

Core Curriculum 1.1: Classical CIVILIZATIONS -- SYLLABUS: A Working Guide

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[For study aids go to course web site [<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/classics/jvsickle/cslinks.htm>]

Students do reading before class in order to share in group work, which is an important way of honing personal & intellectual skills.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Topics & Themes</i>	<i>Assigned Reading</i>	<i>Queries & Concepts</i>
Unit I			
		<i>Defining Culture:</i>	<i>Greek & Roman Models</i>
S 1 Tu	Getting to know a Culture [brainstorm]	<u>Sappho & Catullus: handout & texts with notes on-line</u>	What does each poet emphasize? Anything familiar? Anything strange? How does each use analogy?
S 3 Th	Crafting a Cultural Model	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 18(th book=scroll, volume, chapter).(lines=verses) 478-607.	Cf. (=compare with, make analogies with) previous reading: look for similarities? remark differences?
S 8 Tu	Counter Culture Mirroring One's Own	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 9.1-148.	How does Homer define cultural normality here? What criteria does he use? Any analogies with previous readings?.
S 10 Th	Identifying with Another's Culture	Virgil, - <i>Aeneid</i> 1.572-677.	What cultural features do you recognize as familiar? What strike you as novel here?
S 15 Tu	Matching Cultures: similarity / difference	Herodotus, - <i>Histories</i> Book 2 (Egypt)	What are H's main interests in describing another culture? His main themes? What do his emphases reveal about his own culture? What does he expect his readers to find interesting?
Unit II			
		<i>Culture in Action:</i>	<i>Rise & Fall of Empire at Athens</i>
S 17 Th	Myth as Mirror of Cultural Conflict: power vs craft	<u>Aeschylus, Prometheus Bound.</u>	[concepts: drama, tragedy, tragic intransigence, origin] How do culture & law relate in this myth?
[S 17]	1st essay 1st draft:	compare in groups to revise & refine	[hints for writing on protocol]
S 22 Tu	Extremes Destroy a City new state law vs old religious rule	<u>Sophocles, Antigone</u>	[concept: gender (M vs F)]; What kinds of law conflict here? How do family, religion, & gender relate to the city? <i>NOMOS</i> 'law/custom'
S 24 Th	Cultures Conflict: Extreme vs Norm	<u>Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, pp. 35-49, 72-82.</u>	History, what makes it worth telling? How to tell it & to whom?
[S 24]	1st essay 2nd draft :	compare within groups to revise & refine	[hints for writing on protocol]
O 1 Th	Contrast in City Cultures	Thucydides, <u>HistPelWar, pp. 143-56</u>	What criteria do Th. & his speakers use to define democracy & oligarchy?
O 6 Tu	Crisis & Collapse	Thucydides, <u>HistPelWar, pp. 212-23, 400-08, 524-37.</u>	How does Th. view human nature? What kinds of law does he refer to? How do they differ from one another?
Unit III			
		<i>Critique of Athens:</i>	<i>Alternative models (utopias)</i>
O 8 Th	Counter-Cultural Critique	<u>Aristophanes Lysistrata</u>	[concept:comedy]. How might A.'s vision have surprised Athenians? What major metaphors used? Actual results?
[O 8]	1st essay: Hand in Final Version		[hints for writing on protocol]
O 13 Tu	Diagnosing Illness in Culture	Plato, <u>Apology of Socrates</u> [=section numbers] 17a-42a	What ills of culture does Plato diagnose in Athens? How does Socrates relate to models of tragic heroism?
O 15 Th	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	including time chart &	passages from reading to identify & explain
O 20 Tu	Plotting a Cure	Plato, <u>Republic</u> [= 367-403 [pp. 53-94]	How does Plato's new cultural model relate to previous models & experiences of Greek culture?
O 22 Th	The Cure for Politics	<u>Republic</u> [= 412-421, 445-469 (pp 102-111, 144-172)	What part in his model society does Plato assign to poets, rock stars, cooks, soldiers, women?
O 27 Tu	Knowing Metaphors & Telling Myth	<u>Republic</u> [= 509-521, 613-end (pp 221-235, 348-end)	consider Plato's attitudes toward & uses of metaphor, myth, imagery, imagination
Unit IV			
<i>Root Models (Stories Told at Athens):</i>		<i>Powers & Flaws of Heroism</i>	<i>Panathenaic festival, rhapsode, continuity vs innovation</i>

