

CLAS E-116/W

THE ANCIENT GREEK HERO

Spring 2016

A BASIC STATEMENT ABOUT THIS COURSE

There are no prerequisites for the course. No special competence in any skill or in any language is required. The only requirement is academic honesty. If you enrol in our course, we expect you to agree to the academic honesty guidelines as found on the Harvard Extension School website. Collaboration is encouraged in our course, and if you collaborate honestly, there is nothing for you to worry about. Plagiarism is different from collaboration, and it is antithetical to the moral code of this course; to plagiarize is to take credit only for yourself and to hide the credit that others deserve. Our moral code is, simply, to learn together as a community. You are responsible for understanding Harvard Extension School policies on academic integrity (www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/student-conduct/academic-integrity) and how to use sources responsibly. Not knowing the rules, misunderstanding the rules, running out of time, submitting "the wrong draft", or being overwhelmed with multiple demands are not acceptable excuses. There are no excuses for failure to uphold academic integrity. To support your learning about academic citation rules, please visit the Harvard Extension School Tips to Avoid Plagiarism (www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources/tips-avoid-plagiarism), where you'll find links to the Harvard Guide to Using Sources and two, free, online 15-minute tutorials to test your knowledge of academic citation policy. The tutorials are anonymous open-learning tools.

The Extension School is committed to providing an accessible academic community. The Disability Services Office offers a variety of accommodations and services to students with documented disabilities. Please visit www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources/disability-services-accessibility for more information.

INSTRUCTORS

Prof. Gregory Nagy (e-mail: gnagy@fas.harvard.edu). Classics Department, Boylston Hall, 2nd floor.

Dr. Kevin McGrath (e-mail: kmcgrath@fas.harvard.edu). Classics Dept. Office hour: Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time in Boylston Hall 228, or by telephone during this time at (617)-495-1941.

COURSE WEBSITES

There are two online resources for this course.

The first, referred to in this Syllabus as HeroesX, is the Course's online content repository, hosted by edX. The HeroesX website contains the textbooks, video and audio materials, discussion board, and two kinds of exercises. Its contents are divided into 24 Hours, a term referring to the number of hour-long class meetings in the academic term. To access the Course materials on HeroesX, **you must create an edX account and also register for "The Ancient Greek Hero" on the edX website.** Please create your edX account and register for the course by September 1st; this takes less than a minute. The URL is:

<https://www.edx.org/course/ancient-greek-hero-24-hours-harvardx-hum2x>

The second is the Course's Canvas website, from which all other materials and resources will be accessible. From that site students will join the weekly live web conference meeting on **Thursdays at 5:30pm**. It will also contain the recordings of the weekly web conference meetings for those who cannot view in real time. You are **required** to participate in this, either live-online or in recorded form as this meeting will be the basis for ALL of your written work: that is, your weekly homework which will be *previsited* and *revisited* during this time. You can have access to the Course/Canvas website by signing into your Harvard DCE account and then going to:

<https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/4586>

THE SOURCEBOOK WITH ALL THE TEXTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT:

<http://chs.harvard.edu/CHS/article/display/37?menuId=187>

AND THE ONLINE TEXT OF THE ANCIENT GREEK HERO IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS (H24H) CAN BE FOUND AT:

<http://chs.harvard.edu/CHS/article/display/41?menuId=74>

COURSE OVERVIEW

What does it mean, to be human? This course takes a close look at the human condition, as viewed through the lens of classical Greek civilization; the basic organizing principle is an objective study of a model of humanity, the Hero. By the time the course comes to an end, students will have learned that there are different definitions of the “hero” in different historical times and places. In the end, though, the one true “hero” of this course will be the *logos* or “word” of logical reasoning, as activated by Socratic dialogue. The *logos* of dialogue in this course will require careful thinking, realized in close reading and reflective writing. The “last word” about this *logos* comes from Plato’s memories of words spoken in dialogue by Socrates during the last days of his life, which will be read towards the very end of the course. Such a “last word”, shaped by a deep understanding of the idea of the hero in all its varieties throughout the history of Greek civilization, will become the “latest word” for students who earnestly engage in dialogue, by way of writing as well as reading, with heroic expressions of the human condition. This course is driven by a sequence of dialogues that lead to such an engagement, guiding the attentive reader through many of the major works of the ancient Greek Classics. In this course, all readings are translated into contemporary English and supplemented by selections from the ancient visual arts.

