Greek 125A: Greek Lyric Poetry

Spring 2016
Maša Čulumović
Office Hours:
Classroom: TBA
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MWTh 1:00-1:50 pm
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MW 10-11am and by appt.

I. Course Description and Objectives

The course will introduce students to a range of Greek lyric, iambic, and elegiac poetry in the original language, with enough reading in translation so that we are working with a broader and more complete perspective. We will analyze closely the significance of our texts: their literary qualities, the musical and metrical form, the historical and cultural context, the religious and intellectual attitudes of the time, the poetic traditions they represent, and their performance context in Greek everyday life. We will also gain an acquaintance with a variety of scholarly approaches to Archaic and Classical Greek poetry and synthesize these in our own class discussions.

The pace of the course is intended to deepen and sharpen our knowledge of the Greek language by:

1. rereading as much as possible until we are understanding the unannotated original text as smoothly and naturally as possible, with the ability to stop, parse, and explain the grammar
2. doing justice to the complexity of the meaning of Greek poetic language, and practicing the process of analyzing it to arrive at a deeper grasp of the ideas with which the ancient Greeks made sense of their world

II. Prerequisites:

Greek 10A and Greek 20B

III. Textbooks


IV. Class Format and Course Requirements

This is a Four-Credit Course, which means that in addition to the three hours of class time per week students are expected to spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for it (this includes readings, papers, preparation for tests, etc.)

Class meetings will be largely devoted to going over the translation of the assigned readings, metrical analysis and discussion of the primary text. Students will also have an opportunity to pursue their own questions about the poetry through discussions, presentations, and writing assignments, with constant recourse to the original Greek texts. Completion of each day's reading assignment before the class meeting is essential for the extraction of maximum profit from the time spent in class.

There will be a midterm examination (in class, Mon., Feb. 15) and a final examination (tentative date: Mon., May 10, 9:15am-12:15pm). Be sure to note carefully the date of the final examination and make your travel arrangements accordingly. There will also be four quizzes to ensure consistent and continuous familiarity with the material. All the tests will consist of seen
passages to be translated and analyzed grammatically and metrically. A 3-5 page paper (more guidelines about it will be provided in the course of the semester) will be due on the last day of class.

**Course grade breakdown:**

- Attendance and Participation: 25% (includes daily translation assignments, meter exercises, in-class discussions and presentations)
- Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm: 15%
- Paper: 15%
- Final Exam: 25%

**IV. Other Policies:**

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and participation in this course are required and essential for acquiring proficiency in Homeric Greek. Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade so you should let me know in advance if you are unable to attend a class. Each class meeting builds upon the previous one, so you should plan to work steadily throughout the semester to ensure maximum results.

2. **Missed Exams:** Make-up quizzes and exams are granted only for extraordinary reasons such as family emergencies and serious illness. To request a make-up test for these or other reasons, notify me before the deadline if possible (you may be asked to supply supporting documentation). Late assignments will be docked in proportion to their lateness.

3. **Academic Honesty:** You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. For all policies and procedures related to academic integrity, please consult Section 4 of *Rights and Responsibilities* handbook ([http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/srcs/rr/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/srcs/rr/index.html)). Instances of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and/or suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask. Citation and research assistance can also be found at LTS Research Guides ([http://guides.library.brandeis.edu/c.php?g=301723](http://guides.library.brandeis.edu/c.php?g=301723)).

4. **Electronics:** Please turn off and stow away your cell phones for the duration of the class. Use of laptops during class for note-taking or referring to the assigned readings can be helpful to learning. But if you’re the kind of person who cannot resist the temptation to take a peek at email or other websites, you should just keep your laptop off and stowed away. Using laptops during class for non-class related work is disrespectful to me and distracting to other students.

5. **Religious Observance:** Please review the syllabus to determine if there are any conflicts between class time and your religious observance. It is your responsibility to inform me of any conflicts within the first two weeks of the semester. If you miss class due to religious observance, you will be expected to complete any work missed and you may be required to submit additional assignments to make up for the missed class time. Missing a class due to travel plans associated with a particular holiday does not constitute an excused absence.

6. **Disability:** If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

7. **Student Athletes:** If you anticipate missing class due to your athletic schedule, you should provide me with a letter - at the beginning of the semester – from the Athletic Director verifying your participation in a varsity sport, and containing the schedule for the team. No accommodation should be expected for practices.
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

UNIT I: Intoxication and Destruction: Eros, Wine, Iamboi

1. Wed., Jan. 13  Introduction, Carmina popularia (Campbell 848)

2. Thur., Jan. 14  Campbell ix-xxix; Anacreon 358, 395, 396

3. Mon., Jan. 18  NO CLASS (Martin Luther King Day)

4. Wed., Jan. 20  Anacreon 408, 359, 398, 356; Archilochus 1, 2, 6, 25, 18, 22
Broton Gentili, “Archilochus and the Levels of Reality”

5. Thur., Jan. 21  Archilochus 7, 60-67a, 71, 74, 103-118

6. Mon., Jan. 25  Quiz 1
Archilochus, Cologne Epode (Campbell Appendix, p. 463-4)
Hipponax (in translation)

7. Wed., Jan. 27  Ibycus 286, 287; Anacreon 413; Alcman 59a; Sappho 130, 47, 2

8. Thur., Jan. 28  Sappho 1, 16
Anne Carson “The Justice of Aphrodite in Sappho, fr. 1”

9. Mon., Feb. 1  Sappho 31, 94, Alcman 41, 26, 89
Gregory Nagy, “Lyric and Greek Myth”

UNIT II: The Community Whole and Divided

10. Wed., Feb. 3  Quiz 2
Alcaeus 6, 130, 332, 333, 362

11. Thur., Feb. 4  Solon 1.1-32 (all of it in translation)
Robin Osborne, in Greece in the Making, 1200-479 BC
Ewan Bowie, “Early Greek Elegy, Symposium and Public Festival”

12. Mon., Feb. 8  Solon 3, Callinus (in translation), Tyrtaeus (in translation)
Oswyn Murray, “War and the Symposium”

Leslie Kurke, “Archaic Greek Poetry,” in Cambridge Companion to Archaic Greece

14. Thur., Feb. 11  Xenophanes 1, 10, 13

15. Mon., Feb. 15  NO CLASS (Midterm Recess)
16. Wed., Feb. 17  NO CLASS (Midterm Recess)
17. Thur., Feb. 18  NO CLASS (Midterm Recess)
18. Mon., Feb. 22  MIDTERM

UNIT III: Simonides and his Sister’s Son

Anne Carson “Visibles Invisibles” in *Economy of the Unlost*

Anne Carson, “How not to Read a Poem”
Adam Beresford, “Erasing Simonides” and “Nobody’s Perfect”

A choice of five articles on epinician poetry.

23. Thur., Mar. 3   Bacchylides 3. 65-98 [33]
24. Mon., Mar. 7   Bacchylides frr. 4, 20b, Bacchylides 5 in translation [31]

UNIT IV: Pindar, Prince of Poets and Poet of Princes

25. Wed., Mar. 9   Quiz 3
*Olympian* 11

26. Thur., Mar. 10  Presentations on epinician articles and their relation to our material.
In English over the remainder of the term: *Ol.* 3, 10; *Pyth.* 1, 3, 9, 12

27. Mon., Mar. 14  Presentations on epinician articles and their relation to our material.


33. Mon., Mar. 28  NO CLASS (March Recess)
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