

09 / 30 / 08

Tuesday, September 30, 2008  
9:33 AM

- **Greek Writing System**
  - First Writing system to denote both **ideas** and **sounds**
  - Invented around 800 BC
  - Invention of the writing system coincides with Homer
  - Was invented with the specific purpose of writing down the Homeric epics
    - Remarkable because something new is happening in the technique of how things are written
    - All earlier writing systems are not particularly for poetry, but rather for bureaucratic purpose
  - Homer is the first real literature in the Western World
  - Homer was probably not the one to write it down, and may not have been able to read/write
  - Adaptor is the one who adapted the Phoenician alphabet to write down Homer's epics
  - Was crucial because the adaptor had to embed the sound, not just the details
  
- **The Horse, the Wheel, and Language: How modern bronze-age riders from the Eurasian Steppes shaped the Modern World**
  - David W. Anthony
  - A tribe went from hunting to taming horses
  - Writing came first (according to Anthony)
  - Thesis: because the tribes spoke the first Indo-European language and gained so much power and got around so fast on horses, they were battle-prone and as they conquered spread language
  - Horses are characters in Homeric epics (horses cry over their master)
  
- **American Scholars**
  - Milman Parry & Adam Parry
  - Father and Son
  - Did research in the 1930s in Yugoslavia
  - Found a still living, but probably not still around, oral tradition poetry
  - Singers did not know how to write... people said it didn't make sense to write it down because it had to be in mind when performing
  
- **Iliad**
  - Rage- Goddess, sing the rage of Pelleus' son Achilles, murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses, hurling down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls, great fighters' souls, but made their bodies carrion, feasts for the dogs and birds, and the will of Zeus was moving towards its end. Begin, Muse, when the two first broke and clashed Agamemnon. Lord of men and brilliant Achilles. (Iliad, I, 1-8)
  - Achilles = my fate is short (I will be a hero, but my life will be short)
  - Will not die at the end of the Iliad... only his rage will subside
  - Starts 9 years after the Greeks started laying siege on Troy... midway through
  - Start of a contagious sickness (the plague)
  - Enumeration of People on Board
    - Always a story involved
    - Enormous body of knowledge incorporated in the ship's catalogue
  
  - Book 3 Page 140 = liked this line

10 / 07 / 08

Tuesday, October 07, 2008

10:16 AM

- **Importance of Bronze Age Horse Riders**
  - Allowed language to spread
  - Meat
  - Didn't die in the snow, had hoofs unlike cattle
  - Discovered because of the abrasions on their teeth, indicative of chewing on a bit
  
- **Indo-European Languages**
  - Major Languages: 400BCE, Celtic, Germanic, Baltic, Slavic, Greek, Italic, etc.
  - Similar words - cognate-like
  - Inlaying subsets (words match between some, not in others)
  - Ending changes to different tense / action
  - Middles can change based on the time
  
- Iliad Book 1
  - "Armored in shamelessness, how could any "
  - Line 496 pg 91 = "and Thetis answered... and repeat you prayer to Zeus "
    - Will come up again and again, structure of repetition, sign that shows the origin of the text
    - Achilles life will be short, foreshadowed (either gain fame and live a short life or have regular life)
  
- Iliad Book 2
  - Trickery, Agamemnon decides to fight on but instead of telling his soldiers, he tells them let's go back home
    - Heroes won't go with it, so they make their "own" decision, despite it being his plan anyway
  - Line 140, pg. 168
  - Line 380, pg. 175 (immortal blood from goddess)
  
- Book 6
  - Story of Aquintis
  
- Teichoscopy:
  - Pg 200
    - Destroyed children of Agamemnon

10 / 09 / 08

Thursday, October 09, 2008

9:33 AM

- I 337, semainein, give out orders
- II 362 mega sema, a great omen
- VI, semanta lygra, murderous sign
- > semiotics, semantic
- Book 6 Line 178 on...
- VI 257, stranger, xeinon > xenophobia
- IX 45, ho te kraton, the power the courage
- IX 75 hos polemou eratai epidemiou okryontes, who lusts for all the horrors of war with his on people
- Epidemiou kraton, democracy
- Book 9 pg252 = father gave you honor beyond all men alive, but he never gave you courage...
- Pg 255 = in agamemnon, the lord of men, consented quickly...
- IX 488, Psyche, soul life
- IX 537, mython te rhetor; emanai prektera te ergon, to make you a man of words and a man of action too
- Rhetor' > rhetorics
- Prektera > practice, practical
- Ergon > work, energy

Pg 288 = no more words, swirving

Pg 305 = line 310, but the king had...

# 10 / 10 / 08 - Discussion Section

Friday, October 10, 2008  
3:03 PM

- Page 134 - Line 199 "I don't blame you, I hold the gods to blame..."
  - Identifies Aphrodite as the disaster who brought war to Troy
  - King of the Trojans to Helen
  - Both Greeks and Trojans are aware of the cause
- Page 77 - "Rage Goddess... hurling down to the house of death"
  - Important because it invokes muses
  - Epic usually starts with this because the poet is considered a vehicle for the muses
- Page 115 - Line 573 "Sing to me now you muses who... all we hear is the distant ring of glory"
  - Only when inspired can he sing the story of the war
  - Teichoscopy = dramatic technique where narrator observes from a window but is not seen by the audience. Poet tells what happens in the war. Helen was in this case during the battle
- 303 - Line 253 "sing to me now you muses who..."
  - Sings the story in honor of goddesses
- War of Troy lasts 10 years, but the Epic doesn't start until almost the end
  - Flash-back: narrator recounts the past events
- The rage of Achilles
  - Achilles is angered by Agamemnon, takes his wife away
  - Only Achilles can compete with Hector
- Page 94 - Line 601 "my son Achilles, doomed to the shortest life..."
  - Achilles mother asks Zeus to grant victory to the Trojans
  - Only when the Greeks are beaten by the Trojans, Achilles will be granted an even greater importance in the war.
  - Achilles has two choices for his life: Short Life as a Hero, Long life without Fame
- Page 91 - Line 491 ""
  - Thetis pities Achilles for so much heartbreak and disgrace despite his short life
  - Doesn't want Achilles to fight under Agamemnon for it is fated he will die
- Page 265 - Line 498 "Mother tell me the immortal goddess... if I... stroke of death"
  - Achilles debating his two choices... fight or long life, glory or nobody
- Paris
  - Coward, doesn't want to fight
  - Only fights because his brother and Helen force him to
  - Fights with Menelaus but flees because he is invincible
- Page 130 - Line 53 "is this the man who..."
  - According to hector, he is very angry because he is only brave when he is in front of a woman, contends that Trojans should stone Paris to death for his wrongs.
- Beauty of Helen
  - One of the major causes of the war
  - Beauty brings so much misfortune to Troy and Greece
- Book 3, Line 187 "Who on earth could blame them, no wonder..."
  - Terrible beauty, understood why so many fight for her

- Hector
  - Brave, good warrior, fights for his country, kingdom, brother
  - Less selfish than Achilles (who fights only for his own fame/glory and wants Zeus to grant success to his enemy)
  
- Page 210 - Line 539 "that is nothing... "
  - The reason why Hector fights... not for fame, but to defend his country
  - If Troy is destroyed and they are beaten, his wife, son, etc. will be slaves of Greece.
  
- Page 211 - Line 560
  - About Hector's son
  
- QUIZZES

# 10 / 14 / 08

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

9:41 AM

- Page 361 = "no one can... thirst for blood... lust for battle"
- Chapter 14, lines 187 = "and once she saw the water... her heart raced with joy"
  - Ephesus = the smith, can forge all kinds of metal, blacksmith, jeweler,
- Chapter 14, line 414 = 414 "under them now the holy earth burst with fresh green grass"
  - Phyeu > physics
  
- Page 379 = lines 387? On
  - Decisive scene... there he nestled asleep, deep in the
- Page 393, 223
  - "three brothers we are..."
  
- Line 797
  - Son of Zeus, see how Homer organizes his story...
  
- Book 18
  - About Achilles finally deciding to join the battle
  - Wants to take revenge for the death of his friend
  - His mother is helping him
  - Line (430) Arrives at Isis' place, the Smith
  - End: Achilles shield (considered one of the most artful descriptions of an object... description of the action that is happening in the image). Notice how the imagery on the shield contains everything that the world in those days comprised sky, water, happiness, and war

10 / 16 / 08

Thursday, October 16, 2008

9:45 AM

Page 483 = Homer starts with the constellations

487 - Lines 789 (and he forged the ... most indestructible shield)

Book 20, line 149 (weaving fabric... related to fundamental question of how long you live)

Page 444 = Hector's Last Speech

"No way up"

# 10 / 17 / 08 - Discussion Section

Friday, October 17, 2008

3:06 PM

- Page 256- line 188
  - "all this I would extend to him if he would..."
- Pg 263 - line 412
  - "never, any decent man, a man with sense"
  - Woman is a trophy he won in the war...
  - He gets angry
  - There is irony in this passage (want to win Helen back)
  - Analogy between Menelaus and Achilles (both women are snatched)
- Pg 361 - Line 728
  - "Zeus, father Zeus, they say you excel all others... no one can glut their lust for battle"
  - Sacred bond between the guest and the host being broken
  - Menelaus said this passage
- Page 366 - Line 888
  - "Paris, appalling Paris!"
  - Change in character of Paris... says he was not born a coward...will fight with Hector
- Page 388 - Line 20
  - Power of Zeus
  - Chained Hera for going against him
- Page 391 - Line 128
  - What fools we are, storming against Zeus - we're mad!"
  - Obeyed because his power... but not in their minds
- Page 97 - Line 711 (seriously)
  - "you remember the last time I rushed to your defense"
- Page 480 - Line 474
  - Thetis saved his life...
- Page 377 - Line
  - Challenging Zeus' authority
  - Hera hated the Trojans and needed to make Zeus stop
  - Asks for the help of the god of sleep
  - He refuses initially, but does help
  - He was thrown down to earth last time he helped out harm Hercules
  - River Styx = river of oath Line 326 on 378
- Page 379 - Line 362
  - "and filled with guile the noble Hera answered..."
  - Hera's deceit of Zeus, tricks him into love and sleep
- Page 386 - Last Paragraph & Page 460 - Second paragraph
  - Muses
- What is the picture in the shield

- Two cities
- One is at peace, other is a city at war
- Page 483 - description of shield
  - Next page: but circling the other city...
  - ★ ○ Demonstrates the contrary sentiments of the epic
  - Praises the glory / courage of warriors
  - Usually there is also pity or compassion as well
  - The antiwar and glory of war going on
  - Coexistent sentiments in the epic
- Page 426 - line 480
  - "speared him"
  - Some noble catch
  - Disinterested description of atrocity during the war
  - ★ ○ Victim is compared to a fish and victimizer is a skilled angler
  - Most people hate violence, but sometimes we praise it
  - Narrator gives no compassion for the atrocity, just disinterested in the cruelty
- Page 456 - Last line
  - Poor creatures... zeus pitied them
  - There is nothing alive more agonized than man
  - ★ ○ Zeus is still capricious... has compassion for human beings
- Page 427 - First Line
  - My cruel fate...
  - Zeus hands are still tied in saving his own son from a war
  - Must keep order
- Page 389 -

# 10 / 21 / 08

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

9:37 AM

- 800 BC - Start of Written history (Odyssey and Iliad date back to here)
- Odyssey Time
  - Starts off with his son taking over his father's role
  - Will his father come back or not?
  - What happens to his mother legally? (widow or waiting)
  - Very ambiguous time
  - Options: choose a new husband and now stepfather is new king
  - Menelaus - essentially the cause of the old war
- Page 78 - line 24
  - But now Poseidon went...
  - Ethiopia is the most distant country for Homer
  - None of the human figures go there, but Poseidon likes it
- Page 87 - 341
  - Then once you've seen these men...
  - Now you've grown up, you need to take things into your own hands
- Page 117 -
  - So Menelaus
- Page 177 - 199
  - What hardships I endured...
- Page 140 - line 573
- Line 178
  - Forced them to sing
- Page 89 - 420
  - All the suitors
- Menelaus gets what he wants out of the war... his wife back
  - Marries his daughter to the son of Achilles
- Book 6
  - Beautiful scene at the end where Athini prepares Odysseus
  - Thinks she's ready to get married
  - Washes at the river, Odysseus appears

