

**Ancient Epic (CLA 301.01)**  
**MW 2:25-3:40**

**Spring 2012**  
**JH 176**

**Instructor:** Dr. Christopher Bungard  
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**Office Hours:** MTF 12:15-1pm

**Required Texts (1):**

Fagles. *Odyssey*.  
Fagles. *Aeneid*.  
Barich. *Argonautica*.

**The Course:** Whether battling the Cyclops, journeying through the underworld, or yoking flaming oxen and winning the hearts of distant princesses, epic heroes have captured the human imagination for millennia. In this course, you will have the opportunity to explore some of the foundational travel stories of Western literature. Looking at the stories of Odysseus, Aeneas, and Jason, we will push ourselves to think about why citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century continue to draw inspiration from these tales of a much different culture and time. To this end, we will also look at some modern works to think about how these stories have been interpreted by later audiences. Through this course, you will also be pushed to further develop and enhance your skills in effectively expressing your own reactions to the ancient poems through writing.

As we work through the course, I want us to keep the following questions in mind:

1. What do we learn about epic poetry through these poems?
2. Why do so many epics revolve around a journey?
3. What does the journey of these heroes tell us about human experience?

**Classical Studies Student Learning Objectives**

1. Identify key figures, historical events, and concepts from Greek and Roman antiquity.
2. Interpret, analyze, and compare significant works from antiquity.
3. Recognize and appreciate cultural diversity by comparing current values and practices to those of the Greeks and Romans.
4. Effectively research and write expository and/or argumentative papers.

**Participation/Attendance:** Daily attendance and participation are necessary for success in this class. After 3 unexcused absences, your grade will suffer one letter grade for each additional three absences. After 9 unexcused absences, you will fail the course.

**Readers Journal:** Periodically, you will need to bring a 500-1000 word response to our readings with you to class. As part of this journal, you will also be asked to comment on classmate's ideas. Through these journal entries, you will have an opportunity to hone your writing mechanics while pushing yourself to be more critical and thoughtful writers.

**Critical Film Reviews:** You will be asked to write a critical film review (750-1500 words) for some of the films that we watch throughout the semester. Feel free to take on the persona of a movie critic, but keep in mind that the point of the reviews is to engage with the way that the films interpret the ancient stories that we have engaged with. Take these reviews as an opportunity to thoughtfully engage with the way that these stories have been used by later interpreters for modern audiences.

**Essays:** In response to each epic poem that we read, you will need to construct an essay (1500-2500 words) that engages both with the primary material of the epic and the secondary materials we have made use of in class. More information will be provided as we approach each essay.

**Annotated Bibliography:** In preparation for your final essay, you will need to submit an annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources that you think will be useful for your final essay. You will need to provide full citations for the sources.

**Research Essay:** The final paper (1750-2750 words) of this class will give you the opportunity to pursue a topic of your own interest connected with the epic poems that we have read throughout the semester. Your research essay will need to make use of at least 6 secondary sources, and it should engage with at least two of the ancient epics.

**Grade Calculation:**

Participation	5%
Readers Journal	15%
Critical Film Reviews	15%
Essays (2)	40%
Annotated Bibliography	5%
Research Essay	20%

**Grade Scale:**

100-93	A	79-77	C+
90-92	A-	76-73	C
89-87	B+	72-70	C-
86-83	B	69-67	D+
82-80	B-	66-60	D
	59 or Below	E	

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students should refer to the *Butler University Student Handbook* (available online at the [www.butler.edu](http://www.butler.edu) website) for a full discussion of student rights and responsibilities regarding “Academic Integrity.”

**Disabilities:** It is the policy and practice of Butler University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow one week advance notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis. Students who have questions about Student Disability Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability (psychiatric, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, etc.) are invited to contact Student Disability Services for a confidential discussion in Jordan Hall 136 or by phone at extension 9308.

**Schedule:** This schedule is tentative and may change at any time.

W	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction; Foley; Dowden
M	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 1-4
W	January 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 5-6; Kearns
M	January 30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 7-10
W	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 11-12; Olson
M	February 6 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 13-15; Taylor
W	February 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 16-17
M	February 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 18-20
W	February 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 21-22; Finkelberg
M	February 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Odyssey</i> 23-24; Felson and Slatkin
W	February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Ulysses</i> in class

M	February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Finish <i>Ulysses</i>
W	February 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Critical Film Review on <i>Ulysses</i> due</b> <i>The Warriors</i> in class
M	March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Watch <i>O Brother Where Art Thou?</i> at home Finish the <i>The Warriors</i> in class
W	March 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Critical Film Review on <i>The Warriors</i> due</b> <i>Aeneid</i> 1-3; Kennedy
F	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Essay 1 due by noon</b>

**SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)**

M	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Aeneid</i> 4-5
W	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Aeneid</i> 6-8; Zetzel
M	March 26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Aeneid</i> 9-10; Putnam Ch 7
W	March 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bungard at CAMWS</b>
M	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Aeneid</i> 11-12; Putnam Ch 8; Hardie
W	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Argonautica</i> 1-2
M	April 9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Argonautica</i> 3-4
W	April 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Argonautica</i> 5-6
F	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Essay 2 due by noon</b>
M	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Research Proposal Due</b> <i>Argonautica</i> 7
W	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Argonautica</i> 8
M	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Annotated Bibliography Due</b> <i>Jason and the Argonauts</i> in class
W	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Finish <i>Jason and the Argonauts</i>
M	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Critical Film Review on <i>Jason and the Argonauts</i> due</b> Evaluations
F	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Research Essay due by noon</b>

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be given in written and oral format.