

SYLLABUS

HUM 4890/SPRING 2023 GENRES AND MEDIA: ANCIENT EPICS

Dr. James D'Emilio

This short syllabus has the items mandated for all USF syllabi ([USF Policy 11.008](#)). Use it for an overview. Use the Home Page, your dashboard throughout the course, to familiarize yourself with the key parts of our Canvas site. There you'll find links to Course Documents which describe our subject matter, schedule, and assignments, and my expectations more fully.

Pay particular attention to these four documents (available by Jan. 9):

1. Introduction: What is this course about? I comment on why we read the ancient Greek and Roman epics today. I discuss our goals and our methods of analysis and interpretation, the bigger questions and issues we address, and how we connect the different works we read.

2. Course Schedule includes weekly topics and core readings for the semester and explains the regular ten-day schedule for readings, quizzes, and forums with tips for organizing your week.

3. Assignments/Assessment: past grading patterns; my weighting of assignments and of higher/lower grades; a description of the three graded assignments (weekly quizzes and forums, and "In Focus"); and my policies on missed assignments/extra credit.

4. Discussion Forum Guidelines: the weekly forums are our most important assignment. The guidelines outline basic requirements and offer tips for preparing and writing strong postings. Be sure you understand what ~~is in those documents~~ or this syllabus will be

indicated on the Home Page and/or Course Documents Page.

Contact me any time at jmsdemilio@gmail.com or demilio@usf.edu (direct email is fastest!), or through Canvas messages (slower). To reply or send my own comments and messages, I will

but required quizzes and forums are open each week for set periods with regular deadlines.

4. Instructor name, contact information, and office hours

Dr. James D'Emilio, demilio@usf.edu or jmsdemilio@gmail.com

Since I regularly and promptly respond to emails, I don't hold online "office hours" or meetings.

5. University course description (required to be verbatim from catalog) (This is for all HUM 4890 courses)

This course focuses on a particular aesthetic genre or media. Emphasis is on close readings of the media or genre in question, and on how media or generic paradigms shape ideas and identities.

6. Course prerequisites: None

7. Student learning outcomes (these are specific to my Ancient Epics course)

Throughout the course, your readings and assignments will develop your ability to think critically and communicate clearly, so that you can understand and interpret complex texts and sustained arguments, marshal evidence to support your ide`y

b. Semester Schedule (after Week 1.1, weekly materials are available on the Thursday listed here)

Jan. 9-12: Getting Started! First Week Attendance Assignments (Practice Quiz + Personal Introduction due by Thursday noon, Jan. 12)

The four epics, the Iliad, Odyssey, Aeneid, and Metamorphoses, are each divided into what are called “books” (like chapters). You will usually be asked to read only some of the “books” listed here for each week, especially in Module 1 (the Iliad). The required weekly section of the textbook (typically 10 to 25 pages, posted as a PDF) will introduce, discuss, or provide a context for the overall set of “books”. Quiz guidelines and forum topics will direct you to much more specific parts of the week’s material.

MODULE 1: THE ILIAD THE MAKING OF THE EPIC

Week 1.1 (Jan. 9-15): Homeric Epic: Oral Poetry, Myth, History

Week 1.2 (Jan. 12-21): The Trojan War, Achilles’ Anger, and a Cast of Thousands (Iliad, books 1-6)

Week 1.3 (Jan. 19-28): Fateful Choices, Mortals and Immortals (Iliad, bks 7-19)

Week 1.4 (Jan. 26 - Feb. 4): Achilles’ Anger, Part 2: Endings and Reflections (Iliad, bks 20-24)

MODULE 2: THE ODYSSEY SEQUEL OR CRITIQUE?

