

哈佛在线课程《古希腊英雄》重启第二季，欢迎大家踊跃参加~~~

[Register now for the second session of The Ancient Greek Hero at edX!](#)



Dear Readers,

Here's a recent blurb about the second session of HeroesX.

The Ancient Greek Hero is an online educational project created by Gregory Nagy (Harvard University) and offered through edX/HarvardX. While many MOOCs focus on lecture capture and certificates, this project seeks to integrate community and content around the figure of the ancient Greek hero, a subject that Nagy has been researching and teaching at Harvard for almost four decades ([learn more about *The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours*](#)). Through the HarvardX project Nagy and his team foster a global and ongoing dialogue where participants can engage with ancient readings and with each other in a meaningful way. It offers access to world-class content including specially prepared primary texts, secondary texts, video dialogues, audio downloads, images and more—all free, and all designed to be equally accessible and transformative for a wide audience. Since the project was launched in March 2013, *The Ancient Greek Hero* has enrolled over 36,000 participants from over 170 countries. Participants in the inaugural session completed the challenging material at promising rates. More importantly, participants describe being transformed by the content, the community, and the rare experience of “reading closely”.

The second session runs from September 3 through December 31, 2013. New participants are welcome at any time. [Register now!](#)

[Watch Nagy's video introduction to HeroesX.](#)

Claudia Filos

Editor for Curricular and Community Development, The Ancient Greek Hero

CB22x

The Ancient Greek Hero

Dear Readers,

On behalf of Gregory Nagy, the Board of Readers, and our whole community, we want to thank you for your enrollment in the first session of CB22x "The Ancient Greek Hero"!

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Our goal from the start was to foster a global and ongoing dialogue where participants could engage with ancient texts and with each other in a meaningful way. Since launching the project in March 2013, we have enrolled over 36,000 independent learners from over 170 countries. We are inspired by the dedication of our participants and the supportive community that has developed over these few months. While we still have a great deal to learn and refine, we are encouraged by the [feedback we are receiving](#).

We also want to invite you to [join the second session of "The Ancient Greek Hero"](#), which starts now and runs through December. This second session will feature the same core content, but with upgrades in a few key areas.

Community Support -- We are synchronizing the schedules and content of the edX project with the related courses at Harvard. That means all the members of our community can read together and interact through the edX Discussion Board. And in the Discussion Board you will find more Community TAs and Mentors to answer questions and provide feedback.

Flexible Pacing -- While we suggest a schedule that synchronizes with the Harvard course, all the content will be available just a few days into the project. Since you can truly set your own pace, "The Ancient Greek Hero" can fit into your busy schedule.

Regardless of your participation level in the first session, we invite you to register for "The Ancient Greek Hero" now! If you were not able to participate fully the first time around, please join us as we engage with these timeless and transformative texts. If you achieved a Certificate of Mastery, we encourage you to stay connected, rethink your readings, and delve deeper into texts that reward a lifetime of study. We promise, Hour 24 is just the beginning.

All the best,

Leonard Muellner

Chair of the Board of Readers, The Ancient Greek Hero

Claudia Filos

Editor for Curricular and Community Development, The Ancient Greek Hero

P.S. Certificate-seekers who earned an average of 50% or higher on the hourly assessments can download their PDF certificate from the student dashboard on <http://edx.org>.

COURSE DETAIL



The Ancient Greek Hero

A survey of ancient Greek literature focusing on classical concepts of the hero and how they can inform our understanding of the human condition.

ABOUT THIS COURSE

What is it to be human, and how can ancient concepts of the heroic and anti-heroic inform our understanding of the human condition? That question is at the core of *The Ancient Greek Hero*, which introduces (or reintroduces) students to the great texts of classical Greek culture by focusing on concepts of the Hero in an engaging, highly comparative way.

The classical Greeks' concepts of Heroes and the "heroic" were very different from the way we understand the term today. In this course, students analyze Greek heroes and anti-heroes in their own historical contexts, in order to gain an understanding of these concepts as they were originally understood while also learning how they can inform our understanding of the human condition in general.

In Greek tradition, a hero was a human, male or female, of the remote past, who was endowed with superhuman abilities by virtue of being descended from an immortal god. Rather than being paragons of virtue, as heroes are viewed in many modern cultures, ancient Greek heroes had all of the qualities and faults of their fellow humans, but on a much larger scale. Further, despite their mortality, heroes, like the gods, were objects of cult worship – a dimension which is also explored in depth in the course.

The original sources studied in this course include the Homeric *Iliad* and *Odyssey*; tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides; songs of Sappho and Pindar; dialogues of Plato; historical texts of Herodotus; and more, including the intriguing but rarely studied dialogue "On Heroes" by Philostratus. All works are presented in English translation, with attention to the subtleties of the original Greek. These original sources are frequently supplemented both by ancient art and by modern comparanda, including opera and cinema (from Jacques Offenbach's opera *Tales of Hoffman* to Ridley Scott's science fiction classic *Blade Runner*).