10 / 23 / 08

Thursday, October 23, 2008

9:48 AM

- General Remarks about the Odyssey
  - All things point to what might prevent him from getting home
  - Two very different reasons:
    - Attacked by someone/nature/monsters
    - Temptation within Odysseus
- Page 262 -
  - Role of women in the novel
- Languages and German Section: Wolf Kitzler's E-mail address
- Page 207 - Line 546
  - Invocation of Muse again
- Page 78 -
  - Agamemnon dead = wife and affair killed him
- Page 87 - Line 336
- Page 114 - line 230
- Page 102- Line 309
- Odysseus in the Iliad
  - Clever, can trick almost anyone
- Page 132 - Line 276
- Page 173 - Line 163
- Page 223 - Line
  - How does he get out of the cave?
  - Takes out the cyclopses eye
  - Hide underneath on the way out
  - Got the cyclops drunk
- Calypso seduces Odysseus 159
  - He is detained by her on the island
  - Zeus sends Hermes to give an order, so she has to let him go
  - She says to Odysseus that she is more beautiful than his wife
  - If Odysseus stays with her, he can be immortal.
  - Has to be Odysseus' choice
  - Temptation of Immortality and Incomparable Beauty
- Page 214
  - Lotus eaters do not attack the comrades but offer them an herb
  - They will forget anything
  - Temptation of Oblivion (no more suffering)
- Page 232

- Temptation of Treasure
- Think there is treasure in the bag, but the winds burst out and blow the winds far from home
- Though they are comrades and help each other, they are all in it for themselves
- Greed prevents them from going home
  
- Dangers faced in the voyage
  
- Page 234
  - Inhabitants are cannibals
  - Demolished ships
  
- Page 237
  - Circe
  - Turned his men into pigs
  - Need herb to resist
  
- Voyage
  - More than just physical
  - Tested their power of will
  - Seduction of beauty, immortality, wealth, treasure

# 10 / 28 / 08

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

9:30 AM

- 3 essay questions based on the readings
- The Gods learn nothing from the story because it is only for mortals
  
- Page 252, line 111
  - Main reason why he traveled to the underworld
  - He is granted that he will have a swift death, far from the sea, back home
  
- Page 265 line 549
  - "but you Achilles..."
  - Odysseus
  
- The Singer
  - Book 8: Odysseus has arrived on the Island and has these athletic competitions
  - Singer is very important in this part
  - Page \_92. Bard has gift of song.
  
- Page 562
  - There the singer (same as above)
  - Tells the story of the Trojan horse
  
- End of book 8 pg 209
  - One quote
  - Line 641
  - Tell us your story...
  
- Book 11 - Page 261
  - Moment after Odysseus reveals his identity
  
- Page 371
  - Odysseus not yet known, but no one else knows who he is
  
- Book 15, Page 390
  
- Book 17, Page 366, page 356 'Wait there'
  
- General Remarks:
  - Incognito guy = anonymous stranger back home
  - Certain scenes of recognition (first is the son)

Friday, October 31, 2008

3:11 PM

- Page 140 - line 131
  
- Page 389 - Line 80
  - "and he, he will launch his"
  - I'll turn the tide of war
  - Zeus has sealed their fate
  
- Page 548 - Line 249
  - "then father Zeus held out his golden scales"
  - Still favors Hector and protects him, but he knows he is doomed to die
  
- Page 233 - Line 81
  - "then father Zeus held out his sacred golden scales"
  - Same as the one above
  
- Page 491 - Line 100
  - They can revow me... but I am not the one to blame
  
- Page 497 - line 319
  - "Father zeus"
  
- Page 561 - Line 81
  - Complains that he does not bury him

11 / 04 / 08

Tuesday, November 04, 2008

9:50 AM

- Page 430 - line 230
  - Echoed his prayer to all the gods...
  
