



Being a Hero

Start date 23 February 2020 **End date** 23 February 2020

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Daniel Unruh **Course code** 1920NDX006

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact the Lifelong Learning team Zara Kuckelhaus, Fleur Kerrecoe
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Born in Cambridge, Daniel Unruh grew up on the west coast of Canada. He returned to Cambridge in 2010 to pursue a PhD in Classics, which he received in 2015. His research focusses on interactions between Greek citizens and autocratic rulers in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE; his book, entitled "*Talking to Tyrants in Classical Greek Thought*" is forthcoming from Liverpool University Press. Daniel currently teaches Ancient Greek language, history, and literature for the Cambridge Classical Tripos.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: Heracles: The archetypal hero
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Achilles: The hero in society
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Odysseus: A different kind of hero
15:15	Tea
15:45 – 17:00	Session 4: Theseus: The democratic hero
17:00	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To introduce students to the concept of the Classical Greek hero in general
2. To explore the ways in which different authors and genres present what it means to be a hero
3. To discuss the ways in which the figure of the hero could be used to explore difficult social and psychological issues.

Content:

This course will cover the ways in which four different mythical heroes are depicted in Classical Greek literature. We begin with the hero Heracles (Hercules to the Romans), who in many ways was seen as the archetypal hero by the ancient Greeks. Simultaneously admired for his prowess in combat, feared for his destructive passion, and mocked for his absurd appetites, Heracles embodies the complexity that marks the ancient hero.

We then move on to the similarly-ambivalent Achilles, the central figure of the *Iliad*. Once again, Achilles' prowess as a warrior is matched by his destructive rage, a combination that makes him paradoxically both the saviour of his comrades and the man who cost them "ten thousand sorrows."

Our third hero, the title character of the *Odyssey*, presents a very different vision of heroism. Unlike Achilles and Heracles, Odysseus prefers to solve problems with language and reason rather than with violence; where Heracles and Achilles sought personal glory and eternal fame, Odysseus' primary motivation is to return to his wife and child and live a long and peaceful life at home.

Finally, Theseus, the national hero of Athens, reveals the ways in which the figure of the hero could be used to reflect a community's identity. In Athenian drama and rhetoric, Theseus becomes the embodiment of Athenian virtues: he is shown as a champion of democracy, a protector of the weak, and a man who knows how to balance bold action with ethical prudence.

Presentation of the course:

This course will primarily consist of lectures, into which a high degree of informality and interactivity will be built. Students are encouraged to ask questions; the material can to a large degree be tailored to their knowledge and interests.

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

1. Appreciate the complexity and diversity of the figure of the hero in ancient Greece
2. Display enhanced awareness of ancient Greek art and literature
3. Think critically about representations of characters, and what they say about the societies that produced them.

Reading and resources list

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
Homer	<i>Iliad</i> Book 1 (trans. Robert Fagles)	Penguin 1991
Homer	<i>Odyssey</i> Book 9 (trans. Robert Fitzgerald)	Farrar Straus Giroux 1998 (1961)
Euripides	<i>Suppliant Women in Euripides 2</i> (ed. David R. Slavitt & Palmer Bovie)	University of Pennsylvania Press (1997)

Note: while these are editions I particularly like, there are many good translations / editions out there, so do not feel obliged to read these particular ones.

Website addresses

Additional information

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 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: 13 January 2020