



**SACR**

**CLASSICS**

**CLAS 210/310: GREEK AND ROMAN EPIC**

**TRIMESTER 2 2009**

13 July to 15 November 2009

### **Trimester Dates**

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October

Study week: 19 to 23 October

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 14 November (students must be available for all of these dates)

### **Names and Contact Details**

Coordinator: Dr. Mark Masterson (OK 511; 463-6909; Mark.Masterson@vuw.ac.nz)  
Lecturers: Dr. Mark Masterson (OK 511; 463-6909; Mark.Masterson@vuw.ac.nz)  
Dr. Peter Gainsford (OK525; ph. 463-6453; Peter.Gainsford@vuw.ac.nz)  
Dr. David Rosenbloom (OK516; ph. 463-5478;  
David.Rosenbloom@vuw.ac.nz)

(None of the lecturers will be keeping office hours as all are generally available.  
Appointments are possible and encouraged.)

Tutors: Cecily Duncan, MA Hons (1st Class), GD Arts (Classical Studies)  
(cbd@computersforpeople.co.nz)  
Jen Oliver (jenholiver@gmail.com)  
Dr. Simon Perris (Simon.Perris@vuw.ac.nz)

### **Class Times and Locations**

Lecture Hours: Tues, Thurs, Fri: 11:00-12:00 PM (*Friday lectures will not be held during weeks in which there is a tutorial session*)

Place: Hugh Mackenzie 105

Tutorials: Tutorials will meet six times during the course of the trimester (in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 11). Information about tutorial groups will be posted Monday 13, July on the Classics Notice Board. You will need to sign up there for a specific tutorial by the end of the week. The Classics Notice Board is situated opposite Old Kirk 504.

## Course Delivery

The course will be delivered in the lecture hall and also in the form of (variably formatted) lecture notes that will be posted in “Course Documents” on Blackboard. There are readings on which the student is expected to spend considerable time. (As Epics are, well, epic in length, this course will demand your time.) There will be, in addition, six tutorials in which selected topics both central and supplementary to the lectures and readings will be discussed. The tutorials will generally have their own readings and will be posted on Blackboard. The delivery of the course is dependent in large part on the academic staff but students’ engaged attendance at lectures, active participation in the tutorials, and careful attention to the readings are usually the things most important to learning.

## Communication of Additional Information

**Lecture and Readings Schedule** and a copy of **This Syllabus** will appear in the “Course Information” section on Blackboard.

**Tutorials, Writing Assignments, and Essay Topics** will be posted in the “Assignments” section on Blackboard.

**Bibliographies and Essay-Writing Guidance** will be posted in the “Course Resources” section on Blackboard.

**Additional General Information** about the course will be posted in the “Announcements” section on Blackboard (scroll down).

*The exceptions to these are the tutorial lists and the examination timetable. These will be posted on the Classics Notice Board (situated opposite Old Kirk 504).*

## Course Content

This course will survey Roman and Greek Epic. We will read three epics in the entirety (Vergil’s *Aeneid*, Statius’ *Thebaid*, and Homer’s *Odyssey*) along with portions of other epics and works related to epic in various ways. Particular attention will be paid to what is distinctive about epic artistry and the relation of epic poetry to the societies which produced it.

## Learning Objectives

Students who have successfully completed the course will

- have a mastery of the content of the epics studied in the course (e.g., plot, theme, character, world view);
- be familiar with the characteristic techniques of epic poetry and narrative (e.g., the divine apparatus, simile, *ekphrasis*, epic decorum)
- understand the evolution of epic poetry as a genre, from the oral poetry of Homer to its literate refashioning in Vergil and Statius and understand each epic in relation to other works in the tradition;
- develop insight into the aesthetic values of each epic and the relationship between these values and the historical circumstances of its composition.

(**N.B.** CLAS 310 requires the demonstration of more extensive knowledge in general and thorough engagement with secondary sources in the research essay.)

## Expected Workload

In order to complete the course successfully, an average student at the 200 level should expect to spend an *average* of about 15 hours per week on it, i.e., 3 class hours (3 lectures or 2 lectures and 1 tutorial) and around 12 hours for reading, tutorial preparation and essay writing. A comparable 300-level student should expect to spend about 16-18 hours per week on the course. **Please note that these averages are rough guidelines only.** Some students might have to put in more time, others less. The time commitment will be greatest in the weeks immediately prior to the essay hand-in date. There should be considerable time spent preparing for the final examination also.

## Group Work

There will be no assessed group work.

