Greek Art and Archaeology: In Search of the Trojan War is an interdisciplinary course that explores ancient visual and literary narratives about the Trojan War. Do visual and verbal artists tell the story the same way? Why might they approach the story differently? A second focus of this course is the archaeology of Troy and its relationship to the “Homeric Question.” Did the Trojan War really take place, and if so, what is the relationship between the myth and the history? What can our obsession with this question tell us about the culture that produced the art and literature we will discuss, and more importantly, what does it tell us about ourselves?

Professor: Casey Due Hackney (e-mail: Casey.Due@mail.uh.edu). Office hours: Tuesdays 11AM-1PM or by appointment, Agnes Arnold Hall room 454. MCL Dept. phone number: (713) 743-3007. Course web page: http://www.uh.edu/~cldue/3366

Required Texts:


Recommended Additional Reading:


The Odyssey of Homer, in any translation.

The Aeneid of Virgil, in any translation.

The Hecuba and Trojan Women of Euripides, in any translation.

Components of Course Grade: 2 tests, 60%; final exam 40%
Schedule of lectures and reading assignments

Part I: Greek Art in its Historical Context

1/15 Intro to course

1/17 Minoan Crete
Assignment: Read the text and look at the pictures at: http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/achilles/age/bronze_age.html
Recommended: Minoan and Mycenaean Art, Chapter 1 and first half of Chapter 4

1/22 The Cyclades (including Thera)
Recommended: Minoan and Mycenaean Art, Chapter 2 and second half of Chapter 4

1/24 The Mycenaens
Assignment: Read the text and look at the pictures at: http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/achilles/age/myceneans.html
Recommended: Minoan and Mycenaean Art, Chapter 3 and begin Chapter 5

1/29 Mycenaens cont.; Dark ages; Overview of Geometric
Recommended: Minoan and Mycenaean Art, Chapter 5

1/31 The Archaic period and into the Classical
Assignment: Odyssey 9

2/5 Classical Athens

2/7 Review

2/12 Test 1

Part II: The Trojan War in Ancient Art and Literature

2/14 The Trojan Cycle of myth – wedding of Peleus and Thetis, judgment of Paris, wedding of Helen, sacrifice of Iphigeneia
Assignment: Woodford 12-64 + Proclus’ summary of the Epic Cycle
2/19 Introduction to the Iliad and epic and oral poetry
Assignment: Woodford 65-87 + Iliad 1, 3, 9

2/21 Achilles, Patroklos, and Hektor
Assignment: Iliad Books 16, 18, 22, 24

2/26 End of the Iliad and the Fall of Troy
Assignment: Woodford 88-119; Aeneid 2; selections from tragedies of Euripides

2/28 The Agamemnon of Aeschylus and the Oresteia myth in Classical art
Assignment: Aeschylus, Agamemnon

3/4 Euripides’ Iphigeneia at Aulis and the multiformity of Greek myth
Assignment: Iphigeneia at Aulis

3/6 Review

3/11 Test 2

3/13 CLASS CANCELLED but you are required to read before 3/25 L. Cotrell, The Bull of Minos, pp 13-36 AND In Search of the Trojan War chapter 4 (These books are on reserve at the library), as well as The Trojans and Their Neighbors pp. 1-28. Use the extra day to get a head start on all this reading!!

3/17-21 SPRING BREAK

Part III: The Archaeology of Troy and the Homeric Question

3/25 The Homeric Question
Assignment: The Bull of Minos pp 13-36; TATN 1-28; In Search of the Trojan War chapter 4

3/27 Finding Troy: The Discovery of the Greek Bronze Age (I)
Assignment: TATN 29-42
Recommended: The Bull of Minos pp. 37-72; In Search of the Trojan War chapters 1 and 2

4/1 Finding Troy: The Discovery of the Greek Bronze Age (II)
Assignment: TATN 42-57
Recommended: In Search of the Trojan War chapters 1 and 2; The Bull of Minos pp. 73-75

4/3 History or Myth?
Assignment: TATN 58-68
Recommended: In Search of the Trojan War chapter 5

4/8 Troy's Neighbors I and II: The Hittites and The Kingdom of Minos
Assignment: TATN 87-94
Recommended: TATN 69-86; In Search of the Trojan War chapter 3

4/10 Troy's Neighbors III: The tomb of Agamemnon?
Assignment: TATN 94-106
Recommended: In Search of the Trojan War chapter 5

4/15 Class discussion: The Homeric Question and the archaeology of Troy
Assignment: TATN 180-194

4/17 The Trojan War in Greek art revisited I: the Theran Frescoes of the Aegean Bronze Age
Assignment: TBA

4/22 The Trojan War in Greek art revisited II: Classical Athens
Assignment: TBA

4/24 Review

Final Exam