- Book III: Telemachus Visits Nestor
- Book IV: Menelaus and Helen
- Book V: Calypso
- “Kalypso and the Function of Book Five”, Bruce Louden
- RESPONSE PAPER 1

Week 4(26-30 Oct): REPUBLIC DAY OF TURKEY 2020

Week 5(02-06 Nov):

- Book VI: Nausicaa
- Book VII: The Palace of Alcinous

- Book VIII: The Phaeacian Games

Week 6(09-13 Nov):

- Book IX: The Cyclops
- Book X: Circe
- A.D.Hope “Circe”
- Alfred Lord Tennyson, “Lotus Eaters”
- “Cyclops: The Flight from Boredom”, Jonathan Sway
- “Witches, Goddesses, Queens, Wives – Dangerous Women”, Jonathan Sway
- RESPONSE PAPER 2

Week 7(16-20 Nov):

- Book XI: The Book of the Dead
- Book XII: Scylla and Charybdis
- “Scylla and Charybdis: Dangers Up and Down, and Sideways”, Jonathan Sway

Week 8(23-27Nov):

- Book XIII: Odysseus Lands in Ithaca,
- Book XIV: In Eumaeus’ Hut
- Cavafy “Ithaca”
- Jonathan Shay, “Odysseus at Home”
- “Transition and Ritual in Odysseus’ Return”, Charles Segal

Week 9(30 Nov-04 Dec): MIDTERM EXAM

Week 10(07-11 Dec):

- Book XV: Telemachus Returns
- Book XVI: Odysseus Meets His Son
- Book XVII: Odysseus Goes to Town
- Book XVIII: The Beggar in the Palace
- RESPONSE PAPER 3

Week 11(14-18 Dec):

- Book XIX: Eurycleia Recognizes Odysseus
- Book XX: Prelude to Crisis

Week 12(21-25 Dec):

- Book XXI: The Great Bow
- Book XXII – XXIV: The Battle in the Hall, Odysseus and Penelope, The Feud is Ended
- Ovid, “Letter from Penelope to Ulysses”
- “Penelope as Moral Agent”, Helene P. Foley

Week 13(28 Dec-01 Jan): NEW YEAR

Week 14(04-08 Jan):

- Conclusion
- Alfred Lord Tennyson, “Ulysses”
- A. D.Hope “The End of Journey”
- RESPONSE PAPER 4

09-21 January FINAL EXAM / WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY STUDENT RESOURCES

Reading List:

1. Jonathan Shay, *Odysseus in America*, New York: Scribner, 2003, pp. 120-146.
2. "Ithaka" by C. P. Cavafy, 1911.
3. "Letter from Penelope to Ulysses" by Ovid.
4. "Lotus Eaters" by Alfred Lord Tennyson
5. Harold Bloom, *How to Read and Why* p.19-29
6. Wilfred Guerin, *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, p. 182-19
7. Bloom, H. (Ed.). (2007). *Homer's The Odyssey*. Infobase Publishing.

For general information:

1. Edith Hamilton, *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, Boston: Grand Central Publishing, 2011.
2. Jung, C. G. (2014). *Four archetypes*. Routledge.
3. Servi, K. (2012). *Greek Mythology: Gods & Heroes–The Trojan War–The Odyssey*