

USU 1320: Ancient Literature and Language

TH 10:30-11:45, ENGR 101

Class web site: <http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320AncLit/index.htm>

Instructor: Frances Titchener (frances.titchener@usu.edu)
Office: Main 310
Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30; T 3:00-4:00

Assistants: Justin Hall (GA), Brent Haslam (GA)
Whitney Lunt (UTF), Richard Wilkinson (UTF)

Texts: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, trans. Andrew George (Penguin).
Homer, *Iliad*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald (Anchor-Doubleday).
Greek Tragedies I (Agamemnon, Prometheus Bound, Oedipus the King, Antigone, Hippolytus), trans. Grene and Lattimore (Univ. of Chicago Press).
Vergil, *The Aeneid*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald (Random House).
Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*, trans. Rolfe Humphries (Indiana Univ. Press).

Texts are available at the University Bookstore. Please use the translations/editions cited above.

The Nature and Goals of the Course. In this class, we'll review some of the oldest and most significant literature in Western Civilization, with the goal of grasping the scope and depth of literary expression evidenced there. These texts give access to some of the deepest layers of our cultural tradition, framing seminal questions about the very nature of humanity itself. The sheer antiquity of what we are setting out to study poses formidable challenges but challenges equal to its rewards. Students will have to stretch their minds as they confront values and beliefs which are in many ways foreign to modern modes of thought. All course materials are on the class web site (<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320AncLit/index.htm>). We will move slowly but steadily through assignments, but please be warned: reading ancient literature requires time, patience and an open mind.

As we do this, we will also investigate the early history of narrative art forms, in particular, how they evolved from oral story-telling to performance pieces to written works. These media — epic, drama and literature — will provide a framework for the course, each the focus of one of the three major sections of the class. Because this entails some understanding of poetry as a mode of expression, we will also spend time studying linguistic structures, the nature of poetry and how language shapes the way a society sees itself and the world at large.

Grades. There are 1000 points of credit total, divided between Assessments (480 points), In-Class Discussions (120 points) and Papers (400 points):

3 Assessments, worth 160 pts. each	480 pts.
3 In-Class Discussions (Group Work)	120 pts
Paper 1	100 pts.
Papers 2 and 3, worth 150 pts. each	300 pts.

	1000 pts.

The total number of points in the class is 1000, creating the following grading scale:

	899-880 = B+	799-780 = C+	699-680 = D+
1000-920 = A	879-820 = B	779-720 = C	679-600 = D
919-900 = A-	819-800 = B-	719-700 = C-	[below 600 = F]

For further details about grading in this class, please see the web site: <http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320AncLit/syllabus/grades.htm>.

Assessments. For a full description and breakdown of Assessments, In-Class Discussions (Group Work) and Pre-Assessments, please see the class web site: <http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320AncLit/syllabus/assessments.htm>.

Papers. For a description and breakdown of papers, please see the class web site: <http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320AncLit/syllabus/papers.htm>.

Writing Standards. The standards used to evaluate papers are outlined in *A Guide To Writing in History and Classics* (<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/WritingGuide/00intro.htm>). There will be a special class session (Writing Workshop; Tuesday, January 20) dedicated to the discussion of these standards. **Attendance at this Writing Workshop is mandatory.** Students who anticipate having to miss these classes need to see me as soon as possible.

Plagiarism. Violation of the standards of academic honesty, as described in the current Schedule of Classes (p.103), will be taken extremely seriously. Plagiarism (A.3) will be considered grounds for failing the course (B.5).

Attendance. Prompt and regular attendance is key to a successful learning experience in this or any university course. Please try never to miss class!

All of this is subject to change. Students are responsible for incorporating in this syllabus all alterations in scheduling, deadlines and assignments announced in class.

Important Dates/Deadlines: For a full (day-by-day) syllabus, please see the class web site: <http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320AncLit/syllabus/syllabus.htm>.

T 1/20	Writing Workshop (attendance mandatory)
T 2/10	First In-Class Discussion (Group Work)
Th 2/12	Assessment 1
Th 2/19	First Paper Due
Th 3/5	Revised First Paper Due
T 3/24	Second In-Class Discussion (Group Work)
Th 3/26	Assessment 2
T 3/31	Second Paper Due
T 4/14	Revised Second Paper Due
Th 4/23	Third In-Class Discussion (Group Work)
Th 4/30, 9:30 am	Final (= Assessment 3); Final Paper (= Paper 3) Due