- Page 441 - line 44
  
- Page 455 -
  
- Page 461 - "strange men"

# 11 / 07 / 08

Friday, November 07, 2008

3:03 PM

- Ending of the Odyssey
  - Last 6 books of Odyssey will be on final exam
    - What's most important
    - Attitudes of Penelope (faithful or not?)
      - ◻ Faithful, but she tests Odysseus
      - ◻ Cautious
  
- Page 96: Line 93
  - "its not the suitor here who deserves the blame"
- Page 151: Line 939
- Page 298: Line 433
  - "but she forever broken hearted for your return"
- Page 263: Line
  - Odysseus goes to Hades and meets Agamemnon
  - Wife Penelope is likely to betray him
- Page 348: Line 2
  - "now one last thing..."
- Page 156: Line 129
- Page 407: Line 603
  - "But please, read this dream won't you..."
- Page 434: Line 350
  - "watch where Penelope stepped in..."
  - Strings Odysseus great bow
- Page 253 - line 137
  - Odysseus is fated to go on a second voyage once he returns
  
- Tennyson - Poem on Ulysses

11 / 14 / 08

Friday, November 14, 2008  
3:18 PM

- Opening of the Aeneid
  - "wars and a man I sing..."
  - "tell me muse, why was Juno outraged"...
  - More political propaganda... Written for Augustus
  - Juno = Hera (why does she hate Aeneas? Wants Troy destroyed... didn't give the apple to her as "most beautiful" but gave it to Aphrodite)
  
- Page 48 = Line 23
  - "But she heard..."
  - Tear down her city
  - Descendants of Aeneas will destroy her favorite city.
  - The Fates were spinning out the future... Carthage too!
  
- Name Translations:
  - Zeus = Jupiter
  - Hera = Juno
  - Aphrodite = Venus
  - Hermes = Mercury
  - Poseidon = Neptune
  - Aeries = Mars
  - Odysseus = Ulysses
  - Aeolis
  
- Page 51, line 155
  - "What insolence..."
  - You winds, dare make heaven and winds a chaos
  - Poseidon upset about breach of his domain
  
- Page 55, line 276
  - "surely from then on..."
  - You promised father...
  - Venus saw his son suffering so many hardships, complains that they have too much
  
- Page 56, Line 329
  - "then Romulus, will inherit, call themselves Romans, no limits, space or time..."
  - Zeus promised Romans will build an empire...
  - Virgil connects the Roman legends with Greek Mythology
  
- Page 59, line 437
  - "driven by all his..."
  
- Page 66, line 686
  - "or would you rather settle here..."
  
- Page 67, line 711
  - "here I am before you, the man you are looking for."
  
- Page 129, line 57
  - "I think in fact..."
  - Think what a city you will see...
  - The glory of Carthage will climb to the clouds

- Page 138, line 404
  - "My guest, you lead me here to..."
  - No doubt that she love Aeneas deeply, but her intention is out of political consideration
  
- Aeneas
  - Precarious
  - Nice life in Carthage
  - Has to go on a mission (by the gods)
  - Sacrifice personal happiness and love for the national whole

