



Advanced Greek: Homer's *Odyssey* B

The Lukeion Project

Regan Barr, Advisor

Homer's *Odyssey* is an independent study for students who have finished 4 years of Greek and wish to continue their Greek readings. The student is accountable for regular weekly progress, but does not meet regularly with the instructor. Instead, the student works independently on translation assignments that are submitted online, while using the resources provided in the commentary on the text, or other available resources that are suggested by the advisor or available to the student.

Required Textbook

- [Homer: *Odyssey*: XIII-XXIV](#) by W.B. Stanford (Bristol Classical Press, 1962). ISBN-13: 978-1853995125
*Stanford is an “old-school” commentary with notes in the back referencing the page and line number to which the comment applies. It covers the last 12 books of the *Odyssey* and has been a respected resource since it was first published in 1948.*

Optional Resources

- [Odyssey by Homer](#), translated by Stanley Lombardo (Hackett, 2000) ISBN-13: 978-0872204843
This is one of the best and most readable modern translations of the classic.
- [A Homeric Dictionary for Schools and Colleges. Based Upon the German of Dr. Georg Autenrieth](#) by Georg Autenrieth, Robert Porter Kepp, and Isaac Flagg (Andesite Press, 2015). ISBN-13: 978-1298603678
An early Homeric dictionary, originally in German, translated into English in the 19th c. Available in both hardcover and paperback.
- [The Meters of Greek and Latin Poetry, Revised Edition](#) by Halporn, Ostwald and Rosenmeyer (Hackett, 1980) ISBN-13: 978-0872202436
Although this is a small book, it is still one of the most complete discussions of Greek meter in English. The second text above, however, does have a discussion of scansion and meter.
- [The Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek](#) by Franco Montanari (Brill, 2015) ISBN-13: 978-9004193185
An excellent full lexicon, this recent addition to Greek-English lexica is easier to read and use than Liddell & Scott, but still very complete. Because the layout is less confusing and more intuitive, this is my new go-to lexicon when I want a fairly complete listing for a Greek word.
- [Greek Grammar](#) by Herbert Weir Smyth (Harvard University Press, 1984) ISBN-13: 978-0674362505
This grammar, though old (original copyright 1920) is considered by many to be one of the most thorough ever published. It is often referred to in scholarly discussions because of its comprehensiveness, detailed analysis, and extensive examples.

Class Webpage

<https://www.quia.com/pages/rbarr/26grkodysseyb>

A Note About the Use of Translations

Your instructor expects you to compare your translation to published translations. However, you should not use English translations as a crutch. Use them before you create your original translation to gain context. Use them after you create your original translation to see if you have fundamentally misunderstood anything in the text and perhaps make revisions before submitting. Do not submit someone else's translation as your own.

Course Methodology

1. This course is a reading course designed to keep the student progressing in their proficiency in reading and understanding ancient Greek and introduce them to one of the most foundational and influential works of Greek literature. The student will translate excerpts from Homer's *Odyssey* and make use of the resources in the book in understanding the idiosyncrasies and nuances of the Greek text.
2. This course does not meet live, but the student is encouraged to contact the instructor with questions.

Schedule of Readings

Translations are due by Friday of each week, but may be submitted early.

| Week | Due Date | Topics | Lines | Total Translation Lines |
|------|----------|--|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | 1/23 | Odysseus leaves the court of Alcinous with gifts Odysseus lands in Ithaca and is carried ashore asleep | 13.1-92 13.93-124 | 92 31 |
| 2 | 1/30 | Athena convinces Odysseus he is home and gives him the appearance of a beggar | 13.352-440 | 88 |
| 3 | 2/6 | The disguised Odysseus visits the swineherd Eumeus, who laments Odysseus' absence Eumeus feeds Odysseus and tells him how the suitors have despoiled his estate | 14.1-71 14.72-108 | 71 36 |
| 4 | 2/13 | Athena appears to Telemachus, Odysseus' son, in Sparta and convinces him to return home The seer Theoclymenus joins Telemachus on his ship, and they set sail | 15.1-66 15.256-300 | 66 44 |
| 5 | 2/20 | Odysseus reveals himself to his son Telemachus Father and son consult about how to take revenge on the suitors | 16.155b-214 16.266-307 | 58 41 |
| 6 | 2/27 | Odysseus arrives at his palace; he is recognized by his dog | 17.260-364 | 104 |
| 7 | 3/6 | The disguised Odysseus fights Irus at the palace | 18.1-107 | 107 |
| 8 | 3/13 | Odysseus and Telemachus remove all weapons from the hall The old nurse Eurycleia washes Odysseus' feet and recognizes him by his scar National Greek Exam (Mon., March 16) | 19.1-52 19.335-360; 510-537 | 52 52 |
| 9 | 3/20 | The disguised Odysseus wins the bow contest | 21.330-434 | 104 |
| 10 | | SPRING BREAK | | |
| 11 | 4/3 | Odysseus reveals his identity and the slaughter of the suitors begins | 22.1-107 | 107 |
| 12 | 4/10 | Telemachus retrieves weapons from the storeroom Melanthius steals weapons from the storeroom, is caught and restrained | 22.108-125 22.126-204 | 17 78 |
| 13 | 4/17 | Athena challenges Odysseus and oversees the ensuing battle Athena reveals her aegis and the prophet Leodes is denied mercy Odysseus commands Eurycleia to send in the disloyal serving women | 22.224-291 22.292-329 22.390-432 | 67 37 42 |
| 14 | 4/24 | Melanthis is mutilated, the disloyal women are killed, and the other women rejoice | 22.433-501 | 68 |
| 15 | 5/1 | Penelope finally accepts Odysseus after he tells how he crafted their bed | 23.153-246 | 93 |
| 16 | 5/8 | Hermes leads the ghosts of the suitors to Hades, where they tell Agamemnon their story Agamemnon praises Penelope, but curses his wife who murdered him, Clytemnestra | 24.98-190 24.191-204 | 92 13 |

Contacting Me

Please be aware that I am not usually available on weekends. I try to spend this time with my family.

By email: We prefer contact by email if you have questions or problems: rbarr@lukeion.org.

When using email, ALWAYS observe the following rules of email etiquette:

- Include a **relevant** subject line (example: *Problem with Grammar Quiz 3b*)
- Use your **real name**
- Include your **class & meeting time** (example: *Greek 1a, 10:15am*)
- Include as many **details** as possible (example: *Quia says Quiz 4 is unavailable*)

By phone: We prefer contact by email so that all correspondence is documented. We do **not** answer the phone on class days (Tuesday through Thursday) or weekends.

By mail: If you're vacationing in a sunny or exotic land and would like to send a postcard or gift (☺) to your instructor, you can send it to:

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