The true hero of the course is the logos ("word") of reasoned expression, as activated by Socratic dialogue. The logos of dialogue requires both careful thought and close (or "slow") reading, which is a core skill taught in this class. The course begins by considering the heroes of Homer's epics and ends with Plato's memories of the final days of Socrates -- memories which can only be fully understood by a reader who has gained a thorough comprehension of the ancient Greek hero in all his or her various manifestations.

Using modern technology and engaging texts, *The Ancient Greek Hero* provides students who have no previous background in classical Greek civilization with a fully engaging and immediately accessible introduction to the most beautiful moments in this ancient literature, its myths, and its ritual practices.

Before your course starts, try the new edX Demo where you can explore the fun, interactive learning environment and virtual labs. [Learn more.](#)

Earn academic credit for this course through [Harvard Extension School](#): Academic credit can be earned for this course by completing additional work through Harvard Extension School in conjunction with the course materials on edX. [Learn more...](#)

Ways to take this edX course:

Simply Audit this Course Can't commit to all of the lectures, assignments, and tests? Audit this course and have complete access to all of the course material, tests, and the online discussion forum. You decide what and how much you want to do.

Free to All

[More about Auditing a Course](#)

or

Try for a Certificate Looking to test your mettle? Participate in all of the course's activities and abide by the edX Honor Code. If your work is satisfactory, you'll receive a personalized certificate to showcase your achievement.

Free to All

[More about Honor Code Certificates](#)

COURSE STAFF



Gregory Nagy

Gregory Nagy is the Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, and is the Director of the [Center for Hellenic Studies](#), Washington, DC. In his publications, he has pioneered an approach to Greek literature that integrates diachronic and synchronic perspectives. His books include [The Best of the Achaeans: Concepts of the Hero in Archaic Greek Poetry](#) (Johns Hopkins University Press), which won the Goodwin Award of Merit, American Philological Association, in 1982; also [Pindar's Homer: The Lyric Possession of an Epic Past](#) (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990), [Poetry as Performance: Homer and Beyond](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), [Homeric Questions](#) (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996), [Homeric Responses](#) (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003), [Homer's Text and Language](#) (University of Illinois Press 2004), [Homer the Classic](#) (Harvard University Press, online 2008, print 2009), and [Homer the Preclassic](#) (University of California Press 2010). He co-edited with Stephen A. Mitchell the 40th anniversary second edition of Albert Lord's [The Singer of Tales](#) (Harvard Studies in Comparative Literature vol. 24; Harvard University Press, 2000), co-authoring with Mitchell the new Introduction, pp. vii-xxix.

Professor Nagy has taught versions of this course to Harvard College undergraduates and Harvard Extension School students for over thirty-five years. Throughout his career Nagy has been a consistently strong advocate for the use of information technology in both teaching and research. Besides teaching at the Harvard campus in Cambridge, MA, Nagy is also the Director of Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C.



Leonard Muellner

Leonard Muellner is Professor of Classical Studies at Brandeis University and Director for IT and Publications at Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies. Educated at Harvard (Ph.D. 1973), his scholarly interests center on Homeric epic, with special interests in historical linguistics, anthropological approaches to the study of myth, and the poetics of oral traditional poetry. His recent work includes "Grieving Achilles," in *Homeric Contexts: Neoanalysis and the Interpretation of Oral Poetry*, ed. A. Rengakos, F. Montanari, and C. Tsagalis, *Trends in Classics, Supplementary Volume 12*, Berlin, 2012, pp. 187-210, and "Homeric Anger Revisited," *Classics@ Issue 9: Defense Mechanisms*, Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington, DC, September, 2011.



Kevin McGrath

Kevin McGrath is an Associate of the Department of South Asian Studies at Harvard University. His research centers on the Sanskrit epic Mahabharata, and he has published four works on this topic: *The Sanskrit Hero*, *Stri*, *Jaya*, and *Heroic Krsna*, and is presently concluding a study of epic kingship and preliterate culture. McGrath is Poet in Residence at Lowell House and his most recent publications are *Eroica* and *Supernature*, which are both I-books. He does fieldwork in the Kacch of Western Gujarat, studying kinship, landscape, and migration. The hero as a figure for humanistic analysis is the focus of much of McGrath's scholarly work, particularly as expressed in the poetry of Bronze Age preliterate and premonetary culture.



Claudia Filos

Claudia Filos holds an MA from Brandeis University and is the Assistant Editor of Online Publications for the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. Her thesis is titled "[Steadfast in a Multiform Tradition: ἔμπεδος and ἀσφαλῆς in Homer and Beyond](#)". Her teaching and research interests include Homer, oral poetics, the cult of saints, and comparative work on the reception of classical themes and diction during late antiquity and the romantic period. She is committed to improving opportunities for meaningful research by undergraduates and nontraditional scholars and to promoting the study of classical languages and literature outside the university setting.



