

CLST 117: The Ancient Legacy  
CRN 42113  
MTWRF 12:00-12:50 pm, HU 103  
Course Syllabus

## **I. Overview**

In this class, you will learn:

- 1) Some “facts” about ancient Greece and Rome – their geographical and temporal extent, their literature and culture, and a little of their languages.
- 2) Popular and academic ways of thinking about/recreating/using the Greco-Roman past.

In order to learn and think about these subjects, you will be reading English translations of Greek and Latin literature as well as modern academic writings (some good and some bad), and viewing certain examples of modern cinematic recreations of Greece and Rome. You will also write about what you learn on a daily basis.

The course fulfills 5 credits of Humanities GUR.

## **II. Instructor**

Name: Akihiko Watanabe  
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Phone: (360) 650-4854.  
Office: HU 247.  
Office Hours: MTW 9-10 or by appointment

## **III. Textbooks**

The following textbooks are required for this class:

Goldhill, Samuel *Love, Sex & Tragedy: How the Ancient World Shapes Our Lives*.  
Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Knox, Bernard (ed.) *The Norton Book of Classical Literature*. New York and London:  
Norton, 1993.

Watanabe, Akihiko (ed.) *CLST 117: The Ancient Legacy*. Western Washington  
University, 2007 (class manual).

In addition to being assigned for reading on a daily basis, these textbooks will also be regularly referenced and discussed in class – so please do bring them to class meetings.

The following three films will also be shown in snippets and discussed in class:

*Troy* (Wolfgang Petersen dir., 2004)  
*300* (Zack Snyder dir., 2007)  
*Gladiator* (Ridley Scott dir., 2000)

## IV. Requirements

1. Daily assignments. Almost every day, I will propose two to three questions for discussion. Your assignment is to write up the answers to these questions and send them to me through digital dropbox in blackboard. Expected length (in terms of word numbers) of your answers will be indicated when the questions are announced.

Grading will be on a scale of 1 to 10, with 0 for failure to turn anything in (so it pays to turn in whatever you have!).

The assignments will be posted as pdf files on blackboard under “documents.” **However, these documents can be downloaded only with a password. Password for the daily assignment will be announced each day in class – if you are not present, you can get it from me only with a documented excuse.**

Daily assignments must be turned in by 11:00 AM on the day they are due for you to get full credit. Thereafter, 10% of your grade for that assignment will be subtracted for every day that it is late.

2. Four essays. Essays, each containing at least 900 words, or 3 pages, double spaced, 12 points will be due by midnight on the following Fridays: 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/30. In them, you will be asked to summarize what you have learned and thought about in class since the last essay was due (or since the beginning of the class, in the case of the first essay). More specific topics or guidelines will be announced a few days in advance.

3. Presentation. During dead week, you will be sharing with your classmates one of your four essays. You can decide on which essay to present, or if you wish I can choose that for you.

Notes on written assignments (essays and daily assignments):

- 1) What you turn in may be quoted and discussed in class (as positive, not negative, examples).
- 2) Evidence of plagiarism (word-by-word similarity with your classmates’ assignments or with writings found on the web or in printed literature) may result in a 0 for the assignment in which it is found.

Grade distribution is as follows:

Daily assignments	50%
Essays (x 4)	40%
Presentation	10%

## V. Course Schedule

Week 1 (9/26~28) - *The Human Legacy*

Wednesday – Discussion: “What is classics?” For Thursday: Get textbooks, read Knox 23-26.

Thursday - Discussion on classics continued. For Friday: Read Goldhill I.1 *The Perfect Body*, turn in discussion questions.

Friday – Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Monday: Read Goldhill I.4 *His and Hers – A Love Story?* and turn in discussion questions.

Week 2 (10/1~5) - The Human Legacy and Troy

Monday - Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Tuesday: Read Goldhill I.5 *Greek Love* and turn in discussion questions.

Tuesday - Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Wednesday: Read Goldhill I.7 *Longing for Sappho* and turn in discussion questions.

Wednesday - Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Thursday: Read "Troy and the Role of the Historical Advisor" in course manual and turn in discussion questions.

Thursday – *Troy* and discussion. For Friday: Read "The *Iliad* and the Cinema" in course manual and turn in discussion questions.

Friday – *Troy* and discussion. For Monday: Read Knox 64-68 (Hector and Andromache) and turn in discussion questions.

Week 3 (10/8~12) - The Human Legacy and Troy continued, first essay.

Monday - *Troy* and discussion. For Tuesday: Read "The Fate of Troy" in course manual and turn in discussion questions.

Tuesday - *Troy* and discussion. For Wednesday: Read Knox pp. 159-163 (Odysseus in the land of the dead) and pp. 205-207 (Archilochus 3, 9, 10, 19) and turn in discussion questions.

Wednesday - *Troy* and discussion. For Thursday: Read Knox 87-112 (Achilles and Priam) and turn in discussion questions.