## Readings

### **Required Texts:**

Vergil, *Aeneid* (Mandelbaum; Bantam Books)  
Statius, *Thebaid* (Ross; Johns Hopkins)  
Homer, *Odyssey* (Shewring; Oxford)  
Course Materials from Student Notes

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Students and the general public can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

### **Recommended Reading:**

If you have not already read Homer's *Iliad*, you should do so now.

## Materials and Equipment

The Blackboard system will be in heavy use for this course. Check it often for notices, material relating to lectures, etc. You will also need to check your **VUW-EMAIL** at least once every two days. In the event that I, another lecturer, or a tutor sends you a message, we expect you to read it and take appropriate action within 48 hours. *This means that you must get your email and computer access sorted soon so you can receive messages and access Blackboard. In sum, a certain degree of comfort with the computer on the part of the student is expected.* [NOTE: If you don't wish to use your VUW-EMAIL account, it is possible to have mail sent to it forwarded to the email address you prefer. ITS, your friends, or even I can help you with this.]

## Assessment Requirements

### Assessment Summary:

#### CLAS 210

(a)	Tutorial Assignments (#s 1-4, 6)	8% (4 x 2%)
(b)	Tutorial Assignment (#5)	1%
(c)	300-Word Writing Exercise #1	8%
(d)	300-Word Writing Exercise #2	15%
(e)	Research Essay	20%
(f)	<b>TWO</b> -hour Final Examination (Exam Period = 27 October to 14 November)	48%

#### CLAS 310

(a)	Tutorial Assignments (#s 1-4, 6)	8% (4 x 2%)
(b)	Tutorial Assignment (#5)	1%
(c)	500-Word Writing Exercise #1	11%
(d)	500-Word Writing Exercise #2	12%
(e)	Research Essay	20%
(f)	<b>THREE</b> -hour Final Examination (Exam Period = 27 October to 14 November)	48%

(Note: These assessment regimes supersede those in the 2009 prospectus.)

- The goal of these items of assessment is to establish the extent to which students can demonstrate understanding of epic poetry through critical response both to individual topics as researched and written up over a period of time (essay) and to a range of topics covered in the course as a whole as written on a specific occasion within a fixed time limit (test/exam/writing exercises).
- Each piece of assessed work will be given a grade only, not a percentage mark.
- Students in CLAS 310 will be required to display, in general, a wider range and more intensive level of knowledge on the essays and finals exam than students in CLAS 210.
- The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in examinations and other assessment procedures. For further information, see Dr. Masterson and/or consult <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>.
- The final grade in this course will be expressed via a letter (A, B, C, etc.) and not in a percentage.

## Tutorial Assignments:

There are brief exercises associated with five of the six tutorials (1-4 and 6) that will be graded on a pass+/pass/fail basis (i.e., 2 pts., 1pt., or zero pts.). Write one paragraph of 150-250 words that addresses the/a topic of the tutorial or addresses a question posed within it. Each exercise is worth 2% of your final mark and you will be marked on the best four out of five. These assignments are to be passed in at the beginning of the tutorial. You must turn them in at the tutorial and attend the tutorial. If you cannot attend the tutorial, you will not be able to turn in the assignment. Exceptions may be made in the case of late assignments which are accompanied by a medical certificate or other document demonstrating that you were unfit to attend class on the specific date in question. Keep in mind that if you cannot do an assignment or have to miss a tutorial, you do have a “freebie”, as it were.

For tutorial 5, you will be asked to specify what topic you have chosen for your Research Essay, what the general shape you think your essay will have and what sources you have been (or will be) consulting (at least 3). This assignment will be graded on a pass/no pass basis.

Tutorials will be posted on Blackboard in the Assignments section.

## Writing Exercises:

For **CLAS 210** there will be two writing exercises. Each will be **300 words** in length. They will be based on material contained in the readings AND lectures. Students who elect not to come to lecture may find themselves at a disadvantage. Each assignment will be posted on Blackboard in the “**Assignments**” section about one week before it is due and students **must** submit it there electronically. I will not accept hard copies and there will be no extensions granted (unless there are genuine medical grounds supported by a doctor's certificate, or some other necessary and demonstrable reason). Students will have about one week to complete each of these assignments. I will discuss the mechanics of turning in these assignments in lecture (though it is clear enough what needs to be done). Note that these assignments are not meant to be research essays. They are instead an opportunity for students both to show me that they are thinking about the course content and to try out constructing an argument (without the stress of doing additional research).

300-Word Writing Exercise #1 for CLAS 210 by 7:00 **AM** on 19 Aug.

300-Word Writing Exercise #2 for CLAS 210 due by 7:00 **AM** on 25 Sept.

