

COMMENTARY PROJECT

ASSIGNMENT: Produce a literal translation, artistic translation, recording, and commentary on a short (~20 line) episode in Homer's *Iliad* that you find personally and/or intellectually compelling. The translation and commentary will be "webified" and placed on-line, a resource and κτῆμα ἐς αἰεὶ for students in the future.¹

DUE DATE: various (see description below)

PROCESS:**DUE DATES**

- 1) **Select a brief episode (~20 vv.) that we will not be reading this semester in class (and preferably that does not appear in Brenner's *Iliad*)** that you find personally and/or intellectually compelling and that you deem worthy of commentary. Make certain that you thoroughly understand the Greek text of the passage and create a translation of the passage for your use (to be submitted with commentary at conclusion of project). Please feel free to discuss possible passages and your literal translation with me as soon and as often as you would like.
- 2) **Inform me of your selection by emailing (as an attachment) an approximately 100 word description** of your project, including what aspects of the passage motivate your interest. This description should include at least one word typed in Unicode Greek (for information on typing Unicode Greek, see "Formalities" below). I will provide feedback or guidance as appropriate and may suggest we meet to discuss your project. **MARCH 23**
- 3) **Scan** your passage, noting especially any unusual metrical effects. Links to digital texts are available on the "Digital Resources" page of the course website. I suggest that you print out the passage and scan as you would on a metrical worksheet. **Submit this sheet.** **MARCH 26**
- 4) Once you know how your passage should sound, begin memorizing it. Once you have memorized the passage, record yourself reciting it, incorporating meter and stress to the best of your ability. I suggest using the free program *Audacity* (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>), which you can use this program on your own computer, if you have a computer with a microphone; otherwise you should use one in the Language Learning Center in Stokes 205). If you have or anticipate any technical difficulties, please let me know as soon as possible. If you like, you are encouraged to recite some or all of our passage during ORALitTea '07 (Oral Recitation of Ancient Languages; 4/19 at 7:30 in Bryn Mawr's Quita Woodward Room) **Email me** your sound file or submit it to me on a CD or drop it in my network dropbox (bmulliga). **N.B.** You must email me a sound file (e.g. MP3) not the source file made by the audio program. For example, if you use *Audacity* to record your recitation, you need to export the recording as an MP3 (File -> "Export As MP3..."). **APRIL 11**
- 5) **Perform a formal analysis** of the passage according to the principles in handout "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About a Poem..." You need not formally write up your detailed findings, but they will influence how you translate and comment on your passage. If you have any questions about the passage's Greek or poetic aspects, make an appointment to meet with me.
- 6) **Write a ~2 page descriptive analysis** that summarizes the narrative and stylistic elements you identified during your formal analysis. This section will help frame the important elements of your commentary. **Submit a printed copy and email as an attachment.** **APRIL 27**
(OVER)

¹ Thuc. 1.22.

7) **Compose an artistic translation** that captures the style and meaning you identified in your descriptive analysis. **Submit a printed copy and email as an attachment.** If you referred to other translations while crafting your own, please include photocopies of those passages when you submit your translation. APRIL 27

8) **Write a 3-to-6-page commentary** on your passage in which you explicate notable grammatical, stylistic (e.g. poetic devices, structure, narrative devices, etc.), and interpretative elements in the passage. A successful commentary will include a balance of all these elements, providing critical linguistic information to enable a student reader to apprehend the passage, as well as literary and historical commentary to better understand the significance and meaning of the passage. You should consult other scholarly commentaries while working on your commentary, and these should be included in your bibliography, with citations as appropriate. You should also consult the TLG (*Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*) to compile comparative information about key words and phrases in your passage. **Submit a printed copy and email as an attachment.** APRIL 27

FORMALITIES: 6–9 pages, comprised of: literal and artistic translation; ~2 page descriptive analysis; 3-6 page commentary; bibliography; Times or Times New Roman 12 pt. font; top and bottom margins: 1"; side margins: 1.25" ("MS Word default"); footnotes if applicable (not endnotes); **Follow the style guidelines (for quotations, citations, footnotes, etc.) in *The Chicago Manual of Style*** (a summary is available on the course website on the "Digital Resources" page). Greek words should be typed in Unicode Greek (not beta-code or Latin transliteration) using a commonly available font (e.g. Arial, Cardo, Gentium, Lucida Grande, New Athena Unicode, Times New Roman); information on typing Greek can be found on the "Writing Resources" section of the website's "Digital Resources" page.

MEMENTO: you are striving to produce a thorough and useful commentary for intermediate-level readers of the *Iliad* that will be "webified" and reside on the Classics Department's website.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me with questions.