

## HIST 265.IHE: Ancient Epics: Death, Honor, and Glory

Course Syllabus, Spring 2022  
Sowers Education South, 124  
Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:45PM

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Andrew Donnelly, PhD  
Office Location: Ferguson 105  
Office Hours: TBD  
University Email Address: [andrew.donnelly@tamuc.edu](mailto:andrew.donnelly@tamuc.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: email  
Communication Response Time: as soon as I can

### COURSE INFORMATION

The following books are (or will be) available for purchase at the University Bookstore and will likely be found for a cheaper price online. Please make sure to acquire the correct editions of the books—I would like you to read the assigned translations, primarily because they are the most readable, especially for students who have never read epic poetry before. I know that other editions are available, and potentially cheaper, but please note that not all translations are the same. Yes, you can get a relatively cheap copy of, say, John Dryden's translation, but keep in mind this was produced in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. You will find it challenging.

Purchasing/acquiring a different edition will hamper you in our course, both when we read in class (as the line and page numbers will come from the Fagles and Wilson editions), and take exams (as I will use the Fagles and Wilson translations for passage IDs).

Homer, *Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles. ISBN: 978-0140275360

Homer, *Odyssey*, translated by Emily Wilson. ISBN: 978-0393356250

Vergil, *Aeneid*, translated by Robert Fagles. ISBN: 978-0143105138

### Course Description

This course centers on three of the great epics of the ancient Mediterranean world—the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, and the *Aeneid*—their nature and significance, and, especially, the concepts of heroes and heroism.

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of ancient epic as a literary genre, what heroes are and why they are featured in epics, and how epics began and evolved to reflect audiences and their social, cultural, political and other concerns, values (such as leadership) beliefs and practices. Specific topics focused on include the role of the hero in ancient literature; ancient understanding of choice, freedom, and personal agency; the depiction of women in epics; the

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relationship between humans and gods; and the stylistic and cultural differences between Greek and Roman epic poetry.

Most importantly, this course will improve your reading and communication skills, sharpen your mind, and make you a more informed (and interesting!) member of our nation and world.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional Methods**

This is a readings course. The majority of our meetings will be reading and discussing these epic poems as a group. I will ask questions of you and explain developments in the poem. I will also provide historical context, as one of the goals of this course is to understand the relationship between these poems and the civilizations that created and listened to them. Talking about literature is one of the most fulfilling activities of human life, and we will do this for the next several months. Thus active participation—you talking and engaging with the poems and our class conversation—is key to your and this course’s success.

### **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Your overall course grade will be based on several factors:

First examination:	20%
Second examination:	20%
Final examination:	20%
Participation/discussion:	20%
Quizzes:	20%
TOTAL	100%

### **Assessments**

All three **examinations** will include a discussion of a passage selected from your readings and a choice from among several general short answer questions about material covered in class and

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read at home. Your **final examination** will also contain an essay question. You will not be examined on material not yet covered in class or the readings. You will be graded on your command of the material and ability to offer nuanced, thoughtful opinions on it.

We will spend a significant amount of each class involved in the **discussion** of epic poetry. This course only works when there is free-flowing discussion of the material that you have read. Thus please come to class ON TIME having prepared this reading for our discussion. The bulk of your class participation grade will come from your performance. This participation grade is calculated on your willingness and ability to contribute to our class discussion. Asking questions; contributing to the conversation; helping to discuss or explain the workings of a particular passage or book—all of these are what I hope to see from each of you over the course of this semester, and doing these is vital for your success in this portion of the course. Please note that discussion is more than a requirement: it makes the class enjoyable. No one likes a silent classroom. Many doubt, however, that their voice or contributions are the solution. I assure you this is not the case: your contributions will be an invaluable part of our experience this semester. Not only will your peers thank you, they will learn from you. So will I.

There will be several **quizzes** throughout the semester. They will be held on the first class of most weeks and will consist of a short IDs of key people/places/topics in the reading for the week. There will be 12 in total, and I will count the 10 highest grades. There are NO make-up quizzes.

I am available, whether in person or via email, to help you with your work. Please seek me out. Students are often not aware that faculty members are here to help. My door is open.

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

### **Week One:** Course Introduction

We meet: January 13

Reading: none

### **Week Two:** Greece and Troy

We meet: January 18, 20

Reading: *Iliad* 1-5

**Quiz 1:** January 18

### **Week Three:** The Breaker of Horses

We meet: January 25, 27

Reading: *Iliad* 6-11

**Quiz 2:** January 25

### **Week Four:** Of Men and Gods

We meet: February 1, 3

Reading: *Iliad* 12-18

**Quiz 3:** February 1

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**Week Five:** Achilles at War

We meet: February 8, 10

Reading: *Iliad* 19-24

**Quiz 4:** February 8

**Week Six:** Meet Telemachus

We meet: February 15, 17

Reading: *Odyssey* 1-4

**Exam 1 (*Iliad*):** February 15; **No quiz this week**

**Week Seven:** Odysseus Returns to the World of Men

We meet: February 22 (we will not have class Feb 24)

Reading: *Odyssey* 5-10

**Quiz 5:** February 22

**Week Eight:** A Tale of My Wanderings

We meet: March 1, 3

Reading: *Odyssey* 11-14

**Quiz 6:** March 1

**Week Nine:** Guess Who's Back

We meet: March 8, 10

Reading: *Odyssey* 15-19

**Quiz 7:** March 8

No class the week of March 14. Your assignment: enjoy spring break.

**Week Ten:** Honey, I'm Home

We meet: March 22, 24

Reading: *Odyssey* 20-24

**Quiz 8:** March 22

**Week Eleven:** Romanitas

We meet: March 29, 31

Reading: None

**Exam 2 (*Odyssey*):** March 29; **No quiz this week**

**Week Twelve:** Pius Aeneas

We meet: April 5, 7

Reading: *Aeneid* 1-3

**Quiz 9:** April 5

**Week Thirteen:** Infelix Dido

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We meet: April 12, 14  
Reading: *Aeneid* 4-6  
**Quiz 10:** April 12

**Week Fourteen:** A New and Bloodied Home

We meet: April 19, 21  
Reading: *Aeneid* 7-9  
**Quiz 10:** April 19

**Week Fifteen:** Blazing with Wrath

We meet: April 26, 28  
Reading: *Aeneid* 10-12  
**Quiz 12:** April 26

**Week Sixteen:** *Aeneid* review/catch-up

We meet: May 3

**Final Exam:** Thursday, May 12, 10:30AM-12:30PM

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

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**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Course communications will come through your university email account. Be sure to check it regularly. You should contact me through my email address ([andrew.donnelly@tamuc.edu](mailto:andrew.donnelly@tamuc.edu)).

### **Statement on Student Grievances**

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky ([Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu)). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

### **Your Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

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## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide, not a contract. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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