

CAMS 3101
Homeric Greek: The Iliad
Fall 2014

Prof. Sara Johnson

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Oak 229

Office hours: M 2:30-4 and by appointment (preferably MWF)

Required reading:

Iliad, Book 1 (Draper)

Iliad 6 and 22 (Steadman)

Cunliffe, [A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect](#)

Lattimore, [The Iliad of Homer](#)

Our goal will be to read selections of Homer's *Iliad*, beginning with Book 1 and continuing on to read sections from books 6 and 22, as time permits. The reading schedule is flexible, but the ultimate goal is to cover about 1700 lines, or the equivalent of 3 books of the poem. We will begin slowly (around 20-30 lines a class) but build to a more rapid pace of 30-50 lines a class as we go along.

Much of our time in class will be absorbed in getting acquainted with the peculiarities of Homeric grammar and vocabulary, and mastering the techniques of Greek scansion (reading the poem in dactylic hexameter, as it was meant to be sung). However, we will also be discussing literary, compositional, and historical problems raised by the tale and the text.

The midterm and the final will test your ability to translate portions of the epic into good, literal English. In addition to the midterm and the final, we will have translation quizzes every few weeks, as a way to practice and prepare for the larger tests.

Tentative quiz/exam dates:

Quiz 1	Friday, Sept 19
Midterm	Monday, Oct 13
Quiz 2	Friday, Nov 7
Final	Weds, Dec 10, 1-3 pm

Course Requirements: Class Participation 25%, Midterm 25%, Quizzes 25%, Final 25%

In addition to regular attendance and in-class translation and discussion, a part of the class participation grade will be based on evidence of regular use of Anki flashcards based on the "Homeric Vocabularies" book. For those not familiar with it, Anki is a free, open-source computer flashcard program that runs on a variety of platforms (Windows, Mac and Linux).

<http://ichi2.net/anki/>

I will distribute a basic deck at the beginning of the semester (which you are free to expand and modify as you wish). For the first six weeks, I will expect you to do an average of 10-15 minutes' review each day (Anki works best with regular daily reviews, though you can occasionally skip a day and double up the next day), and send me a copy of your deck each week on Sunday night so that I can randomly check on students' progress. (You are, of course, free to spend more than 15 minutes if you want, though it is best not to overdo it – anything more than 10-20 new words a day rapidly becomes unmanageable.) I will only be looking for evidence of a pattern of regular use over time. After six weeks, I will no longer check your decks unless you want me to. If you don't feel Anki is helping you at that point, you can give it up, but most people get hooked once they've done it for a few weeks.

Last date on which you are required to send me your deck: **Sunday, October 5.**