O 29 Th	Choices Shape Lives (tragic themes: honor, fame)	<u>Homer, Iliad 1[st book=scroll or volume, chapter].</u>	[concept: epic, tragic plot] tragic heroism, excess, honor, rage: Who? What? Where? When? Why?
N 3 Tu	Behind the Battlefield:	<u>Homer, Iliad 3, 6.</u>	Outside & Inside Ilion, New characters, scenes & values: Who? What? Where? When? Why?
[N 3]	2nd essay, 1st draft:		<u>[hints for writing on protocol]</u>
N 5 Th	Reason v[ersu]s Rage	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 9, 16.	Inside Achilles & Patrocles: What? Why? Where?
N 10 Tu	Self Against Community--Rage	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 18, 22	What cultural norms get broken?
[N 10]	2nd essay 2nd draft		share & compare within groups so as to focus & refine
N 12 Th	Beyond Fury & Pride--culture norm enforced	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 24 [compare/contrast with Books 1, 9, 18]	What cultural norm gets enforced & how does H. image the process?
N 17 Tu	Values Shape Lives (comic themes: desire, craft, home)	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 1 & 6	How does the <i>symposium</i> vary here? How do gender roles vary?
N 19 Th	Revisiting the Iliad: Parallels & Revisions	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 8, 9, 11, 24	How does Homer revise (confirm or contradict) viewpoints & values expressed by characters in the <i>Iliad</i> ?
[N 19]	2nd essay final revision hand in	[7-11 paragraphs]	Review Protocol for Reading

Unit V	Rome Remodels Culture	New Power Gets Own Epic	<i>[for notes on Rome see web]</i>
N 24 Tu	Heroism Revised: How does V. relate epic to Rome?	Virgil <i>Aeneid</i> 1, 2	[new concepts & norms: destiny, duty] How does V. supplement Homer? Tragic/comic plot? How do destiny & duty relate to heroism?
D 1 Tu	AMOR : ROMA :: <M> : {F} :: East : West	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> 4, 6	How does V. absorb tragedy & history into epic? How does V. adapt Homer?
D3 Th	Heroism & Shields as Clues to Culture	<i>Aeneid</i> 8 (cf. <i>Il.</i> 18), 12 (cf. <i>Aen.</i> 6 & <i>Il.</i> 24)	How & why does V. alter Homer? New Roman values & norms?
D 8 Tu	Aroma of Peace (new or similar basic story & values?)	Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i> pp. 18-39	What cultural norms get broken? How does P. relate his characters & situation to Homer, Plato, Virgil? [fame & memory,
D 10 Th		Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i> pp. 39-60	What cultural norm gets enforced & how does P. imagine the process? Death as motif? Heroic fame?

BOOKS to PURCHASE [available at Shakespeare & Company, Hillel Place]

Aeneid by **Virgil** [70-19 BCE]: translated by Robert Fitzgerald.

Prometheus & Antigone: both in one book, *Greek Tragedies* vol. I, edited by Grene & Lattimore (University of Chicago Press).

Apology by **Plato** [428-348 BCE] in Plato, *The Trial & Death of Socrates* (Hackett Publishing): ISBN 0-915144-15-8

Histories by **Herodotus** [ca 484-ca 429] translator -Selincourt, revised by Marincola (Penguin 1996).

History of the Peloponnesian War by **Thucydides** [ca 460-ca 400 BCE]: translated by Rex Warner.

Iliad, **Homer** [ca 750 BCE; recited yearly ca 550-ca 320 Athens; first edited, Alexandria, ca 300-100]: tr. Richmond Lattimore.

Lysistrata comedy by **Aristophanes** [ca 445-380s] : Translated With Introduction and Notes (Focus) J. Henderson

Odyssey, Homer [ca 750 BCE; recited ca 550-ca 320 Athens; edited, Alexandria, ca 300-100]: tr. Richmond Lattimore

Republic by **Plato** [428-348 BCE], translated by F. M. Cornford.

Satyricon by **Petronius** [fl(ourished) ca 60 CE]: [translated by Sarah Ruden (Hackett: ISBN 0-87220-510-X).

Grades: 20 % class work; 40 % essays; 40 % exams. "Quotation marks" must credit words by others to avoid plagiarism.