



Weekend Courses 2023-24

Reading Classical Greek: Homer *Iliad* Book 6

Start date: 7 June 2024 **End date:** 9 June 2024

Venue: Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor: Dr Janet Watson **Course Code:** 2324NRX038

Tutor biography

Dr Janet Watson has taught Classics at Victoria University Wellington, and Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand, 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 and 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	Greeks prevail in battle: Menelaus contrasted with Agamemnon
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Hector to return to Troy: Diomedes and Glaucus meet in battle
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Diomedes and Glaucus part as guest-friends: Hector enters Troy
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Hector organises a sacrifice to appease Athena
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Oral tradition and the sound of Homer
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Hector meets with Paris and Helen
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Hector and Andromache, their last meeting?
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

- extend your knowledge of basic patterns of Greek grammar and syntax
- extend your knowledge of the vocabulary and syntax of Homeric Greek and hexameter metre
- develop an appreciation of Homeric epic poetry, with reference to aspects of oral composition, and the place of *Iliad* Book 6 in the thematic structure of the whole poem

Summary of content:

The course will introduce you to one of the most poignant books of the *Iliad*. Its thematic scope ranges from the savagery of battle, through the recognition of ties of guest-friendship that conflict with and supersede the divisions of war, to the picture of the devastating effects of war on the heroes' families, which is unfolded through the lens of Hector's family. In the course of our reading, we shall consider the nature of Homeric language and composition, and its derivation from an oral tradition.

Presentation of the course:

You 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 you will have the opportunity to take your turn in reading the Greek text aloud, and translating into English, and joining in discussion of the poem's themes, and how we may respond to these today. After dinner on Saturday, there will be a talk related to Homeric composition.

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

- recognise the features of Homeric Greek and a wider range of vocabulary
- recognise some formulaic phrases and typical patterns of oral composition
- have confidence in your ability to translate from Greek into English
- feel that you are developing a sense of the style of Homeric verse
- feel that you have learned something more about the background to the language and literature you are studying

Reading and resources list

Required reading:

*Homer, *Iliad* Book 6

Available editions with a commentary:

Graziosi, B and Haubold, J (eds), Homer: *Iliad Book VI*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, this is the 'Green and Yellow' edition (2010)

Harrison, J A, Homer: *Iliad VI*, Bristol: Bristol Classical Press (1991)

Steadman, G, *Homer's Iliad 6 and 22: Greek Text with Facing Vocabulary and Commentary*. Geoffrey Steadman Publications (2012) (See also below under Online Resources)

Willcock, M M, (ed.), Homer: *Iliad I-XII*, Bristol: Bristol Classical Press (1998)

Translation

Verity, A, Homer: *The Iliad*. Oxford: Oxford World's Classics, Oxford University Press (2011)

You may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Autenrieth, G, *Homeric Dictionary*, London: Duckworth (1998)

Cunliffe, R J, *A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect*, Norman and London: Oklahoma University Press (1963)

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

Munro, D B, *Homeric Grammar*, Bristol: Bristol Classical Press (1998)

Online resources:

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

This will give the Loeb Classical Library text of Homer's *Iliad*, with links to lexica (including Autenrieth's Homeric Dictionary) and an English translation.

Steadman, G, [Iliad 6 & 22 Commentary](#) (13.1 mb pdf), (2015)

This link contains a free pdf copy of *Homer's Iliad 6 and 22: Greek Text with Facing Vocabulary and Commentary*.

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students 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 ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of 15 May 2023)