11 / 21 / 08

Friday, November 21, 2008  
2:52 PM

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- Divisions within Hades
- Meeting with Dido is important
  - Also meets his descendents of the future
  - Saw the glory of the Roman empire
  - Must embark on voyage and sacrifice
- Page 197 - Line 527
  - "Tragic Dido... so was the story true"
  - Dido committed suicide because he left in spite of her love
  - Tries to explain why he must leave
  - A serious human component to the otherwise propaganda
  - The hero must sacrifice for the greater whole (in this case national glory)
- Page 136 - Line 330
  - "You, so now you lay foundations of stone..."
  - Better quote on sacrifice
  - Oblivious to his fate
- Page 206 - Line 823
  - "they are the spirits..."
  - How long I have yearned to show them to you
  - Seeing his children's children
  - Next page- then we are sent to the...
- Page 264 - Line 790
  - "And here in the heart"
  - World drawn up for the war
  - Caesar and Augustus
  - Praises Augustus
  - Future Leadership of Rome
- Page 208 - line 913
  - Mentioning of Caesar and Augustus
- Difference from Homeric Epic
  - Homer: values heroic deeds and eternal fame
  - Virgil presses glory but also peace
- Page 287 - Line 744
  - "enough that ..."
  - Not paid a price
  - First flush of glory
  - Son of Aeneas is killing many people
  - Apollo says to stop killing enemies - has a future and can't get injured
  - Roman Peace: Gibbon during Augustus' time, within Rome though there were no civil wars
- Page 210 - Line 981
  - "But you roman, remember rule with all your power..."
  - Difference between Greeks and Romans, destroy army, but learn how to rule the country after, not just pillage and destroy

- Page 361 - Line 223
  - "But if victory grants..."
  - "May both nations march together toward and eternal pact of peace"
  - "equal laws and peace"
  - Different kind of Roman victory
  - Sense of peace in epic, very important in Augustus' time
  
- **Aeneas Shield**
  - Historical shield
  - Hadn't happened yet
  - Augustus Caesar
  - Importance of his Mission
  
- Iliad
  - Generic scene

12 / 05 / 08

Friday, December 05, 2008  
3:09 PM

- Amphitryon
  - Jupiter wants to sleep with his wife (aphytion)
  - Disguises himself as aphytrion
  - Wife (alcmena) sleeps with disguised jupiter
  - Sosia is servant of Aphytrion
  - Mercury disguises himself as Sosia to help Jupiter
  - When Aphytrion comes back he knows his wife made love with another man
  - Thinks his wife is unfaithful, but she actually still is because she thought it was him
  - A tragic comedy
  - Comedy = for the common people (lower class) = ends with a happy ending
  - Tragedy = upper class, about kings and queens
  - Tragic comedy = has a merge of high and low classes, happy ending where everything wraps up
  - Pay attention to page 8: line 30
    - "from this tragedy"
    - Hermes: I will make it a tragic comedy
    - **Elements of tragedy and comedy coexist**
    - Tragedy for someone can be a comedy for someone else
    - Comedy of gods is a tragedy for human beings
  - Sosia getting beaten up by Mercury disguised as himself
  - How can he get beaten up by himself? Pg 19, line 14
  - Page 47 - he went into my wife
  - Page 9 - I think...
  - Last stanza =
- Courtly love = very important in Trobadour lyrics
- Divine Comedy
  - Happy ending, gets to go to heaven
  - Pay attention to the allusions
  - Virgil is the master/guide
  - Canto: 26 : line 82
  - Why did he choose Virgil in his work?
    - There were many civil wars in Italy and wanted roman empire to bring peace
    - Encounters interference of church in politics
    - Virgil was a roman poet and wrote about the glory of roman empire
    - Dante and Virgil are both great poets sharing similar ideology
  - 2nd voyage of Odysseus in the Odyssey = line 90 (when I set sail... had to pursue knowledge and learn about the world)
  - Line 118 = consider where you came from... you Greeks
- Covers last 6 books of the odyssey
  - Ambivalence/Attitudes of Penelope
- Aeneid
  - List of topics is probably the question... check the essay assignment sheet
  - Love between Dido and Aeneis
  - Roman glory + national duty
  - National mission, national glory, etc.
- Amphitryon
  - Definition of Tragic Comedy

- Why is it a tragic comedy
- Trobadour
  - Read handouts
  - Close reading of the poem
  - Why is this poem have features of trobadours
- Divine Comedy
  - Pay attention to its allusions to other works
  - No big question from this text (only given two pages)

# 12 / 01 / 08

Monday, December 01, 2008

10:02 AM

- Homework: 11.21, 11.22, 13.2 - 13.5
- Trobadour Lyrics will be on the final!!!
- Last section of odyssey, aeneid, trobadour, and dante