Jeff Emanuel

Jeff Emanuel is Senior Fellow in the Humanities and Archaeological Sciences at HarvardX. As Harvard University's inaugural HarvardX Fellow, and as a veteran of both "traditional" and "non-traditional" education, Jeff brings a commitment to top-quality online education to his role managing the development and publication of the organization's online learning experiences in archaeology and the humanities. Additionally, as a nautical archaeologist, Jeff's [academic research](#) focuses on maritime affairs in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean during the transition from the Late Bronze to the Early Iron Age (Late Helladic IIIB-IIIC), with particular emphasis on naval warfare, the development and spread of maritime technology, and the role of the so-called 'Sea Peoples' in this key transitional period.



Natasha Bershadsky

Natasha Bershadsky recently received her PhD degree from the University of Chicago. Her thesis, *Pushing the Boundaries of Myth: Transformations of Ancient Border Wars in Archaic and Classical Greece*, explores the interconnections of history, myth, ritual and politics. She is also interested in the Greek perception of poet as a hero, and the reverberations of this idea in the later conceptions of the figure of author in poetry and fiction. Her publications include "The Unbreakable Shield: Thematics of Sakos and Aspis," *Classical Philology* 105 (2010): 1–24, and "A Picnic, a Tomb and a Crow: Hesiod's Cult in the Works and Days," *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 106 (2011) 1–45.



Glynnis Fawkes

Glynnis Fawkes holds a joint MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston) and Tufts University. Her paintings and cartoons have been exhibited internationally, and she has worked extensively as illustrator on archaeological projects in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, and Israel. A Fulbright Fellowship to Cyprus allowed her to publish *Archaeology Lives in Cyprus* (Hellenic Bank, Nicosia 2001), a book of paintings, and *Cartoons of Cyprus* (Moufflon Publications, Nicosia, 2001). She teaches a course in Making Comics at the University of Vermont, and was named among the Best American Comics Notables in 2012. Her drawings for the Homeric Hymns seek to bring out the humor and pathos of the interactions between men and women, humans and gods. Her work may be seen at GlynnisFawkes.com.

FAQs

How much does it cost to take the course? Nothing! The course is free.

Do I need any other materials to take the course? No. As long as you have a Mac or PC, you'll be ready to take the course.

Will the course use any textbooks or software?

The course makes use of two texts, both of which will be available for free on the course website. The first is Professor Nagy's *The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours* (commonly referred to in the course as "H24H"). For those who wish to purchase a printed version of H24H, the book is [available from Harvard University Press](#). The second textbook, the *Sourcebook of Ancient Greek Texts* Translated into English (referred to as the "Sourcebook"), is a compendium of all of the ancient texts to be read in this course.

This course takes a highly comparative approach, integrating other forms of artistic representation (such as painting, theater, music, and sculpture) and examples of heroic themes across time. For example, students may be discussing a scene from Homer's *Iliad* one moment and watching a clip from a modern film like Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* the next, all as part of this course's holistic approach to concepts of the heroic and the anti-heroic. To facilitate discussion and learning, students will also have access to dynamically linked online texts, video lectures and discussions, annotation tools, and online forums, all of which are designed to engage students in any age and location in a continual dialogue with and about the literature of ancient Greece.

Do I need to watch the lectures at a specific time?

No. You can complete the assigned readings and view the dialogues at a time that fits with your schedule. All materials will be made available on September 3, and all assessments will be closed on December 31.

Will certificates be awarded?

Yes. Online learners who achieve a passing grade in a course can earn a certificate of mastery. These certificates will indicate you have successfully completed the course, but will not include a specific grade.

We also recognize that not every student wishes to take this course for a certificate. We welcome "explorers" who want to learn about the fascinating concepts discussed in this project without the pressure of timelines and assessments, and value your time and participation in this course as well. If you have any questions about edX generally, please see the [edX FAQ](#).

I am a registered student at Harvard Extension School. What do I need to know?

Students have the opportunity to earn academic credit through Harvard Extension School (HES) for [CB22.1x: The Ancient Greek Hero](#) and [SW12x: China](#). HES students need to register for the edX course in addition to registering for the HES course. HES students will use the edX materials as part of their learning, but will have additional videos, section meetings, assignments and instructor feedback. HES students receive and must fulfill requirements contained in a separate HES course syllabus. The registration deadline for fall 2013 HES courses is September 3, 2013, though students may register through September 10, 2013 with a late fee. See [Harvard Extension School](#) for more information.

Prerequisites:

No previous knowledge of Greek history, literature, or language is required. All texts will be read in English translation. This is a course for students of any age, culture, and geographic location, and its

profoundly humanistic message can be easily received without previous acquaintance with Western Classical literature.

More information, please pay a visit to:

<https://www.edx.org/course/harvard-university/cb22-1x/ancient-greek-hero/1047>

CB22x Course Staff

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