



Reading Classical Greek: Greek Lyric Poetry - a selection

Start date Friday 11 November 2022 **End date** Sunday 13 November 2022

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Janet Watson **Course code** 2223NRX009

For further information contact intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk

Tutor biography

Dr Janet Watson spent a number of years teaching Classics in New Zealand, at Victoria University Wellington and Canterbury University, Christchurch and has recently retired as tutor in Classical Greek at Newcastle University. In the course of her career, she has been a regular contributor to continuing education courses in both Greek language and classical studies and has taught for the Open University. She has a particular interest in Homeric verse and oral tradition. She has published an edition of *Odyssey* books VI and VII for Bristol Classical Press and edited a volume on orality and literacy in the ancient world.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Alcman
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Alcaeus and Sappho
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Sappho continued and Stesichorus
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Ibycus and Anacreon
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Greek Lyric: Place and Performance
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Simonides and Timotheus
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Timotheus continued and <i>Carm. Pop.</i>
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. extend your knowledge of basic patterns of Greek grammar and syntax;
2. extend your knowledge of different Greek dialects;
3. develop your appreciation of the genre of ancient Greek lyric poetry and increase your understanding of the historical and cultural context of the texts they are studying.

Content:

The course will introduce students to a selection of Greek lyric poetry covering the period from the 7th to the 5th century BCE, considering the works of poets from various parts of the ancient Greek world, ranging from the eastern Aegean to Magna Graecia in the west and places in between, so some new Greek dialects will be encountered along the way. Many of the surviving manuscripts of the lyric poets are fragmentary, which poses its own set of difficulties, but even where parts of a poem are missing, there is enough for us to gain a good insight into the wide variety of themes addressed within this genre. The lyric poets focus their attention on the present day concerns of the community - love, marriage, conflict, politics and even the art of singing itself - some composed for performance at public events, festivals, others for more intimate gatherings, such as the symposium. The poets we shall study this weekend are, in chronological order:

- Alcman (Sparta, 7th century BCE)
- Alcaeus (Lesbos, late 7th-early 6th century BCE)
- Sappho (Lesbos, late 7th-early 6th century BCE)
- Stesichorus (Magna Graecia, 6th century BCE)
- Ibycus (b. Magna Graecia? but he moved around, 6th century BCE)
- Anacreon (b. Teos, but moved first to Abdera, and then to various cities, 6th century BCE)
- Simonides (Ceos, late 6th-early 5th century BCE)
- Timotheus (b. Miletus, also active in Athens, mid 5th-4th century BCE)
- and some anonymous songs

Presentation of the course:

Students are asked to read the Greek text in advance of the course, so that the language content of the classes is focussed on ironing out any difficulties in the dialect, vocabulary, grammar and syntax encountered during preparation, and translating into English (we shall aim for fluency without departing too far from the Greek). The classes are led by the tutor, but with full participation from the students, so that all will have the opportunity to take their turn in: reading the Greek text aloud; translating into English; joining in discussion of the poems in their historical and cultural background and how we may respond to the themes today. After dinner on Saturday, there will be an illustrated talk related to the subject matter of the text.

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

1. recognise some new features of Greek language and a wider range of vocabulary;
2. recognise some new Greek dialects and idiomatic uses;
3. have confidence in their ability to translate from Greek into English;
4. feel that they are developing a sense of the style of different literary genres and authors;
5. feel that they have learned something more about the background to the language and literature they are studying.

Reading and resources list

Essential Reading:

Budelmann, F. (ed.) (2018) *Greek Lyric: A Selection*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
NB we shall omit the following fragments:
Stesichorus Finglass 15, 17, 18, 19.1-34 (but will read 19.35ff.)
Simonides PMG 511

Translations

West, M.L. (1993) *Greek Lyric Poetry*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (See under Online Resources below for further information.)

Reference works which may be useful:

Denniston, J.D. (1996 reprint of 2nd ed.) *The Greek Particles*. Bristol Classical Press.

van Emde Boas, E. et al. (2019) *The Cambridge Grammar of Ancient Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Online resources:

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>

Perseus does not have the text of the Greek Lyric poets, but there are links to the LSJ Greek Lexicon and Greek grammars (H.W. Smyth *Greek Grammar*; W.W. Goodwin *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses of the Greek Verb*).

For a translation of Timotheus (not included in West's volume), see that of J.L. Edmonds at: <http://www.attalus.org/poetry/timotheus.html>