

Summer in Syros
June 23 – July 15, 2023

3 Credits

The Contemporary Lyric: Roots in/Revisions of the Greek Lyric and Epic Tradition
Undergraduate: ENGL 25144

Description

This three-week, three-credit course, to meet in Syros, will explore how place (the Aegean landscape) was vital to the origin of lyric poetry, as seen through the work of ancient Greek poets Sappho and Homer. The course will provide a wide-ranging and historically rich understanding of the literary, cultural, and historical context of the Greek lyric, with a focus on revisionary mythology and the influence of lyric and epic on contemporary American and British poetry.

Outcomes

Students will interpret, analyze, and research the work of Sappho and Homer, as well as contemporary American and British poetry.
Students will read theoretical texts and write a research paper at the end of the program.

Reading List (Tentative):

Students will receive a course packet of the following:

Anne Carson *If not, Winter* (Sappho translation)
The Odyssey (excerpts)
Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis (excerpts)
Rachel Blau Duplessis, *Purple Passages* and *Writing Beyond the Ending*
Alicia Ostriker, *Thieves of Language*

Students will purchase the following:

Louise Gluck, *Meadowlands*
Alice Oswald, *Nobody*

WEEK ONE

Fri	6/23		Arrive Athens
		6PM	Welcome Dinner: Location
			Directions: N.B.: Bring to dinner this schedule, your small notebook and pen.
Sa	6/24	on your own	Museum Day Find/post on an object from one of these locations that illustrates lyric qualities (as you define them):
			Acropolis Museum
			National Archaeological Museum (Bust of Sappho)
Su	6/25		Travel to Island [Enter Ferry Information]
M	6/26	1PM – 4PM	Class
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss museum visit and class requirements• Prepare for <i>Sappho</i> Read: <i>If not, Winter</i>
		6PM	Guided landscape tour
Tu	6/27	1PM – 4PM	Class
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss: <i>If not, Winter</i>• Prepare for/read <i>The Odyssey</i> (excerpts)
W	6/28	8PM	Poetry Reading / Guest Lecture
Th	6/29	1PM – 4PM	Class
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss: <i>The Odyssey</i>• Prepare for/read Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalaytiak Davis, Ocean Vuong, Margaret Atwood
F	6/30	1PM – 2PM	Individual student conferences
		8PM	Poetry Reading
Sa	7/1		Guest Lecture/Tour/Activity

WEEK TWO

M	7/3	8PM	Poetry Reading
Tu	7/4	1PM – 4PM	Class <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss: Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis, Ocean Vuong, Margaret Atwood• Prepare for/read <i>Meadowlands</i> (Louise Gluck)
W	7/5	8PM	Guest Lecture
Th	7/6	1PM – 4PM	Class <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss: <i>Meadowlands</i> (Louise Gluck)• Prepare for/read Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis (excerpts)
F	7/7	1PM – 2PM	Individual student conferences
		8PM	Poetry Reading
Sa	7/8		Tour of Venetian ruins

WEEK THREE

M	7/10	8PM	Rebetiko concert (Stavros Xarchakos' School)
Tu	7/11	1PM – 4PM	Class <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss: Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis (excerpts)• Prepare for/read Rachel Blau Duplessis, <i>Purple Passages</i> and <i>Writing Beyond the Ending</i>
Th	7/13	1PM – 4PM	Class <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss: Rachel Blau Duplessis, <i>Purple Passages</i> and <i>Writing Beyond the Ending</i>
F	7/14	1PM – 4PM	Individual student conferences Farewell Dinner / Reading Celebration
Sa	7/15		Depart Island

POST-GREECE

M	7/31	by 5PM	Due: Essay
---	------	--------	------------