REQUIRED READING

1) **SOURCEBOOK.** Available on the HeroesX site as an HTML textbook and as a downloadable e-pub. The Sourcebook contains: the Homeric *Iliad* and *Odyssey*; the Proclus summaries of the *Epic Cycle*; Hesiod, *Theogony*, *Works and Days*; selections from Theognis of Megara. Alcman, *Partheneion* (“The Maidens’ Song”); “Songs (“poetry”)” of Sappho; Pindar, *Pythian 8*; Aeschylus, the Oresteia trilogy (*Agamemnon*, *Libation-Bearers*, *Eumenides*); Sophocles, *Oedipus at Colonus*, *Oedipus Tyrannus* (“Oedipus Rex”); Euripides, *Hippolytus*, *Bacchic Women* (“Bacchae”); selections from Herodotus’ *Histories*; Plato, *Apology*, *Phaedo*; selections from Pausanias and Philostratus. (The full text of Philostratus *Heroikos* is available at: <http://chs.harvard.edu>).

2) **THE ANCIENT GREEK HERO IN 24 HOURS**, by Gregory Nagy. Available on the HeroesX site as an HTML textbook and as a downloadable e-pub. This book contains 24 chapters; each chapter is called an “Hour,” because each one of the “Hours” is keyed to each one of 24 class meetings. This book, hereafter abbreviated as **H24H**, is designed to provide you with close readings and analysis of some of the most important parts of the relevant primary sources as found in the Sourcebook. These “Hours” take the place of formal “lectures” in this course. The close readings in these “Hours” are meant to be part of the “homework” that you bring to class—in person or virtually—at the Thursday meetings.

RECOMMENDED READING

For further background on and interpretation of the required reading, two books by G. Nagy are available on the CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES website (<http://chs.harvard.edu>): *The Best of the Achaeans: Concepts of the Hero in Archaic Greek Poetry*, and, *Pindar’s Homer*. These books supply background for some, but hardly all, of the topics to be presented in the course.

COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE GRADE

This is a Writing Intensive Course. Writing-intensive courses at Harvard Extension offer students the opportunity to develop their writing skills in the context of a particular academic discipline; they all feature common elements. Students will:

Develop core writing skills as defined by the Instructor in the discipline of the course.

Complete multiple writing assignments of varying lengths at least 2 of which must be revised.

Produce a minimum of 10-12 pages of writing, exclusive of the required drafts, over the course of the term.

Meet at least once in individual conference—in person, by phone, or electronically—with the Instructor to discuss writing in progress.

Receive detailed feedback on the drafts and revisions for both content and expression.

You are responsible for meeting **ALL** the following requirements and there are **No Extensions** given for late work; late submissions of work are NOT accepted. There are Four components to the Course:

1. 10% of your Grade: every week you need to engage with the two kinds of **Self-Assessment** by completing the Annotation Exercises for the assigned Hours (found on the Canvas website); these are pass/fail. The results of these self-assessments are included in the Course grade and carefully completing them will help prepare you for success in the written portion of the Course (see #2 below). It is **imperative** that you complete the Annotation Exercises on the Canvas site rather than on HeroesX; if you complete them on HeroesX we shall not have proper access to them and you will not receive credit for your answers. To repeat: you will access all other course materials on HeroesX but in order to submit your Annotation Exercises you must go to the Canvas site.

2. 50% of your Grade: **there are 12 short WEEKLY exercises, the two lowest grades of which can be discarded. The QUALITY of writing is important to this Class, not the quantity.** This is the biggest step every week: you need to write a Close Reading Paper consisting of no more than five hundred finely argued and succinct words in response to one of the questions in the weekly two Annotation Exercises. This question will be announced via e-mail on Monday for the following week. **The Close Reading Paper is due by e-mail submission as a PDF on the following Sunday Noon to Kevin McGrath.** Undergraduates **MUST** rewrite at least one of these Papers and can rewrite as many of them as desired; Graduate Students **MUST** rewrite at least two of these papers if not more. These rewrites are to be submitted at any time before the end of classes, treating the first submission as a Draft, and you need to be in direct contact with your Instructor, Kevin McGrath, for advising on these rewritten works.

3. 40% of your Grade: you need to rewrite and to develop any of your previous close reading papers into a **four page essay (six pages for Grad. Students)**. This is due on Monday, May the 9th at Noon.

4. **Participation in Discussion Board** is a weekly requirement; it is your forum for discussion and intellectual exchange and it is a recommended venue for learning.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS

You should complete the assigned reading before each Thursday's Class.