For **CLAS 310** there will be two writing exercises. Each will be **500 words** in length. They will be based on material contained in the readings AND lectures. Students who elect not to come to lecture may find themselves at a disadvantage. Each assignment will be posted on Blackboard in the “**Assignments**” section about one week before it is due and students **must** submit it there electronically. I will not accept hard copies and there will be no extensions granted (unless there are genuine medical grounds supported by a doctor's certificate, or some other necessary and demonstrable reason). Students will have about one week to complete each of these assignments. I will discuss the mechanics of turning in these assignments in lecture (though it is clear enough what needs to be done). Note that these assignments are not meant to be research essays. They are instead an opportunity for students both to show me that they are thinking about the course content and to try out constructing an argument (without the stress of doing additional research).

500-Word Writing Exercise #1 for CLAS 310 by 7:00 **AM** on 19 Aug.  
500-Word Writing Exercise #2 for CLAS 310 due by 7:00 **AM** on 25 Sept.

Research Essay:

a) For **CLAS 210**

1500-2000 words in length

**Due Date: 16 OCTOBER BY 5:00 PM**

Topics will be posted on Blackboard in the “Assignments” section.

**\*\*\*You must submit this paper in hard copy in the box in front of OK 508 and an identical version electronically prior to the deadline on Blackboard in the “Assignments” section.\*\*\***

A booklet entitled *Classics Study Guide* that will aid you in preparing written assignments is available from the Student Notes Shop.

Go to “Course Resources” on Blackboard for bibliographies, writing guidance, and a rundown on electronic resources.

b) For **CLAS 310**

2000-2500 words in length

**Due Date: 16 OCTOBER BY 5:00 PM**

Topics will be posted on Blackboard in the “Assignments” section.

**\*\*\*You must submit this paper in hard copy in the box in front of OK 508 and an identical version electronically prior to the deadline on Blackboard in the “Assignments” section.\*\*\***

A booklet entitled *Classics Study Guide* that will aid you in preparing written assignments is available from the Student Notes Shop.

Go to “Course Resources” on Blackboard for bibliographies, writing guidance, and a rundown on electronic resources.

## Final Examination:

### **CLAS 210 (2 hours)**

**There will be three sections to this examination. All sections are of equal value.**

In section A, you will answer 20 multiple choice questions covering the work of the entire trimester. (3 marks each)

Section B will consist of six passages: two from Vergil's *Aeneid*, two from Statius' *Thebaid*, and two from Homer's *Odyssey*. Choosing one from each author, you will be asked to provide detailed commentary on a total of three of these passages. (20 marks each)

In section C, you will choose one essay topic out of a choice of four. The topic will reflect the approaches the lecturers have taken to the material. (60 marks)

### **CLAS 310 (3 hours)**

**There will be four sections to this examination. All sections are of equal value.**

In section A, you will answer 20 multiple choice questions covering the work of the entire trimester. (3 marks each)

Section B will consist of six passages: two from Vergil's *Aeneid*, two from Statius' *Thebaid*, and two from Homer's *Odyssey*. Choosing one from each author, you will be asked to provide detailed commentary on a total of three of these passages. (20 marks each)

In section C, you will choose one essay topic out of a choice of four. The topic will reflect the approaches the lecturers have taken to the material. (60 marks)

In Section D you will be asked to write an essay that pulls together a number of different texts from the entire trimester. (60 marks).

## Penalties

**Late work will not be accepted in this class** in the absence of a compelling and documented reason. In the case of compelling and documented reason, another due date for the work in question will be mutually agreed upon by the coordinator and student. If that date is missed, the coordinator reserves the right to mark the work down (5% a day) or even not to accept the work at all. In any case, the **final due date** for all written work (exclusive of the final examination) is **19 October 5:00 PM**. No work will be accepted after that time in the absence of a compelling and documented reason.

## **Mandatory course requirements and Passing the Course:**

For CLAS 210, it is **mandatory** for a student to attend at least four of the six tutorials. For CLAS 310, it is **mandatory** for a student to attend at least four of the six tutorials.

In the event that a student cannot attend at least four of the tutorials, it may be possible (with the agreement of Dr. Masterson) to submit late tutorial assignments solely for the purpose of fulfilling course requirements; no mark will be awarded.

In order to pass this course, a student must obtain an overall mark of at least 50% from the combination of assessed work, *provided that* the mandatory requirement has been fulfilled. Students receiving less than an overall 50% for the course, irrespective of whether they have fulfilled the mandatory requirements or not, will receive a fail D or E grade, as appropriate. Students who achieve at least 50% but who fail to fulfil all the mandatory requirements will receive a fail K grade. For more on the K grade, see *2009 Calendar*, section 4.3 (pg. 99).

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **Use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by



the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>