

Course Syllabus

HUM 311 Major Works of Literature: The World Before Modernity, FALL 2021-22



<https://images.metmuseum.org/CRDImages/gr/original/gr30.11.9.R.jpg>

The Course

*A journey is a return? A return to where? To home?
What does a journey include up to the point of a return? Patience? Challenges?
Endurance? Endeavors? Memories? Sacrifices? Traumas? Transformations? Reward?
Wisdom?*

This course is an in-depth reading of Homer's *Odyssey*. We aim to do a close reading on this long-enduring traditional story that has influenced their times and continues to have an impact on our understanding of the world and its cultures. We explore and discuss the nature and function of myth, how to read, receive and interpret myth, how they affected life within their times, and how they are related to our current time. We also dig out subtle codes, universal symbols, or patterns that speak about the creation of the universe, the relationship between mortals and immortals, human nature, religion, family, death, and the like.

Instructor

Muhsin Yanar

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Classroom and Office at Zoom

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/6254307359>

Class Schedule (Live on Zoom)

Tuesday, 14:40-16.40

Thursday, 12:40 – 13:40

Office Hours (on Zoom)

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

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. Students who miss 9 hours (regardless of medical reports) in total will automatically receive 0 for participation and attendance grade.
- Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period.
- Keeping your cameras on during all live sessions is mandatory.
- 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 (400 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+. You may be asked to re-write or revise a response paper only once.
- 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.

Important Note: This syllabus may be subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to follow announcements and e-mails regarding all issues related to this course.

Time-Conflict Policy: Time Conflict requests will not be accepted for HUM courses.

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

Academic Honesty Policy

- Major Works courses do 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 Course Information.

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).

Anti-Discrimination Policy

- HUM 311 classroom is free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. Students are expected to maintain this environment.

Core Text

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1(27 Sep – 01 Oct):

- Introduction to the course
- How to read myth: ancient and modern approaches to myths
- “Introduction: The Meanings of Myths”
Sun Songs: Creation Myths from Around the World, Raymond Van Over

Week 2(04-08 Oct):

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

Week 3(11-15 Oct):

- Book III: Telemachus Visits Nestor
- Book IV: Menelaus and Helen
- Book V: Calypso

Week 4(18-22 Oct):

- Book VI: Nausicaa
- Book VII: The Palace of Alcinous
- Book VIII: The Phaeacian Games
- **RESPONSE PAPER**

Week 5(25-29 Oct):

- Book IX: The Cyclops
- Book X: Circe
- A.D.Hope “Circe”
- Louise Gluck “Circe’s Power”

- Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Lotus Eaters"

Week 6(08-12 Nov):

- Book XI: The Book of the Dead
- Book XII: Scylla and Charybdis
- Margaret Atwood "Siren Song"

□ **RESPONSE PAPER 2**

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Week 7(15-19 Nov): MIDTERM EXAM

Week 8(22-26 Nov):

- Book XIII: Odysseus Lands in Ithaca,
- Book XIV: In Eumaeus' Hut

- Cavafy "Ithaca"

Week 9(29 Nov-03 Dec):

- Book XV: Telemachus Returns
- Book XVI: Odysseus Meets His Son
- Book XVII: Odysseus Goes to Town

Week 10(06-10 Dec):

- Book XVIII: The Beggar in the Palace
- "Odysseus to Telemachus," Joseph Brodsky
- **RESPONSE PAPER 3**

Week 11(13-17 Dec):

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

Week 12(20-24 Dec):

- Book XXI: The Great Bow
- Book XXII – XXIV: The Battle in the Hall, Odysseus and Penelope, The Feud is Ended

Week 13(27-31Dec)

BOOK REVIEW

03-14 Jan - FINAL EXAM / WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY SR

Reading List:

1. Cavafy, C. P. "Ithaka"
2. Ovid. "Letter from Penelope to Ulysses"
3. Tennyson, Alfred Lord. "Lotus Eaters"
4. Tennyson, Alfred Lord. "Ulysses"
5. Hope, A. D. "Circe"
6. Hope, A. D. "The End of Journey"
7. Gluck, Louise. "Circe's Power"

8. Atwood, Margaret. "Siren Song"
9. Brodsky, Joseph. "Odysseus to Telemachus"
10. Finley, Moses. *The World of Odysseus*, NYRB Classics; 4th printing edition, August 10, 2002.
11. Fowler, Robert, and Robert Louis Fowler, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Homer*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.
12. Over, Raymond Van. *Sun songs: creation myths from around the world*. Mentor book, 1980.

For general information:

1. Edith Hamilton, *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, Boston: Grand Central Publishing, 2011.