

**Eng 576: The Classical Tradition (Spring Semester 2008)**  
**Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00; UC 308/EV 154**

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**Course Description:** Eng 576 studies the Greek and Roman literary heritage and its influence upon subsequent texts. We will read ancient Greek and Latin texts in translation, with special emphasis on the Greeks and how the Romans later adapted their works; our approach to these texts will be from historical, cultural, theoretical, and contextual angles. Students will write a thesis-driven research paper on the classical tradition's influence on later literary texts and will share their work by circulating proposals of their papers and presenting them to the class. Students will also critique their peers' proposals, write five critical assessments of secondary sources (out of ten), complete a scholarly project on a select primary text, formally lead part of a class discussion, and write a final cumulative exam.

**Course Objectives:**

- To explore and better understand relevant literary and critical terminology
- To develop graduate-level critical and analytical skills through oral communication (in-class discussions and presentations; Blackboard postings) and written assignments
- To become familiar with the Classical Tradition and thereby gain a deeper appreciation of it by exploring the historical and cultural contexts in which Greek and Roman texts were written

**Texts:** The texts we are reading this semester are in translation, and no two translations are alike. For this reason, you **must use only** the following editions. No exceptions.

Homer. *Iliad*. Trans. Robert Fitzgerald. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. ISBN: 0374529051

---. *Odyssey*. Trans. Robert Fitzgerald. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. ISBN: 0374525749

Hesiod. *Works and Days, Theogony, and Shield of Herakles*. Trans. Richmond Lattimore. Perseus. ISBN: 0472081616

Archilochos. Selections [handout]

Aeschylus. *Oresteia*. Trans. David Grene and Richmond Lattimore. U Chicago P. ISBN: 0226307786

Sophocles. *Oedipus Cycle*. Trans. Harvest. ISBN: 015602764X

Euripides. *The Complete Greek Tragedies: Euripides I*. Grene and Lattimore. U Chicago P. ISBN: 0226307808

Virgil. *Aeneid*. Trans. Robert Fitzgerald. Random House. ISBN: 0679729526

Ovid. *Metamorphoses*. Trans. Oxford P. ISBN: 019283472X

Aristotle. *Poetics*. [handout]

Geoffrey Chaucer. *Bok of the Duchesse*. [handout]

---*House of Fame*. [handout]

**Requirements & Grading:** Students are expected to meet the demands of this rigorous course. Your full participation and completion of all assignments is the minimum requirement to possibly pass the course. Class participation and attendance is expected (more than two absences will result in a 5% final grade penalty). You are also expected to have completed all readings by the assigned dates and to submit assignments on time (and in hard copy unless otherwise noted on the syllabus). Late assignments will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made in advance. Your grade will be based on the following:

<b>Assignments:</b>	<b>Percentages:</b>	<b>Due Dates:</b>
Critical Reading Assessments (1 page):	10%	Weekly (five out of ten)
Class Discussion Guide (1 page):	10%	Sign-up (week one)
Scholarly Project (4-5 pages):	15%	February 27
Proposal (3-4 pages with ann bib):	15%	April 16 (present April 23 and 30)
Proposal Critiques:	5%	(April 23 and 30)
Paper (15-20 pages):	25%	April 30 or May 6 (which is a Tuesday)
Final Exam (10-12 pages):	20%	May 14

**NB:** For more information on general university policies, visit [shsu.edu/syllabus/](http://shsu.edu/syllabus/); on classroom rules of conduct, see [shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html](http://shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html). You are expected to know these policies and procedures. You will be asked to complete a course evaluation form at the end of the semester.

**Course Schedule:** The following is a tentative plan; deviation may be necessary.

**January 16: The Greek Bronze and Dark Ages**

The Minoans and Mycenaeans; Fall of Troy and the collapse of the Mycenaean world

**Sign up for Class Discussions**

**January 23: The Archaic Age and Epic Cycles**

The Greek Renaissance; Homer and Homerica; the Epic Cycles; Mythology & Religion

\*Homer. *Iliad* (Books 1-2) and "Introduction"; Archilochos [handout]

**CRA #1 [everyone must submit]**

**January 30: Epic**

\*Homer. *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

**CRA #2**

**February 6: Epic**

\*Homer. *Odyssey*

**February 13: Epic**

\*Homer. *Odyssey*; Hesiod. *Works and Days*; *Theogony* [excerpts]

**CRA #3**

**February 20: Classical Greece and the Rise of Attic Drama**

Persian Wars, Athenian Democracy and the City Dionysia, Tragedy and Comedy

\*Aristotle. *Poetics* [excerpts]

**CRA #4 [everyone must submit]**

**February 27: Tragedy: Aeschylus**

\*Aeschylus. *Oresteia*.

**Scholarly Projects due (hardcopy)**

**CRA #5**

**March 5: Tragedy: Sophocles**

\*Aeschylus. *Oresteia*; Sophocles. *Theban Plays*

**CRA #6**

**March 12: Spring Break**

**Sign up for Presentations (Blackboard)**

**March 19: Tragedy: Euripides; The Romans**

\*Euripides. *Hippolytus*

From Roman Republic to Empire

**CRA #7**

**March 26 No Class [39<sup>th</sup> Annual CEA Conference]**

**April 2: Roman Epic**

\*Virgil. *Aeneid*.

**CRA #8**

**April 9: Literary Transformations**

\*Ovid. *Metamorphoses*.

**CRA #9**

**April 16: The Classical Tradition and Chaucer**

\*Chaucer. *Boke of the Duchesse*; *House of Fame*

**Post Paper Proposals (Blackboard)**

**CRA#10**

**April 23**

Paper Presentations (papers will be due April 30, hardcopy)

**Presentations**

**April 30**

Paper Presentations (papers will be due May 6, [TUESDAY] hardcopy)

**Presentations**

**May 7: NO CLASS [42<sup>nd</sup> Int'l Congress on ME Studies] Final Exam Posted**

**Final Exam:** due by May 14, 2008, 5:00 p.m., format TBA.

*NB:* an asterisks indicates a reading assignment. Everyone must submit CRA #1 and #4