Thursday - *Troy* and discussion.

Friday – No class, **first essay due**. For Monday: Read Goldhill III.1 *Does Politics Need History?* and III.2 *Athenian Democracy – Changing the Map*.

Week 4 (10/15~19) – The Democratic Legacy.

Monday – Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Tuesday: – Read Goldhill III.3 *The Good Citizen* and turn in discussion questions.

Tuesday – Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Wednesday: Read Goldhill III.4 *The Critics of Democracy – Experts and Education* and III.5 *A Question of Betrayal* and turn in discussion questions.

Wednesday - Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Thursday: Read Knox 285-299 (Xerxes and Demaratus, Thermopylae, and Themistocles and Athens) and turn in discussion questions.

Thursday – *300* and discussion. For Friday: Read Knox 335-343 (The Athenians, A Hostile Estimate and Pericles' Funeral Speech) and turn in discussion questions.

Friday – *300* and discussion. For Monday: Read Knox 343-356 (The Plague in Athens, The Melian Dialogue and Revolution in Corcyra) and turn in discussion questions.

Week 5 (10/22~26) – The Democratic Legacy and 300, second essay.

Monday – *300* and discussion. For Tuesday: Read Knox 359-378 (Antigone) and turn in discussion questions.

Tuesday – 300 and discussion. For Wednesday: Read Knox 380-393 and turn in discussion questions.

Wednesday – 300 and discussion. For Thursday: Read Knox 471-476 (Lysistrata and the Magistrate) and turn in discussion questions.

Thursday – 300 and discussion. For Friday: Turn in second essay.

Friday – **Second essay due.** For Monday: Read Knox pp. 827-833 (Marcus Aurelius' Meditations).

Week 6 (10/29~11/2) – The Imperial Legacy and Gladiator.

Monday - *Gladiator* and discussion. For Tuesday: Read Knox 786-793 (Tacitus: The Death of Agrippina) and turn in discussion questions.

Tuesday - *Gladiator* and discussion. For Wednesday: Read "*Gladiator* in Historical Perspective" in class manual and turn in discussion questions.

Wednesday - *Gladiator* and discussion. For Thursday: Read "The Pedant Goes to Hollywood: The Role of the Academic Consultant" in class manual and turn in discussion questions.

Thursday - *Gladiator* and discussion. For Friday: Read Goldhill IV.3 *The Gladiator and the Baying Crowd – 'At My Command, Unleash Hell'* and turn in discussion questions.

Friday - *Gladiator* and discussion. For Monday: Read "*Gladiator* and Contemporary American Society" in class manual and turn in discussion questions.

Week 7 (11/5~9) – The Imperial Legacy and Gladiator continued, third essay.

Monday - *Gladiator* and discussion. For Tuesday: Read "The Augustan History: Commodus" in class manual and turn in discussion questions.

Tuesday - *Gladiator* and discussion. For Wednesday: Read Goldhill II.2 *Superstars of the Flesh* and turn in discussion questions.

Wednesday - Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources. For Thursday: Read Goldhill II.4 *What's Athens to Jerusalem?* and turn in discussion questions.

Thursday - Discussion on Goldhill and selected primary sources.

Friday – **Third essay due.** For Tuesday next week: Study *Latin: An Intensive Course* "Introduction" and "Unit One" (up to pp. 29).

Week 8 (11/12~16) - Crash Course in Greek and Latin.

Monday - Veterans' Day, no class.

Tuesday - Latin. For Wednesday: Turn in Unit One - Preliminary Exercises I A-E (p. 32).

Wednesday - Latin. For Thursday: Turn in Unit One - Preliminary Exercises II A-B.

Thursday - Latin. For Friday: Turn in Unit One - Drill I (pp. 31-32) and study *Greek* "Chapter I" and "Chapter II" in class manual.

Friday - Greek. For Monday next week: Turn in *Beginner's Grammar of the Greek New Testament* Lesson IV exercises (p. 27) in class manual.

Week 9 (11/19~23) Crash Course Continued.

Monday – Greek. For Monday next week: Turn in Lesson V and VI exercises (pp. 30, 32) in class manual.

Tuesday – No Class.

Wednesday~Friday - Thanksgiving, no class.

Week 10 (11/26~30) - *Classics as a Profession*.

Monday – Greek. For Tuesday: Turn in Lesson VIII exercises (p. 36) and read “Who Killed Homer - and Why?” pp. 81-128 in course manual.

Tuesday – The Yale Codex and discussion. For Wednesday: Read “Who Killed Homer - and Why?” pp. 128-159 in course manual and turn in discussion questions.

Wednesday – The Greco-Roman Novel in Modern Japan and discussion.

Thursday – No class.

Friday – **Fourth essay due.**

Week 11 (12/3-7) - *Student Presentations*.

Monday – Details TBA.

Tuesday – Details TBA.

Wednesday - Details TBA.

Thursday - Details TBA.

Friday - Details TBA.