



Classical Civilisation

A Level OCR H408

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-classical-civilisation-h008-h408-from-2017/>

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

Pericles

About the course...

This course consists of three modules; The World of the Hero, Greek Theatre and Greek Religion. While the first module is mostly based on literature in translation, the other two explore a range of approaches to the subject from philosophy (Why was Socrates sentenced to death?) to visual/material culture (What do votive gifts to the gods tells us about worship?).

In the first year you will read **Homer's *Iliad*** and a selection of plays from **Greek Tragedy** and **Comedy**.

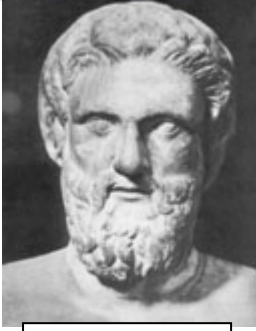
Homer's *Iliad* is one of the oldest texts in Western literature and was initially passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. You will learn about the art of story-telling, exploring how these stories survived and still manage to impact upon the Western World today.

You will learn about the characters of heroes like Achilles and Hector, their finest and weakest hour, and how fate and the gods intervene to steer the course of that famous Trojan War.

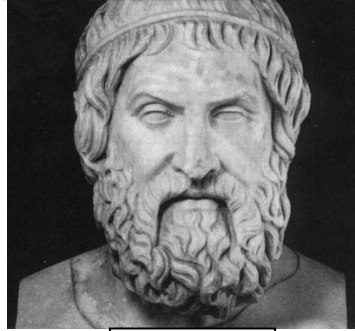


Greek Theatre examines the origins of drama (Where did the idea of standing on a platform pretending to be someone else come from?) to its heydays in Athens' Golden Age; the 5th Century BC. We will read together three plays (Oedipus the King, The Bacchae and The Frogs). The first two tragedies tell us the disastrous and violent histories of key characters in Greek myths (be ready for marrying your mother and killing your father and Dionysus' gruesome revenge). In these harrowing tales Sophocles and Euripides invite us to reflect on human nature, fate, fear of the vengeful gods and the danger of arrogance.

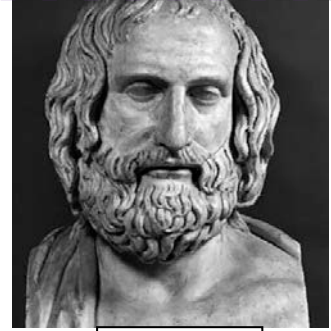
The third play is known as Aristophanes' finest and presents a complete change from what you have looked at before; it is a comedy! The playwright mixes satirical humour to poke fun at the Athenian government with crude jokes and fantastical situations. The visual component of this module focuses on the theatre and depictions of performances in Athenian Art.



Aristophanes



Sophocles



Euripides

Assessment

There is **no coursework component** to this course. Instead, you will sit three exams in Summer 2019. The third module, Greek Religion, will be taught at the start of your upper sixth year when you have finished the Greek Theatre module. The World of the Hero module is worth 40 % and you will be studying Virgil's Aeneid in the second year. The paper is 2 hours and 20 minutes. The Greek Theatre and Greek Religion modules are worth 30% each and are 1 hour 45 minutes each

Holiday Work

To prepare for Michaelmas Term you must complete the following tasks over the summer in this order:

1. Read Homer's *Iliad Book 1*. Summarise the argument between Achilles and Agamemnon which causes Achilles to stop fighting.

A link to the text can be found here:

<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Iliad1.htm>

2. Read Sophocles' Oedipus the King. Summarise the Theban prophecy and how it comes about in the play.

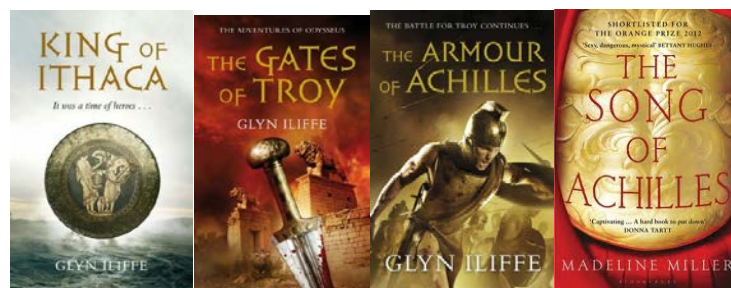
A link to the text can be found here:

<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Oedipus.htm>

Some interesting reading...

As well as having a look at the texts themselves, there are other ways you can prepare for the course. Reading modern versions of ancient stories can be a useful way of easing yourself into the strange and different values of the Ancient World.

Homer's *Iliad*: The Glyn Iliffe novels are a great way of introducing yourself to the characters which fight in the Trojan War. There is also 'The Song of Achilles,' by Madeline Miller, which is about the Homeric values which you will study; this book has won the Orange prize for fiction. Those of you who are more ambitious should try reading Homer's *Odyssey*, which is the direct sequel to the *Iliad*.



Greek Theatre: As well as the plays themselves, any books on Greek mythology provide a great background to the sort of themes which are explored by the Ancient playwrights. Those looking for non-fiction might like to look at Foley's 'Female Acts in Greek Tragedy', or if you are looking for an overall feel of the spirit of 5th Century Athens, then venture out and go and see the world famous Elgin Marbles at the British Museum.

| Task | Notes | Queries for Teacher |
|------|-------|---------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |