CLASS 304G Readings in Greek Poetry

Spring 2006
M W F 12-12:50 (AH-3110)
Dr. Brett Robbins
Phone: 594-5177
Office: AH-4108
Office Hours: 11-12 M-F, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
OBJECTIVES
CLASS FORMAT/INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
GRADING POLICY
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION
EXAMINATIONS

This course introduces second-year students of ancient Greek to the language and music of Homeric poetry. We will read the verses out loud, observing their dactylic hexameter meter. We will translate with attention to both the literal and artistic meaning of the words, occasionally comparing our own renderings with those featured in Underwood's English Translators of Homer (I will provide handouts), to get a sense of how others attempt to reconcile these two tendencies.

Our primary aim will be to encounter the Iliad on its own terms and to recognize the advantages, both semantically and musically, to reading the Homeric epics in the original Greek. I want you to come away from this course wanting to read the rest of Homer on your own. My wish is to help you hear what those who devote their lives to studying Homer hear in him.

Students will take turns reading a certain number of lines of the Iliad to the rest of the class, in proper meter, and translating them as literally as possible. Then they will be asked a question or two about the grammar or meaning of the selection, after which class discussion is encouraged. Special attention will be given to helping students make constructive use of the commentary and grammatical appendix to Benner's text and of Autenrieth's dictionary to tease out answers for themselves.

Benner, Selections from Homer's Iliad (Penguin 1996).
Your final grade for the course will be determined by 1) your class work (25%), 2) a midterm exam (25%), 3) a non-cumulative final exam (25%), and 4) 5 quizzes throughout the semester testing your retention of passages translated and topics covered in the previous one or two class sessions (5% each).

Attendance and participation are essential for success in this course and your class work is a major component of your final grade. So attend class regularly!

The midterm and final exams will consist of the translation of passages from Greek to English, the scansion of several lines of the Iliad, and short essay questions about the passages of the Iliad that we have read in class.