Love and War in Early Greek Thought

Dr. Gabriel Danzig

Department of Classical Studies

In this course we will investigate the themes of love and war, the human and the divine, mortality and glory, cowardice and bravery, character and relationships, justice and the family as they are portrayed in the earliest documents of western civilization aside from the Bible: the Homeric Poems.

There will be a weekly quiz on the reading material, and two exams on the class discussions.

Week one: Introduction to the Homeric poems.

Week two: The Iliad Book one: Achilles and Agamemnon.

Week two : Books 1-2: Men and gods.

Week three: Books 3-4: The Trojan world.

Week four Books 5-6: The Trojan world continued.

Week five: Books 7-9: The embassy to Achilles.

Week six: Books 16 and 18: The death of Patroclos.

Week seven: Books 21-24: The death of Hector.

Week eight: The Odyssey books 1-2: The journeys begin.

Week nine: The Odyssey books 3-5: Visiting old friends.

Week ten: The Odyssey books 6-9: The Island of the Phaiakians.

Week eleven: The Odyssey books 10-12: Adventure stories

Week twelve: The Odyssey books 18-20: The beggar at home.

Week thirteen: The Odyssey books 21-24: Family reunion.