



Advanced Greek: Homer's *Iliad* B

The Lukeion Project

Fall Syllabus

Regan Barr, Advisor

Homer's *Iliad* is an independent study for students who have finished all their Greek grammar, have spent at least 2 years in Greek translation of ancient texts, 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 making use of the resources provided in the commentary on the text, or other available resources, which are suggested by the advisor or at the disposal of the student.

Required Textbook

- [Selections from Homer's Iliad](#) by Allen Rogers Benner (Oklahoma University Press, 2001).
ISBN-13: 978-0806133638

Although this volume has some years on it, it's still considered one of the best texts for translating the Iliad. It includes selections from 12 books of the Iliad, with translation help in the back of the book and a glossary. Get it here on [Amazon](#).

Optional Resources

- [Iliad 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. However, Lombardo is trying to achieve the best and most English translation, so expect that he has taken some liberties with his translation of the Greek text. Get it here on [Amazon](#)
- [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/iliad26b>

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 *Iliad* and use the resources in the book to understand 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
1	1/23	The Furious Fighting of Hector Ajax, armed with a great pike, leaps from ship to ship	15.592-652 15.663-695
2	1/30	Patroclus reproaches Achilles and begs him to fight Unrelenting Achilles permits Patroclus and Myrmidons to save the ships but not to pursue the Trojans into the plain	16.1-47 16.48-100
3	2/6	Myrmidons pour out like wasps from a nest & drive Trojans from ships Patroclus encounters Sarpodon; Zeus debates whether he should be slain, and Hera adds her counsel Sarpodon is slain	16. 257-305 16. 419-461 16. 477-507
4	2/13	Antilochus reports Patroclus' death to Achilles; Thetis hears his lamentations and comes to him Achilles decides to slay Hector, though it means his own death	18.1-96 18.97-126
5	2/20	Thetis brings Achilles new armor made by Hephaistos Achaeans and Trojans fight over Patroclus' body; Iris convinces Achilles to show himself and the Achaeans claim Patroclus' corpse	18.127-147 18.148-242
6	2/27	The Trojan hold a council; Polydamus advises retreat to city, but Hector advises the Trojans to stay in the plain and fight The Achaeans lay out Patroclus	18.243-309 18.310-353
7	3/6	Thetis goes to Hephaestus who expresses gratitude, listens to her troubles, comforts her, and begins work on the new armor	18.354-489
8	3/13	Description of the Shield of Achilles and the rest of the armor National Greek Exam (Mon., March 16)	18.490-617
9	3/20	Thetis brings the divine armor to Achilles At the Achaean assembly, Achilles offers to reconcile with Agamemnon Automedon and Alkimedon ready the chariot The horse Xanthos foretells Achilles' death	19.1-39 19.40-73 19.392-403 19.404-424
10		SPRING BREAK	
11	4/3	Apollo declares himself to Achilles Priam and Hecuba try in vain to get Hector to return to the city	22.1-24 22.25-121
12	4/10	Achilles chases Hector around the city walls Zeus dooms Hector to die; Athena persuades Hector to confront Achilles	22.122-166 22.167-237
13	4/17	Hector attempts to make a covenant with Achilles, who refuses Hector and Achilles fight and Hector is slain	22.238-272 22.273-336
14	4/24	Achilles refuses Hector's dying request; Hector foretells Achilles' death and dies The Achaeans mistreat the body of Hector as Priam and Hecuba lament	22.337-366 22.367-428
15	5/1	Andromache laments as Achilles drags Hector's body to the ships	22.429-515
16	5/8	Priam begs for the body of Hector; Achilles becomes angry	24.472-571

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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