Week 1 (Jan. 28): Hours 0, 1, and 2

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 0, 1, and 2 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Read "Introduction to the Book" and "Introduction to Homeric Poetry" in *The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours* (*b24h*)
- Slow reading in *b24h*: Hour 0 Texts, Hour 1 Texts, and Hour 2 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: *Iliad* scrolls I, III, VI, and IX

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 1 and 2 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email **as PDF** (due Sunday noon)

Week 2 (Feb. 4): Hours 3 and 4

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 3 and 4 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *b24h*: Hour 3 Texts, and Hour 4 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: *Iliad* scrolls XV (306–404, 592-746), XVI, and XVII (1-69, 188-232, 366-455, 673-751), XVIII-XX, XXI (1-135, 227-390)

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 3 and 4 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email **as PDF** (due Sunday noon)

Week 3 (Feb. 11): Hours 5 and 6

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 5 and 6 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 5 Texts, and Hour 6 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: *Iliad* scrolls XXII-XXIV; I to VIII (repeat)

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 5 and 6 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 4 (Feb. 18): Hours 7 and 8

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 7 and 8 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 7 Texts, and Hour 8 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: *Iliad* scrolls X-XXIV (repeat)

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 7 and 8 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 5 (Feb. 25): Hours 9 and 10

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 9 and 10 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 9 Texts, and Hour 10 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: *Odyssey* scrolls i-viii, and ix-xvi

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 9 and 10 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 6 (Mar. 3): Hour 11

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hour 11 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 11 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: *Odyssey* scrolls xvii-xxiv

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hour 11 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 7 (Mar. 10): Hours 12 and 13

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogue for Hours 12 and 13 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 12 Texts, and Hour 13 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: Hesiod *Theogony* 1-115 and *Works & Days* 1-286 and Herodotus scroll 1.1-91 (Croesus)

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hour 12 and Hour 13 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 8 (Mar. 17): No Class this week, Spring Break

Week 9 (Mar. 24): Hours 14 and 15

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 14 and 15 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 14 Texts, and Hour 15 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: “The Sign of the Hero” - Philostratus *Heroikos* (full text available on CHS website); and Herodotus 1.167 (Kyrnos), 1.168 (Timesios), 2.44 Herakles, 2.53 (Hesiod, Homer), 5.47 (Philippos), 5.104, 110-14 (Onesilaos), 6.61-68 (Helen, Astrabakos), 7.117 (Artachaees), 7.133-37 (Talthybios), 7.188-92 (Thetis), and 9.114-22 (Protesilaos)

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 14 and 15 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 10 (Mar. 31): Hours 16 and 17

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 16 and 17 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: and Hour 16 Texts, and Hour 17 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: Aeschylus *Agamemnon*, *Libation Bearers*, and *Eumenides*

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 16 and 17 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 11 (Apr. 7): Hours 18 and 19

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 18 and 19 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 18 Texts, and Hour 19 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: Sophocles *Oedipus at Colonus*, and *Oedipus Tyrannos*

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 18 and 19 content-questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due November 10)

Week 12 (Apr. 14): Hours 20 and 21

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 20 and 21 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 20 Texts, and Hour 21 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: Euripides *Hippolytus*, and *Bacchae*

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 20 and 21 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word position paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 13 (Apr. 21): Hours 22 and 23

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hours 22 and 23 on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*: Hour 22 Texts, and Hour 23 Texts
- Fast reading in Sourcebook: Plato *Apology of Socrates*, and *Phaedo*

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hours 22 and 23 Content-Questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 14 (Apr. 28): Hour 24 and Afterword

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Watch recorded dialogues for Hour 24 and 'Afterword' on the HeroesX website and participate in the web-conference meeting on the Canvas site

Reading:

- Slow reading in *h24h*, and Hour 24 Texts

Assessment:

- Answer the online Hour 24 content-questions and complete the Annotation Exercises
- Submit 500-word close reading paper via email (due Sunday noon)

Week 15 (May 5): Review and Discussion of Essays

Required Activities

Viewing:

- Participate in final web-conference meeting on the Canvas site
- Submit final Four Page Essay (Grad. Students – Six Pages): a rewrite and development of any of your previous weekly Close Reading Papers. This is due on Monday the 9th of May at Noon. You **must** discuss—in person or electronically—with Kevin McGrath as to your title and thesis statement prior to this being submitted. Drafts are welcome.

