

COL 243  
Junior Colloquium: Antiquity

*Gods and Mortals*

“Antiquity” is the name given to the period traditionally covered by the fall term Junior Colloquium in the College of Letters. This is a very broad term when you consider that our readings range across the languages and lands of Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy and the Mediterranean for more than 2500 years (from 2200 BCE to 400 CE). What, apart from the myopia of later generations, could lump together so much diversity of experience and landscape under one heading? Perhaps we can overcome the mischief of labels by treating the texts and cultures that we encounter with respect for their varieties, and with the understanding that they did not experience themselves or each other as “antique”, but as a living past that spoke powerfully in their present. Since our theme is the relationships of divinities and human beings, or in the idiom of Homer, immortals and mortals, we will be exploring a crucial subject to the people who created the texts that we will read. In following the theme of gods and mortals we hope to be able to see not only what mattered to the peoples of the ancient Near East and Mediterranean, but how things mattered, and why.

Textbook

Especially important for context when covering such a long period, the textbook that we have ordered provides succinct but essential historical background for the works we will discuss. It is Roots of the Western Tradition A Short History of the Ancient World (7<sup>th</sup> edn.) by C. Warren Hollister and Guy MacLean Rogers, available from Broad Street Books. You are urged to obtain a copy, as we will not spend time in class on the basic information that the textbook covers.

Books

All works (except *Gilgamesh*) not otherwise indicated have been ordered for the course at Broad Street Books. Handouts are indicated by the letter (H) on the syllabus.

Papers

Papers are due on the day and at the time indicated. There are no extensions. Late papers will not receive comments. There will be three papers, due in duplicate copies, to be turned into our respective boxes in the COL at 3 pm on the date due. Please staple and number the pages of your papers.

Deadlines:     Sept. 28 (4-5 pages) at 3 pm  
                  Oct. 28 (4-5 pages) at 3 pm  
                  Dec. 2 (4-5 pages) at 3 pm

***Ancient Mesopotamia (2200-1200 BCE)***

Sept. 6 *Gilgamesh* (1700-1200 BCE) (trans. Mitchell)  
Hollister, *Roots*, chs. 1 and 2

***Iron Age Greece (1200-500 BCE)***

Sept. 8 Homer, *Iliad* (700s? BCE), (trans. Lattimore) books 1-3  
Hollister, *Roots*, p. 67 (“Ancient Greece: An Overview”) and ch. 5

Sept. 13 Homer, *Iliad*, books 16, 19-21

Sept. 15 Homer, *Iliad*, books 22-24

***Ancient Palestine/Israel***

Sept. 20 Bible: Genesis (Revised Standard Version) (1-3, 11-25:11)  
Hollister, *Roots*, ch. 4

Sept. 22 Bible: Genesis (cont.); Exodus (1-21, 32-34)

Sept. 27 Bible: Song of Solomon

**Sept. 28 First paper** (4-5 pp.): 2 copies (each stapled) to our COL boxes by 3 p.m.

***Classical Athens (525-325 BCE)***

Sept. 29 Aeschylus (525-456 BCE), *The Oresteia* (458 BCE) (Agamemnon)  
(trans. Fagles)  
Hollister, *Roots*, ch. 6, 9

Oct. 4 Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (The Libation Bearers, The Eumenides)

Oct. 6 (H) Thucydides (460-400 BCE), *History of the Peloponnesian War*,  
Bk. 2 (excerpts), Bk. 7  
Hollister, *Roots*, ch. 7 and pp. 115-16

Oct. 11 Plato (429-347 BCE), *Symposium* (trans. Woodruff)  
Hollister, *Roots*, ch. 8

Oct. 13 Plato, *Symposium*

Fall Break

Oct 20 Plato, *Republic*, excerpts from Bks. 2, 3, & 10 on poetry (in *Classical Literary Criticism*, 2000 edn.)

Oct. 25 Aristotle (384-322 BCE), *Poetics* (in *Classical Literary Criticism*)

Oct. 27 Aristotle, *Poetics*

**Oct. 28**      **2nd paper** (4-5 pp.): 2 copies (each stapled) to our COL boxes by 3 p.m

***The Roman Empire under Augustus*** (31 BCE-14 CE)

Nov. 1      Virgil (70-19 BCE), *Aeneid* (27-19 BCE), Bks 1-3 (trans. Mandelbaum)  
Hollister, *Roots*, p. 167 (“Ancient Rome: An Overview) and ch. 12

Nov. 3      Virgil, *Aeneid*, Bks 4-6

Nov. 8      Virgil, *Aeneid*, Bks 8, 11-12

Nov. 10      Ovid (43 BCE-17 CE), *Metamorphoses* (trans. Humphries)  
Bk. 1 (all), bk. 2 (pp. 28-40), bk. 3 (pp. 61-64, 67-73), bk. 6 (pp. 129-33),

Nov. 15      Ovid, *Metamorphoses*  
Bk. 6, (pp.143-52), bk. 8 (pp. 187-90), bk. 10 (all), bk. 11 (pp. 259-61),  
bk. 15 (pp. 365-92)

***The Later Roman Empire*** (14 – 400 CE)

Nov. 17      Bible: Gospel of Mark (New Testament)  
Hollister, *Roots*, ch. 13

Nov. 22      Bible: Gospel of John (New Testament)

Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29      Bible: Paul’s Letter to the Romans, 1-15 (New Testament)

Dec. 1      Bible: First Letter of John (New Testament)

**Dec. 2**      **3rd paper** (4-5 pp.): 2 copies (each stapled) to our COL boxes by 3 p.m.

Dec. 6      (H) The Martyrdom of Perpetua (c. 203 CE)

Dec. 8      (H) Gregory of Nyssa (335-395 CE), *From Glory to Glory*, excerpts  
(trans. Musurillo)  
Hollister, *Roots*, ch. 14