

FS 101-28 Poetics of Memory  
Syllabus, Fall Semester 2017

- Meeting time and place: TTh 9:30–10:45, Ruter 201.
- Course description: A study of poetry memorializing the casualties of war, contextualized within broader memorial trends, ancient and modern. We begin with an extended close reading of Homer's long epic, the *Iliad*. We compare monuments, speeches and poems for the dead from classical Athens, the American Civil War and World War 1, and we conclude with a recent poetic retelling of the *Iliad* informed by ancient and modern memorial developments. We examine how monuments turn from the promotion of ongoing war to peace and healing. Coursework emphasizes the development of effective oral and written communication skills with a focus on description, summary, and critical thinking.
- Seminar leader: Judson Herrman, <jherrman@allegheny.edu> (allow at least 1 business day for email). Office hours: MWF 8:50-10:00 in Arter 202A; Tues. 11:00-12:15 in Arter 202A; Thur. 11:00-12:15 in Ruter 304.
- Seminar participants, monument (dates of individual assignments):
  - Blaisdell, Ring of Remembrance (9/12, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19, 10/26, 11/28, 11/30, 12/12),
  - Bott, Women of World War II (9/19, 9/26, 9/28, 10/5, 11/14, 11/16, 11/21, 11/30, 12/7),
  - French, Pitt. Sold. and Sail. Hall (9/5, 9/14, 9/19, 9/28, 10/17, 10/19, 11/9, 11/16, 12/5),
  - Hackman, Vietnam Women's Mem. (9/28, 10/3, 10/5, 10/12, 11/2, 11/7, 11/30, 12/5, 12/12),
  - Kline, Animals in War (9/19, 9/26, 9/28, 10/5, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 11/30, 12/7),
  - Landgraf, Moving Wall (9/28, 10/5 twice, 10/12, 11/9, 11/14, 11/30, 12/5, 12/12),
  - Lashbrook, Shot at Dawn Memorial (9/12, 9/19, 9/21, 9/28, 11/14, 11/21 twice, 11/28, 12/7),
  - Means, USS Arizona Memorial (9/21, 9/26, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19, 10/26, 11/16, 11/21, 12/7),
  - Miller, Arc de Triomphe (9/7, 9/14, 10/5, 10/12 twice, 10/17, 11/9, 11/16, 12/5),
  - Nottage, US World War II Mem. (9/19, 9/26, 9/28, 10/5, 10/31, 11/2, 11/16, 11/21, 12/7),
  - Taylor, Stolperstein plaques (9/7, 9/14, 9/26, 10/5, 11/7, 11/9, 11/21, 11/30, 12/12),
  - Twomey, ANZAC Cove (9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/12, 10/17, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5),
  - Wiard, War on Terror Mem. (9/26, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 11/16, 11/21, 11/28, 11/30, 12/12),
  - Xander, Clev. Sold. and Sail. Mon. (9/7, 9/14, 10/5, 10/12, 10/26, 10/31, 11/9, 11/16, 12/5).
- Website: <http://www.jherrman.net/fs-101-2017.html>.
- Requirements:
  - Individual meetings with advisor. You are also welcome and encouraged to meet me at any point. You are required to meet me at least twice during the semester; drop in at office hours or schedule an appointment. The first meeting should take place on or before 29 Sep.; we will talk briefly about yourself, your classes, and Allegheny. The second meeting should happen on or before 1 Dec.; prior to that meeting you should begin thinking about possible majors and minors and by 30 Nov. you must submit in writing a proposed course schedule for the Spring semester.
  - Attendance, informed participation, leadership of discussion (20% of course grade). You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and to be prepared to discuss them and ask questions in class. Each of you will prepare specific discussion questions in advance for the rest of the group for one day's readings, and will lead discussion that day. This is a seminar, which means that the essence of the course is the meetings and discussion. Being a seminar participant means being prepared and present in class for every meeting. If you must miss a session for a valid reason, inform me beforehand; after the fact, an absence can be excused only by a doctor or a dean. In this and all your other classes at Allegheny, attendance, organization, and timely communication are of enormous consequence for success.

