

## Opening up the text: The *Iliad*, *Odyssey* and *Aeneid* – Heroic psychology, language, values

**Start date** 7 September 2019 **End date** 7 September 2019

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge  
CB23 8AQ

**Tutor** Dr Jan Parker **Course code** 1920NDX013  
Dr Charles Weiss

**Director of ISP and LL** Sarah Ormrod

**For further information on this course, please contact the Lifelong Learning team** Zara Kuckelhaus, Fleur Kerrecoe  
[shortcourses@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:shortcourses@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 764637

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biographies

**Dr Jan Parker** is a member of the Faculties of Classics and English, University of Cambridge, researches Classical Epic and Tragedy and teaches the Faculty of English compulsory Finals Paper - Greek, Shakespearian & later Tragedy - for Emmanuel and Gonville & Caius colleges. She is currently finishing *Homer & the Trojan War: Tragedy & Aftermath* (2020) and her *Electra in [Theatre & Therapy] Practice, a companion to:*

Parker, J. & Mathews, T., *Tradition, Translation, Trauma: The Classic & The Modern* for Oxford University Press

Parker, J. *Chapman's Homer: The Iliad and the Odyssey* (Classics of World Literature)

Parker, J. *Dialogic Education & the Problematics of Translation in Homer and Greek Tragedy* (Oxford, Edwin Mellen)

**Dr Charles Weiss** is a member of the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge (Senior Language Teaching Officer), an external Director of Studies in Classics at St Catharine's College, and a Fellow, Praelector and Director of Studies at Clare College. Dr Weiss came from Atlanta, Georgia to study Classics at Columbia University (BA and MA) and Yale University (PhD), focusing on the languages and literatures of both Ancient Greek and Latin. He then came to Oxford to teach the subject for five years before becoming (in 2003) a Language Teaching Officer for the Faculty of Classics at Cambridge and Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics for Clare College, Cambridge. Dr Weiss specializes in language pedagogy in both languages and teaches Classical languages and literature for Clare College. He recently published a student's introduction to Homer's *Odyssey* for Cambridge University Press and has undertaken a new edition of *Reading Greek* for the Press.

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## Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
09.45	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction Dr Jan Parker</b>
10:00 – 11:15	<b>Session 1: The Iliad – the price of immortal fame. Heroic values; heroic psychology; the <i>Iliad</i> as tragedy</b>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Session 2: Odysseus Polytropos: wanderings and narrative identities; return and recognition</b>
13:00 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Session 3: ‘The silence of the girls’?: Briseis, Nausicaa, Circe; Calypso &amp; Dido</b>
14:00 - 15:00	<b>The structure of the <i>Aeneid</i>: Homer for Augustus?</b>
15:00-15:30	Tea
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Session 4: Aeneas in the <i>Iliad</i> and the <i>Aeneid</i>: The Language of the <i>Aeneid</i> Dr Charles Weiss</b>
17:00	Day school ends

## Course syllabus

### Aims:

- i) To 'open up' 3 central & complexly related epic texts
- ii) To discuss the central terms the epics problematize
- iii) To raise the question of the *affect* of epic and tragedy

### Content:

The Iliad, Odyssey and Aeneid – Heroic psychology, language, values

Heroic encounters ... travellers' tales ... return and revenge: these three interrelated poems multifacetedly reflect and reflect on 'the heroic': they explore the nature of heroic identity, the trauma of war, and the transformation of experience, recognition and reintegration. By exploring the epic (?) / tragic (?) treatment of the stories of three complex 'heroes' - Achilles, Odysseus, Aeneas – and of significant other voices, we will trace the key themes of heroic psychology, language and values through the three epics.

Homer's epics are complexly set in and reflect upon a past 'heroic age'. Odysseus - the 'crafty', in both senses – tells the story of a return from Troy that takes him to all manner of cultures with all manner of ways and values of living, but strips him of his heroic position, companions and identity. The *Aeneid*, supposedly written as a celebration of the first emperor Augustus, reverts and translates the Homeric epics into an 'Augusteid'. But Aeneas is a troubled hero, with the weight of the past hanging heavy on his shoulders ...

### Presentation of the course:

This course will be presented through four x 90 minute one- and two- part sessions of introduction and context to set up presentation of material for close reading and discussion.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- I. Have an overview of the context and themes of the 3 epics
- II. Situate and problematise key 'heroic' terms
- III. Gain an appreciation of the affect of different key scenes in each epic

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk \*

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Virgil	<i>Aeneid</i> (in particular books: 1, 4, 10 12)	Penguin Classics (and numerous others)
Homer	<i>Iliad</i> (in particular books: 1, 6, 9, 16, 22, 24)	Penguin Classics (and numerous others)
Homer	<i>Odyssey</i> (in particular books: 6, 8, 10, 19, 21, 23)	Penguin Classics (and numerous others)

### Website addresses

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Illhome.php>

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Odhome.php>

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Virgilhome.php>

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### Additional information

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#### Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:  
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

#### Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 21 August 2019