



This biannual learning unit is not being organized in 2026-2027 !

Teacher(s)	Doyen Charles ;
Language :	French > English-friendly
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	LGLOR1442 or equivalent level
Main themes	In-depth study of a section of Greek literature in relation to a given theme.
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : 1 identify and contextualize authors and works related to the theme studied; 2 write an essay related to the year's theme, involving a selection of relevant excerpts from the works studied and including literary, historical, stylistic and cultural considerations; 3 conduct personal research as an extension of the course.
Evaluation methods	Personal oral presentation during the term (20%) and oral examen during the session (80%).
Teaching methods	The seminar consists of lectures based on reading assignment.
Content	The seminar will study literary creation (<i>poiësis</i>) during the Archaic period under its double aspect (composition and performance). We will focus on the epic—and, more specifically, the Homeric Iliad—but students will be encouraged to think about literature during the Archaic period in a wider context, by considering its relations with social, political and cultural structures. They will achieve a new understanding of the concepts of literary author, work, genre, and audience. The seminar will also focus on the transmission of epic, first in its oral phase, then in its written phase. In this respect, we will consider the difficulties posed by the manuscript tradition and textual editions of epic. Finally, the seminar will analyze the Early Archaic cultural concepts and institutions conveyed by the epic, in particular glory (<i>kleos aphthiton</i>), sorrow (<i>akhos</i> , <i>penthos</i> , <i>aethlos</i>), emulation (<i>eris</i> , <i>agôn</i>), and justice (<i>timê</i> , <i>themis</i> , <i>dikê</i> , <i>moira</i> , <i>kosmos</i>).
Inline resources	Course notes are available on Moodle.
Bibliography	• D. Bouvier, <i>Le sceptre et la lyre. L'Iliade ou les héros de la mémoire</i> , 2002. • Ph. Brunet, <i>Naissance de la littérature dans la Grèce ancienne</i> , 1997. • W. Burkert, <i>The Orientalizing Revolution. Near Eastern Influence on Greek Culture in the Early Archaic Age</i> , 1995². • V. Du Sablon, <i>Le système conceptuel de l'ordre du monde dans la pensée grecque à l'époque archaïque</i> , 2014. • J. M. Foley, <i>A companion to ancient epic</i> , 2005. • Lord, <i>The Singer of Tales</i> , 1960. • G. Nagy, <i>Le Meilleur des Achéens. La fabrique du héros dans la poésie grecque archaïque</i> , 1994 = <i>The Best of the Achaeans. Concepts of the Hero in Archaic Greek Poetry</i> , 1999². • G. Nagy, <i>La poésie en acte : Homère et autres chants</i> , 2000 = <i>Poetry as Performance</i> , 1996. • M. L. West, <i>The Making of the Iliad. Disquisition and Analytical Commentary</i> , 2011. • M. L. West, <i>The East Face of Helicon. West Asiatic Elements in Greek Poetry and Myth</i> , 1999.
Other infos	Generative artificial intelligence (AI) must be used responsibly and in accordance with the practices of academic and scientific integrity. As scientific integrity requires that sources be cited, the use of AI must always be reported. The use of artificial intelligence for tasks where it is explicitly forbidden will be considered as cheating.
Faculty or entity in charge	EHAC

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Certificat universitaire en littérature	LITT9CE	5		
Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Oriental Studies	HORI2M	5		
Master [120] in History	HIST2M	5		
Master [120] in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR2M	5		
Certificat universitaire en langue, littérature et civilisation latines	ELAT9CE	5		
Master [60] in Ancient Languages and Literatures : Classics	CLAS2M1	5		
Master [60] in Ancient Languages and Literatures : Oriental Studies	HORI2M1	5		
Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Classics	CLAS2M	5		
Master [120] of Education, Section 4 : Ancient Greek and Latin	CLAS2M4	5		