- Reports and essays (full descriptions on webpage):
  - § *Iliad* simile (15% of course grade; 5 minute report; 750 word essay). 5 Sep. to 19 Oct.
  - § *Iliad* death (15%; 5 minute report; 750 word essay). 5 Sep. to 19 Oct.
  - § Modern monument (20%; 10 minute report; 750 word essay). 9 Nov. to 5 Dec.
  - § Oswald's *Memorial* (30%, 10 minute report; 2000 word essay). 5 to 14 Dec.
- Grading: all work must be performed and submitted as scheduled below. Missed reports and unsubmitted work counts as nil toward the course grade. Grading criteria for all work are available on the webpage. Remember the Honor Code (printed in *The Compass*, PDF on our course webpage). You have pledged that “the Honor Program shall apply to all work submitted for academic credit.” We will discuss this on 12 Sep.; please don't hesitate at any point to ask if you are in doubt.
- Readings for the course (CP = coursepack):
  - Brown, Thomas J. *The public art of Civil War commemoration: a brief history with documents*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004. (CP)
  - Dillon, Matthew and Lynda Garland, *Ancient Greece. Social and historical documents from archaic times to the death of Alexander the Great*. London: Routledge, 2010. 3d ed. Pages 363–368. (CP)
  - Hahnemann, Carolin. “Book of paper, book of stone: an exploration of Alice Oswald's *Memorial*,” *Arion* 22 (2014): 1–32. (CP)
  - Herrman, Judson. *The Athenian funeral orations*. Newburyport: Focus Publishing, 2004.
  - Lattimore, Richmond. *The Iliad of Homer*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.
  - Lin, Maya Ying. *Boundaries*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000. Pages 4:04–4:17. (CP)
  - Menand, Louis. “The reluctant memorialist,” *New Yorker*, July 8, 2002, 54–65. (CP)
  - Oswald, Alice. *Memorial: a version of Homer's Iliad*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2012.
  - Scully, Vincent. “Vietnam Veterans Memorial.” In *Maya Lin [American Academy in Rome, 10 dicembre 1998–21 febbraio 1999]*, edited by Maya Ying Lin and Michael Brenson. Milan: Electa, 1998. Pages 28–35. (CP)
  - Stamp, Gavin. *The memorial to the missing of the Somme*. London: Profile Books, 2006. (CP)
- Daily schedule:
  - Mon. 28 Aug. Preliminaries, *Memorial* reading.
  - Tue. 29 Aug. Discuss syllabus, draw report cards. Start reading *Iliad* 1. How does the poem begin? What are the major themes?
  - Thu. 31 Aug. Read *Iliad* books 1–2. Consider heroes and commoners. Why does Achilles withdraw? What is the morale of the leaders and the troops? How large are the forces? Reports: wind murmur simile (2.144–148) by leader, Protesilaos death (book 2) by leader.
  - Tue. 5 Sep. Read *Iliad* books 3–4. Consider the role of women. How are Paris and Helen characterized? How do the gods intervene in mortal affairs? Why do the gods favor one side or the other? How are the details of battle presented? Reports: goatherd simile (4.275–279) by French.
  - Thu. 7 Sep. Read *Iliad* books 5–6. Consider depictions and relations of friends and foes. How are the Trojan women and children depicted? How are the dead treated? Who is winning? Reports: Pandaros death (book 5) by Twomey, fig juice simile (5.902–904) by Taylor, Padasos and Aisepos deaths (book 6) by Xander, Axylos and Kalesios deaths (book 6) by Miller.

- Tue. 12 Sep. Read *Iliad* books 7–8. How does Achilles respond to Agamemnon’s new offer? How is war depicted in the night-raid? How do the Greeks fare the next day? Reports: wind simile (7.4–7) by Lashbrook, stars simile (8.555–559) by Blaisdell. Read and discuss the Honor Code.
- Thu. 14 Sep. Read *Iliad* 9–10. How does the embassy scene connect with the rest of the poem? Consider role of animals. Homer essay due from French, Twomey, Taylor, Xander, Miller.
- Tue. 19 Sep. Read *Iliad* 11–12. How is Greek weakness and Trojan strength depicted? Reports: Adrestos and Amphios deaths (book 11) by French, Doryklos and Apisaon deaths (book 11) by Lashbrook, Iphidamas death (book 11) by Kline, donkey simile (11.558–562) by Bott, snow simile (12.278–286) by Nottage.
- Thu. 21 Sep. Read *Iliad* books 13–14. Consider role of gods. How is Trojan success stressed? How is battle depicted? Report: Euchenor death (book 13) by Means, oak simile (14.414–417) by Twomey. Homer essay due from Lashbrook, Blaisdell.
- Tue. 26 Sep. Read *Iliad* books 15–16. Consider importance of victory and loss. How do the gods help one side and then the other? What happens when Patroklos joins the battle? Reports: stallion simile (15.263–268 = 6.506–511) by Means, rocks simile (15.618–621) by Kline, Medon death (book 15) by Bott, Dolops death (book 15) by Nottage, Pedasos death (book 16) by Taylor, Epeigeus death (book 16) by Wiard.
- Thu. 28 Sep. Read *Iliad* books 17–18. Consider role of nature. What happens to Patroklos’ body? How does Achilles react? How are his new arms described? Reports: Hippothoos and Leiokritos deaths (book 17) by Blaisdell, Euphorbos death (book 17) by Hackman, lion simile (18.318–321) by Landgraf. Homer essay due from French, Lashbrook, Kline, Bott, Nottage, Means, Twomey.
- Tue. 3 Oct. Read *Iliad* books 19–20. How does Achilles return to the fight, and how is his special status conveyed? Report: moonlight simile (19.374–378) by Hackman.
- Thu. 5 Oct. Read *Iliad* books 21–22. Consider importance of mutilation and idealization. How does Achilles change the course of events? Does Hektor have a chance against him? Reports: ditch-maker simile (21.257–262) by Xander, Lykaon death (book 21) by Landgraf, hawk simile (22.139–142) by Miller. Homer essay due from Means, Kline, Bott, Nottage, Taylor, Wiard, Blaisdell, Hackman, Landgraf.
- Thu. 12 Oct. Read *Iliad* books 23–24. Consider importance of trauma and healing. What happens after Hektor dies? How does the poem end? Reports: anger simile (24.480–482) by Wiard. Homer essay due from Xander, Hackman, Landgraf, Miller. Discussion questions due from Miller and Twomey.