Week 2.1 (Feb. 2-11): Coming of Age (Odyssey, books 1-6)

Week 2.2 (Feb. 9-18): Civilization and Barbarism (Odyssey, bks 7-12)

Week 2.3 (Feb. 16-25): Recognition and Identity (Odyssey, bks 13-19)

Week 2.4 (Feb. 23 - March 4): Retribution and Restoration (Odyssey, bks 20-24)

MODULE 3: VERGIL’S AENEID: CULTURAL APPROPRIATION AND THE ART OF EMPIRE

Week 3.1 (March 2-11): Vergil’s Odyssey: Duty and Destiny (Aeneid, books 1-3)

Week 3.2 (March 9-25/Spring Break): Visions of Rome: Sacrifice and Empire (Aeneid, bks 4-8)

Week 3.3 (March 23 - April 1): Vergil’s Iliad: War, Heroism, and Loss (Aeneid, bks 9-12)

MODULE 4: WHERE HAVE ALL THE HEROES GONE? EURIPIDES’ TRAGEDIES AND OVID’S METAMORPHOSES

Week 4.1 (March 30 - April 8): Euripides’ Troy: Antiheroes and the Muse’s Thracian Bastard (Euripides’ tragedies, Hecuba and Rhesos)

Week 4.2 (April 6-15): Ovid’s Metamorphoses: Mock Epic and Battles of Words

-core readings: Ovid’s Metamorphoses, book 4 (from line 606) through book 6 (to line 411); book 8 (from line 262 through line 546)

Week 4.3 (April 13-22): Ovid’s Trojan War: Rumor, Themes of War, the Victory of Eloquence

-core readings: Ovid’s Metamorphoses, book 11 (from line 749) through book 13 (to line 623)

Week 4.4 (April 20-29, *schedule adjusted for final week*): Ovid’s Aeneid: The Last Word?

-core readings: Ovid’s Metamorphoses, book 13 (from line 623) through book 14 (to line 608); book 15 (from line 60 through line 481, from line 745 to 879)

14. General Education statement: This is not a Gen Ed course.

15. Global Citizen Project statement (undergraduate only; only required if a GCP course): This is not a GCP course.

16. Course-specific grading policies (e.g., late work, extra credit, etc.), if any

Together, the weekly quizzes and forums count for 72% of your final grade (if you do well, they can be as much as 82% of your grade). Individually, each quiz or forum is a small portion of your grade. I give your high scores more weight, your lower scores less weight, and drop the two lowest quizzes. Everyone gets up to 20 points (2%) added to your final grade based on your best assignment category. In addition to that, there are modest extra credit opportunities (limited to another 2%).

With small-scale, weekly assignments, all these adjustments will offset a few low scores or even missed assignments in a way that is **consistent for everyone**. The best response to a low score or missed assignment is to move forward and earn higher scores which get more weight.

Because of this, I do NOT reopen quizzes or weekly forums after the deadlines or accept late submissions. There are no exceptions, retakes, or makeups (unless mandated by specific USF policies).

I do deduct penalty points for missing any required assignment. For one or two assignments, those are little more than a “heads up” that will be offset by the extra points and weighting of high grades. Missing multiple assignments, however, will have a serious impact on your grade (with or without penalty points!), as it reasonably should. It is, in fact, the most common cause of failure. (See “Assignments/Assessment”)

17. Course-specific attendance and punctuality policies, if any

This course is conducted entirely online. It is “asynchronous”, with no fixed “meeting” times.

You are, however, required to complete a “First Week Attendance” assignment (Practice Quiz + Personal Introduction) by Thursday noon, Jan. 12, or you will be dropped from the course.

18. Course-specific technology and media policies (e.g., recording class, expected email response time, etc.), if any

All course materials, including the textbook, assigned readings, assignments, images, recordings, and videos, which I provide are intended solely for your use within this course. They are protected by copyright and must not be circulated outside this course (*except, as specified under HB 233, within a formal complaint to the university or in relevant civil or criminal proceedings*). Distributing these materials on the internet, posting them on social media, or contributing them to digital repositories is specifically prohibited by USF Regulation 3.027 (Academic Integrity of Students), 4.I.8, p. 7, and USF Policy 10.048 (Course Notes and Recordings), 2.C, p. 2. Violations may be sanctioned.

19. [USF Core Syllabus Policy Statements](#)

The core policy statements listed on the linked website apply to all USF courses. This course is a USF course. Therefore, these policies apply to this course. That’s an example of a syllogism.

I look forward to the course!