# 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**

Prosperity and happiness: an inseparable pair? Commented reading of Hesiod, *Works and days* 274-362; Herodotus, *Histories* I 25-92 (*Croesus logos*); Theocritus, *Idyll* XVI (*Charites*)*.*

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:**

Reading of Hesiod, *Works and days* 274-362; Herodotus, *Histories* I 25-92 (*Croesus logos*); Theocritus, *Idyll* XVI (*Charites*)*.*

**2. Home reading**:

*The Odyssey*, three books of students’ choice

Lucian, *Dialogues of the Sea-gods* and *Dialogues of the Gods*

Isocrates, *Panegyricus*

**For 6 ECTS credits:**

**1. Single-subject course:**

Reading of Hesiod, *Works and days* 274-362; Herodotus, *Histories* I 25-92 (*Croesus logos*)

**2. Home reading:**

*The Odyssey*, one book of students’ choice

Isocrates, *Panegyricus*

***READING LIST***

1) Hesiod will be read in the following edition: *Hesiodi Theogonia, Opera et Dies, Scutum,* ed. Fr. Solmsen, *Fragmenta,* edd. R. Merkelbach – M.L. West, Oxford 19903; Herodotus will be read in the following edition: *Herodoti Historiae,* vol. I (Libri I-IV), ed. N.G. Wilson, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2015. Theocritus will be read in the following edition: Theocritus quique feruntur bucolici Graeci, ed. C. Gallavotti, Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato, Roma 1993. The texts of Hesiod and Theocritus will be made available to the students during the lectures.

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

– *Odissey*: Omero, *Odissea*, new updated edition, Fondazione Lorenzo Valla, Mondadori, Milano 2000-2004, Vols. I-VI (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*, Il Mulino, Bologna 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 addition, A. Filoni will deliver practical classes on Homeric language and metrics and on reading Lucian.

***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 poetic texts (dactylic hexameter).

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 Isocrates, *Panegyricus*.

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