



# Ancient Culture Lab: Homer's Experience and the Greek Language

<b>Module Coordinator</b>	<b>Prof Ahuvia Kahane, Classics, School of Histories and Humanities</b>
<b>What will you learn from this Elective?</b>	<p>Ancient Greece, its language and its cultures are among the great formative forces in the history of European literature, thought and civic life.</p> <p>In this module you will gain a rapid, intensive yet essential 'insider's' view of the essential elements – so close, yet so far! - of Greek language and its thought.</p> <p>Understanding ancient Greece, its triumphs and its problems, its very words (!) is essential today, more than ever. Many of the values in our rapidly changing, multicultural and global world, our debates about democracy (<i>demokratia</i>, 'the rule of the people'), politics (the <i>technê politikê</i>, the art of the 'city', the 'commonwealth, the Greek <i>polis</i>) and poetry (<i>poetikê</i>, 'the art of "making" things'), philosophy (<i>philosophia</i>, 'the love of wisdom'), history (<i>historia</i>, an 'enquiry' into the past) and more, look back, respond, regale and rebel against the thought – indeed the very language and ideas - of the ancient Greeks.</p> <p>With the support of advanced digital tools we will examine some of the basic structures of ancient Greek discourse, its ideas, structures, its language and its words as well as its legacies in English and in the modern world.</p> <p>In our 'lab', focussing on the ancient heroic poetry of Homer, the cornerstone of ancient literature and one of the most exciting and dramatic texts in the cultures of the West, we will examine and analyse the essential formations of the language; we will (with electronic aids) even learn to read – some of the original Greek.</p> <p>We will discuss seminal stories and ideas, scenes, social and psychological dynamics, politics, family, war, gender, love, death, freedom, justice, and learn to see first-hand how these elements of thought are embedded in Homer's language, its words and its grammatical structures.</p>
<b>Student Workload</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22 contact hours (2 x 1-hour class per week)</li><li>• 22 hours of online discussion and reflection activities</li><li>• 66 hours of guided independent study.</li></ul>
<b>Assessment Components</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Participation in class and online discussion during term (10%)</li><li>2) Short in-class/online tests during term, intended to evaluate specific materials studied in the module sessions (20+30%)</li><li>3) Team project on a key Greek word, concept or line, which will critically and creatively examine its continuing and changing</li></ol>

	relevance across space and time (end of term 40%, 15% on the process of individual reflection, 25% on the collective output).
<b>Indicative Reading List</b>	<p>Kahane, A. <i>Homer: A Guide for the Perplexed</i> (Bloomsbury 2012).</p> <p>Kahane, A., Mueller, M. Berry, C. and Parod, W. <i>The Chicago Homer</i>. Online at <a href="https://homer.library.northwestern.edu/">https://homer.library.northwestern.edu/</a></p> <p>Boardman, J., Griffin, J. and Murray, O. <i>The Oxford History of Greece and the Hellenistic World</i> (Oxford University Press, 2002).</p> <p>Beard, M. and Henderson, J. <i>Classics: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Oxford University Press, 1995).</p> <p>Jones, P., <i>Learn Ancient Greek</i> (Duckworth, 1998).</p> <p>Green, T., <i>The Greek and Latin Roots of English</i> (Rowman &amp; Littlefield, 2014).</p>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gain hands-on familiarity with the foundations of ancient Greek thought and its language.</li> <li>2. Understand some of the conceptual and linguistic affinities between archaic thought and our contemporary world.</li> <li>3. Obtain both general knowledge of Homer’s poetry and a close-up understanding of key passages, concepts and scenes with intensive assisted perspectives on Homer’s original Greek.</li> <li>4. Become familiar with the general way in which ancient Greek language is organized, with its basic structures of form and meaning.</li> <li>5. Confidently read out and pronounce Ancient Greek (with the help of fully hyperlinked online translations, transliterations).</li> <li>6. Recognize a range of central verbal concepts in classical Greek and their relation to modern usage, especially in English</li> <li>7. Analyse the relationship, interactions, continuities and conflicts between the values and thought of the ancients and those of our modern cultures, in relation to questions of gender, freedom, death, human rights and political structures.</li> </ol>