- Tue. 17 Oct. Read Dillon and Garland. Read “Introduction,” “Thucydides, 2.34–46,” “Appendix: Gettysburg 1863” in *Athenian funeral orations* (pp. 1–21, 87–94). Discussant for readings: Miller and Twomey. Discussion questions due from French.
- Thu. 19 Oct. Read “Lysias, Oration 2,” “Demosthenes, Oration 60” and “Hyperides, Oration 6” in *Athenian funeral orations* (pp. 27–43, 63–86). What sets these two speeches apart from the others? How does Demosthenes react to defeat? Do the speeches help survivors heal? Discussant for readings: French. Homer essay due from Wiard. Discussion questions due from Blaisdell and Means.
- Thu. 26 Oct. Read “Introduction” and “The Citizen-Soldier” in *The public art of Civil War commemoration* (pp. 1–56). Discussant for readings: Blaisdell and Means. Discussion questions due from Xander.
- Tue. 31 Oct. Read “Women of the War” in *The public art of Civil War commemoration* (pp. 57–78). Discussants for readings: Xander. Discussion questions due from Nottage.
- Thu. 2 Nov. Read “Robert E. Lee and the Lost Cause” in *The public art of Civil War commemoration* (pp. 79–108). Discussants for readings: Nottage. Discussion questions due from Hackman.
- Tue. 7 Nov. Read “Representative regiment” in *The public art of Civil War commemoration* (pp. 109–138). Discussant for readings: Hackman. Discussion questions due from Taylor.
- Thu. 9 Nov. Read “Lincoln’s legacies” in *The public art of Civil War commemoration* (pp. 139–170). Discussant for readings: Taylor. Monument reports: Cleveland Soldiers and Sailors Monument by Xander, Pittsburgh Soldiers and Sailors Hall by French, Arc de Triomphe, Paris, FR by Miller. Discussion questions due from Landgraf.
- Tue. 14 Nov. Read “Introduction” and chapters 1–2 in *The memorial to the missing of the Somme* (pp. 1–47). Discussant for readings: Landgraf. Monument reports: Turkish Memorial, ANZAC Cove, Turkey by Twomey, Shot at Dawn Memorial, Staffordshire, UK by Lashbrook, Animals in War Memorial, London, UK by Kline. Discussion questions due from Bott.
- Thu. 16 Nov. Read chapters 3–4 in *The memorial to the missing of the Somme* (pp. 48–100). Discussant for readings: Bott. Monument reports: USS Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor, HI by Means, World War II Memorial, Washington DC by Nottage. Monument essay due from Xander, French, Miller. Discussion questions due from Wiard.

- Tue. 21 Nov. Read chapters 5–7 in *The memorial to the missing of the Somme* (pp. 101–152). Discussant for readings: Wiard. Monument reports: Monument to the Women of World War II, London, UK by Bott, Stolperstein plaques, Germany by Taylor. Monument essay due from Twomey, Lashbrook, Kline, Means, Nottage. Discussion questions due from Lashbrook.
- Tue. 28 Nov. Read chapter 8 in *The memorial to the missing of the Somme* (pp. 153–185). Discussant for readings: Lashbrook. Monument reports: War on Terror Memorial, Mercer, PA by Wiard, Ring of Remembrance memorial, Notre Dame de Lorette, France by Blaisdell. Discussion questions due from Kline.
- Thu. 30 Nov. Read Scully, Lin, Menand. Discussant for readings: Kline. Monument reports: Vietnam Women’s Memorial, Washington DC by Hackman, the Moving Wall by Landgraf. Monument essay due from Bott, Taylor, Wiard, Blaisdell. All submit proposed schedule for Spring semester.
- Tue. 5 Dec. Read *Memorial* (pp. 1–81). Individual reports on *Memorial* by Twomey, Xander, Miller, French. Monument essay due from Hackman, Landgraf.
- Thu. 7 Dec. RSE. Individual reports on *Memorial* by Lashbrook, Kline, Means, Bott, Nottage.
- Tue. 12 Dec. Read Hahnemann. Does *Memorial* incorporate concepts from modern memorials? Individual reports on *Memorial* by Taylor, Wiard, Blaisdell, Hackman, Landgraf.
- Thu. 14 Dec. Essay on Oswald’s *Memorial* due at 7:00pm in Ruter 104.