

The Man of Many Troubles: A Graphic *Odyssey*

IDH2930 (Spring 2024)

Course Number 29888 | Section Number 2420 | M 9 (4:05pm-4:55pm) | Honors Village 114 | 1 credit

Instructor: [Anthony Smith](#), Department of Classics (a.smith2@ufl.edu) | Student Hours: WF 3 (9:35am-10:25am), Dauer 125E

Course Description and Objectives

Homer's *Odyssey*, a story of homecoming for Odysseus, one of the heroes of the (in)famous Trojan War, has solidified itself in the literary and cultural conscious of American society. Despite the work's millennia-old tradition, the *Odyssey* has much to offer to the modern reader in its numerous (re)translations and adaptations. Every translation has an inherent goal to reach specific audiences through its language register, genre, etc. In this course, we will read Gareth Hinds' 2010 graphic novel reimagination of Homer's *Odyssey*. Through a close reading of the visual and literary aspects of the story in comparison to popular verse English translations of the work, we will examine the unique medium of the graphic novel as well as compare it to children's literature versions of stories in the *Odyssey*. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- identify the general plot, major themes, and key characters of, as well as modern reception and versions of, Homer's *Odyssey*.
- recognize the elements of ancient epic that have become a part of modern language, culture, and media.
- reflect on the act of translation and consider how a translator's chosen genre and contemporary society can affect the original story.
- communicate the differences among the storytelling media of verse translation, graphic novel, and children's literature.
- express their personal reading of a passage from the *Odyssey* through written and/or artistic means.

Content Notice: Homer's *Odyssey* addresses topics such as love, death, sex, and violence through the lens of the millennia-old Ancient Greek society that created the original story. Hinds' graphic novel translation offers vivid depictions of love, death, sex, and violence as well. Students should be aware of this and approach each section with a critical eye. If a student wishes to receive individual content warnings per chapter, they should contact the instructor ASAP.

Course Supplies

Required Textbook

- Hinds, Gareth. 2010. *The Odyssey*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. ISBN: 9780763642686.

Recommended Textbook(s)

- Wilson, Emily. 2018. *Homer: The Odyssey*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. ISBN: 9780393356250.
- or any other prose or poetry translation of the *Odyssey* from the 20th or 21st century available online or in paperback/hardcover

Technology

Students will need access to Canvas and may sometimes need the use of a cell phone, tablet, or laptop in class (with advance notice given).

Other Supplies

To remove any prohibition of cost from the final project, students will not be graded on the quality of the materials used nor their artistic abilities when making their stories, but students **will need** at least paper and pens or pencils to write their stories (see more below).

Course Communications

The instructor's student hours are WF 3 (9:35am-10:25am) in Dauer 125E. Students may also request an appointment outside of these times in person or via Zoom.

The best method of communication is via Canvas Mail. If an email message (to a.smith2@ufl.edu) is required, please put IDH2930 in the subject line. Expect a response within 24-48 hours (but not over the weekend or on holidays).

Course Assignments

The course will be graded through a 1000-point model:

300	Attendance and Participation
300	Reading Journals
100	Project, Workshop Draft
200	Project, Final Draft
100	Project, Presentation

Attendance and Participation: There are 14 in-person meetings (in the classroom or elsewhere) – students should arrive to class prepared to participate in the discussion-based meetings. Only approved excused absences will be allowed. Please consult [university policy](#) and inform the instructor ahead of time for excused absences, whenever possible.

Reading Journals: For reading assignments from the *Odyssey*, students must complete guided reading journals to track the major characters. Details can be found on Canvas. A variety of media for these journals will be allowed.

Final Project: Students will reimagine a short passage from a section in *Odyssey* books 9-12 through their chosen medium aimed at an audience of middle-school or younger children (either a picture book or a short story for children). Regardless of medium, students will be creating physical story books. Grading will not consider the quality of materials or the quality of the artistry, but the books at a minimum need to be handwritten (and hand drawn) on paper.

As part of this assignment, students will participate in a **Workshop** where the instructor and peers will go over the **Draft**. The **Final Draft** will be due to the instructor at the start of class during the final week when students will also give an oral **Presentation** about their project. The length of the final presentation is dependent on course enrollment.

