Diane Thompson
Memories of Troy
OLLI, Fall 2013

Week 1. The Bronze Age; Troy, the Hittites, and Mycenaean Greece; the Dark Age, the Troy Cycle

- Eden and Troy
- Troy Stories in Antiquity and the Middle Ages
- The discovery of Troy in modern times
- Controversy about Troy
- Mycenaean and Hittite Bronze Age
- Timelines of Troy and Mycenae
- Some images of the ancient ruins of the cities of the Trojan War
- The Sea Peoples
- Greece and Troy in the Dark Age
- The Troy Cycle

Relevant books dealing with Week 1 material: (all dates are of recent editions, not necessarily original publication)


Thompson, Diane. The Trojan War: Literature and Legends from the Bronze Age to the Present, 2nd ed. 2013.


Week 2: Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

Homer’s Memories of the Bronze Age

Oral Composition

The *Iliad*

Overview

Main Characters: Greeks, Trojans, Gods

*Iliad* book 1

The rest of the story

The *Odyssey*

Overview

Main Characters: Humans, Dead, Gods, Monsters

Odysseus

Summary of the story

Women in the *Odyssey*

Relevant books dealing with Week 2 material: (all dates are of recent editions, not necessarily original publication)


Week 3: Troy Continues: Greek Dramas, Virgil’s *Aeneid* and Dictys and Dares

- Greek Dramas redefine Homeric characters
- Three important Greek Troy Dramas
  - *Iphigenia in Aulis* by Euripides
  - *Agamemnon* by Aeschylus
  - *The Trojan Women* by Euripides
- [20 minutes from film *The Trojan Women* by Michael Cacoyannis: the argument of Hecuba and Extant Greek Dramas about TroyHelen]
- Augustus Caesar and the Roman Empire
- Virgil’s *Aeneid* transforms Homer’s Trojans into Roman winners
- Character of Aeneas
- Synopsis of the *Aeneid*
- Aeneas a man of sorrows and a new kind of hero

Transmission of Troy Stories to the Christian Middle Ages

- Dictys and Dares
- Non-Homeric tradition for Achilles
- Non-Homeric origins of Troilus

Relevant books dealing with Week 3 material: (all dates are of recent editions, not necessarily original publication)

Greek Dramas:


Virgil:


Camps, W. A. *An Introduction to Virgil’s Aeneid*, 1969.


Dictys and Dares and Transmission of Troy to the European Middle Ages:


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Week 4: The Importance of Troy Stories in the Christian Middle Ages

The Roman de Troie: four pairs of doomed lovers

- Jason and Medea
- Paris and Helen
- Troilus and Briseida (she is new here)
- Achilles and Polyxena

Guido’s History of the Destruction of Troy

Boccaccio’s Il Filostrato

Chaucer’s Troilus and Criseyde

- Troilus and Troy
- Boethian influences
- Good and bad Venus
- Fate and Free Will—Troy must fall
- Courtly Love
- The Plan of Troilus and Criseyde: Books 1-5
- The Heavenly Spheres

Henryson’s Troilus and Cresseid

Shakespeare’s Troilus and Cressida

Relevant books dealing with Week 4 material: (all dates are of recent editions, not necessarily original publication)

The Romances:


Guido delle Colonna:


Cioffari, Vincent. *Fortune and Fate from Democritus to St. Thomas Aquinas*, 1935.


Chaucer:


