# Greek Literature

## Prof. Antonietta Porro

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is for students to acquire knowledge of the topics on the syllabus.

More specifically, at the end of the course, students will be able to translate the texts studied on the course and set as home reading, demonstrating good awareness of the morphosyntactic elements they contain. They will be able to identify the metre of the poetic texts analysed in lectures and all hexametric texts. Moreover, they will be able to critically analyse the texts studied during lectures and practical classes. They will also have adequate understanding of the texts read at home. They will be able to contextualise the texts within the historical development of Greek literature, of which students are expected to have good basic knowledge.

***COURSE CONTENT***

## Single-subject Course

The faces of the hero: Heracles in Sophoclean theater and in the Hellenistic poetry. Commented reading of Sophocles, *Trachiniae* and Theocritus, *Idyll* XXIV (*Herakliskos).*

The exam will be based on content covered during the single-subject course and on home readings.

For 12 ECTS credits:

1. Single-subject course:

Complete reading of Sophocles, *Trachiniae* and Theocritus, *Idyll* XXIV (*Herakliskos)*.

2. Home reading:

*The Odyssey*, three books of students’ choice

Apollodorus, *The Library* I-II

Herodotus, *Histories*, Book II.

For 6 ECTS credits:

1. Single-subject course:

Complete reading of Sophocles, *Trachiniae*.

2. Home reading:

*The Odyssey*, one book of students’ choice

Herodotus, *Histories*, Book II.

***READING LIST***

1) Sophocles, *Trachiniae* will be read in the following edition: Sophocle, *Tragedies,* Tome I: *Les Trachiniennes; Antigone*, texte établi par A. Dain et trad. par P. Mazon, 7ᵉ tirage revue et corr. par J. Irigoin, Les belles lettres, Paris, 1994; Theocritus, *Idyll* XXIV will be read in the following edition: Theocritus quique feruntur bucolici Graeci, ed. C. Gallavotti, Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato, Roma,1993.

2) For home reading and Apollodorus in particular, students may use any edition; however, we recommend the following for:

– *Odissey*: Omero, *Odissea*, new updated edition, Fondazione Lorenzo Valla, Mondadori, Milan, 2000-2004, Vols. I-VI (numerous reprints).

– Herodotus: Erodoto, *Le storie*. Libro II *L'Egitto*, Testo e commento di A.B. Lloyd, traduzione di A. Fraschetti, Fondazione Lorenzo Valla, Mondadori, Milano, 1989 (numerous reprints).

3) Students shall be familiar with a general survey of the history of Greek literature from its origins to the imperial age. The following text is recommended: A. Porro – W. Lapini, *Letteratura greca*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2017; students may also choose to use their high school textbook on the subject.

– All students are recommended to use the volume edited by A.C. Cassio, *Storia delle lingue letterarie greche,* Mondadori, Milan, 20162

Further reading list details will be provided during lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

In addition, A. Filoni will deliver practical classes on Homeric language and metrics and on reading Apollodorus.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examinations. Students are obviously expected to know ancient Greek. Students on the BA degree will be tested on their knowledge of ancient Greek before the exam via a preliminary test. Students who have passed the Greek language tests of the Greek Language courses (modules B and C) shall not take the test.

Students are required to identify the metrics of all texts in dactylic hexameter and of the other texts read in metrics during lectures.

A good linguistic mastery of Greek, and a sound knowledge of the topics discussed during lectures will be required; the latter and a solid linguistic competence will be key to obtain a medium to high mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Essential prerequisites are competence in Ancient Greek language and knowledge of key developments in the history of Greek literature from its origins to the Imperial Age.

NOTES

1. Students who have already passed the translation exam from Greek are exempt from reading Herodotus’s Book II.

2. Students may split the exam into two, taking the general part before the single-subject part (including home reading).