Course Policies

- All students are expected to complete 100% of the required course activities.
- If a student misses an assignment for an excused absence (having provided the appropriate documentation), they will be expected to make it up in a timely manner after contacting the instructor with appropriate documentation. The responsibility of communication lies with the student.
- Students should check Canvas (Announcements and their Inbox) regularly and respond, when needed, within a reasonable time.
- Cell phone use in class is not allowed unless expressly stated for a class activity. Students are welcome to take important calls in the hallway outside of the classroom. Cell phone use in the classroom will result in deducted points in the Participation category.
- Earbuds or headphones are never allowed unless an accommodation has been granted. An automatic 0 for the day's Participation will be considered.
- Students are allowed two no-questions-asked extensions as long as they're requested at least 12 hours in advance.

Grading Scale

900-1000 (A), 4.00
800-899 (B), 3.00

700-799 (C), 2.00

600-699 (D), 1.00
0-599 (E), 0.00

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The University of Florida acknowledges the Timucua, Seminole, and all other Indigenous peoples who live, have lived, and recognize their ancestral connection to these lands since time immemorial. We further acknowledge the enslaved peoples, primarily of African descent, whose labor was exploited to fund the construction of the East Florida Seminary School, the historical forerunner institution to the University of Florida.

To learn more about the significance of the Indigenous peoples in this region and throughout the nation, we encourage all to inquire more at [Know the History of the Land you Inhabit](#) and explore native-land.ca for additional insight. Additional sites for further education can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

UF Policies

Classroom Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (or call 352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If there are any accessibility issues with the Canvas course page or course files, please inform the instructor as soon as possible so that a correction can be made.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available [here](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or [here](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The [Honor Code](#) specifies several behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this course.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may **not** publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not

include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is **prohibited**. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student [Honor Code](#) and Student Conduct Code.

Getting Help

Technical Difficulties

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk [online](#), via phone at (352) 392-4357, or via walk-in at HUB 132.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor **within 24 hours** of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a makeup.

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit [website](#) or call (352) 392-1575 or the University Police Department at (352) 392-1111. Call 911 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): For the Student Health Care Center, call (352) 392-1161.
- University Police Department: Call (352) 392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies) or visit [website](#).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call (352) 733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608.

Academic Resources

- Career Resource Center: Visit the office at the Reitz Union or call (352) 392-1601. Reach out for career assistance and counseling. Visit [website](#).
- Library Support: Visit [website](#). Reach out for various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Visit the office at Broward Hall or call (352) 392-2010 or (352) 392-6420. Reach out for general study skills and tutoring. Visit [website](#).
- Writing Studio: Visit the office at Tigert Hall 302 or call (352) 846-1138. Reach out for help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. Visit [website](#).
- Student Complaints Campus: Visit [website](#).

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Selected readings will be posted to Canvas in advance. The listed page numbers refer to the Hinds edition of the *Odyssey*.

When	What	Where
Jan. 8	Introduction	Hon. Vill. 114
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	NO CLASS
Jan. 22	Books 1-4 (pp. 1-46 + selected readings)	Hon. Vill. 114
Jan. 29	Books 5-8 (pp. 47-89)	Hon. Vill. 114
Feb. 5	Children's Literature (selected readings)	TBD
Feb. 12	Books 9-12 (pp. 90-150)	Hon. Vill. 114
Feb. 19	The Act of Translation (selected readings)	Hon. Vill. 114
Feb. 26	Books 13-16 (pp. 151-173)	Hon. Vill. 114
Mar. 4	Workshop (draft due)	Hon. Vill. 114
Mar. 11	Spring Break	NO CLASS
Mar. 18	Books 17-20 (pp. 174-202)	Hon. Vill. 114
Mar. 25	The <i>Odyssey's</i> Afterlife (selected readings) The Graphic Novel's Nature (selected readings)	Hon. Vill. 114
Apr. 1	Books 21-24 (pp. 203-249)	Hon. Vill. 114
Apr. 8	Workshop (bring questions and materials)	Hon. Vill. 114
Apr. 15	Debate (selected readings)	Hon. Vill. 114
Apr. 22	Presentations	Hon. Vill. 114

Students will be presented well in advance with discussion questions to consider for each primary source reading and, usually, a reading guide for any mandatory secondary readings. However, this course will be student-driven; therefore, students are expected to come to class prepared to ask questions and discuss about any element of the readings which intrigued them, puzzled them, etc.