

Course Number

CLA 210/HUM 205

Course Title

The World of Homer

Quarter/Year

FALL 2021

Day/Time

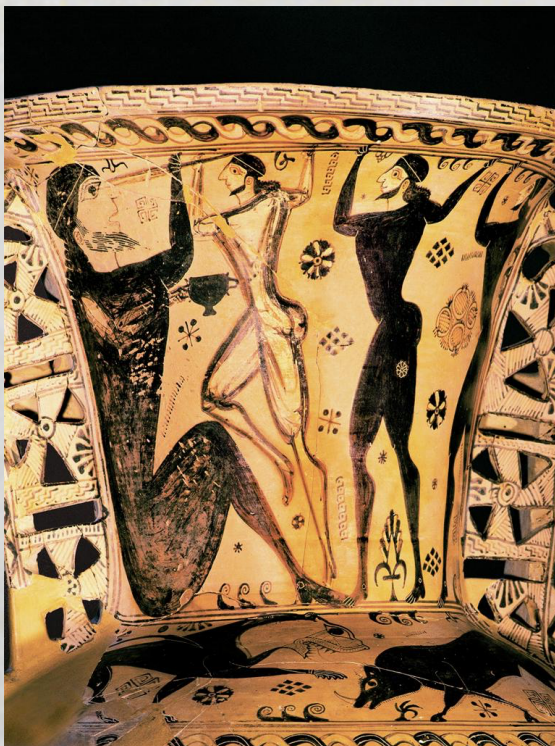
TR 9:30-10:50

Instructor

GUNTER

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

AREAS IV, V, and VI



Course Description:

What do we know of the world inhabited by the heroes of Homer's epic poems, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*? Do the poems describe a largely imaginary realm, or do they reflect a particular period of ancient Greek history—and if so, which one? How did the circulation of the poems help contribute to a collective sense of Greek identity over a wide area of the eastern Mediterranean?

This course explores the society, economy, and culture of Iron Age Greece with special attention to the Geometric and early Archaic periods, emphasizing what scholars have learned through archaeological discoveries along with study of the poems themselves. Topics include the excavations at Troy and other sites; contacts with Egypt and the Near East and colonization in the Mediterranean world; trade, exchange, and the technology of travel; literacy and oral tradition; political communities and warfare; gender and family relationships; religion, burial practices, and the art of ritual and commemoration. We will also examine some of the ways scholars and artists today are re-exploring the poems and their enduring themes.

Required Textbooks

*The Odyssey*, trans. Emily Wilson. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 2018. 9780393356250

*The Iliad*, trans. Stanley Lombardo. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1997. 9780872203525

Assessments

In-class midterm, short reading responses, take-home final essay