

ANNOUNCING A SEMINAR SPONSORED BY
THE CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES
AND
THE COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

***Homer Across the Curriculum:
The Odyssey***

July 9–13, 2007

**The Center for Hellenic Studies,
Washington, DC**

Gregory Nagy
Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature
and Professor of Comparative Literature
Harvard University

Kenneth Scott Morrell
Associate Professor and Chair of Greek and Roman Studies
Rhodes College

**Nomination Deadline:
Friday, March 2, 2007**



THE COUNCIL OF
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



CENTER FOR
HELLENIC
STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

With the generous support of the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation

HOMER ACROSS THE CURRICULUM: THE ODYSSEY

**Directed by Gregory Nagy, Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature
and Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University,
and Kenneth Scott Morrell, Associate Professor and
Chair of Greek and Roman Studies, Rhodes College**

Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington DC ☆ July 9–13, 2007

Homeric poetry occupies a unique position in the evolution of ancient Mediterranean civilizations playing a formative role both in the development of the epic and other performance and literary genres as well as artistic, political, religious, and even economic conventions in the Greco-Roman world. Many of these have found their way into our modern cultural contexts. This seminar will offer an opportunity to examine the many dimensions of the *Odyssey* and explore ways the poem can contribute to courses in a variety of disciplines and inform discussions on topics as diverse as the exchange of luxury goods to the adjudication of disputes arising from athletic contests.

The first day will focus on an overview of the oral tradition and the “multitext” of Homer, examining the role of an individual singer in such a tradition, the possible ways performances became literary artifacts, and the evolution of the various versions of the written poem into the text we commonly use today. Our work will also situate the Homeric epics in their cross-cultural context, by examining the relationship between the Greek epic tradition and those of other civilizations, for example, the Sumerians and Akkadians as reflected in the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and Indic society in the *Mahabharata*. Our investigation of the poem itself will range over the first four books.

The second day will begin with a brief history of the relationship between Homeric studies and archaeological research and then feature a survey of the archaeological evidence that currently informs our understanding of the Bronze Age and Archaic period depicted in the *Odyssey*. Our work on the poem will focus on books five through 12, during which Odysseus relates his adventures to his Phaeacian hosts on the island of Scheria. During this examination of the poetry we will have occasion to discuss a variety of recent interpretative approaches.

On the third day we will continue our in-depth engagement with the *Odyssey* by looking closely at books 13 through 19, which recount events beginning with the arrival of Odysseus back in Ithaca to his encounter while disguised as a beggar with Penelope. We will also look at responses to the *Odyssey* first from the perspective of performance genres, such as lyric poetry and tragedy, that evolved after the disappearance of the oral tradition and then through an examination of literary epic as reflected in the works of latter poets from antiquity such as Apollonius of Rhodes, Virgil, and Ovid. Our focus will then shift to a general conversation about translation and a comparative study of the English versions that are widely available today, such as those by Chapman, Pope, Butler, Lattimore, Fitzgerald, Fagles, and Lombardo.

On the fourth day we will consider the final books of the *Odyssey* and look at the subsequent development of Odysseus, the returning warrior, as a character who, in different permutations, has migrated into a surprisingly vast array of cultural contexts. In preparation for the final day of the seminar, when more intensive and focused work on course materials gets underway, we will also take time to examine and discuss a variety of classroom approaches to the poem.

This seminar is designed primarily for non-specialists. Faculty members from all disciplines who might have occasion to use the Homeric *Odyssey* in their courses are encouraged to apply. Materials for the workshop will be available in electronic and printed formats in advance of the seminar. Participants will be asked to read a core subset of the materials before our work in Washington begins and then, once the seminar is underway, to contribute their ideas, energy, experience, and skills to creating modules for use in different academic settings.

Gregory Nagy is Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. He has served as chair of Harvard's Literature Concentration, chair of the Department of the Classics, president of the American Philological Association, and, since 2000, director of the Center for Hellenic Studies. His publications include *The Best of the Achaeans: Concepts of the Hero in Archaic Greek Poetry*, winner of the APA's Goodwin Award of Merit; *Greek Mythology and Poetics*; *Pindar's Homer: The Lyric Possession of an Epic Past*; *Poetry as Performance: Homer and Beyond*; *Homeric Questions*, *Plato's Rhapsody and Homer's Music: The Poetics of the Panathenaic Festival in Classical Athens*; and *Homeric Responses*. In the spring of 2002, Professor Nagy delivered the Sather Lectures at the University of California, Berkeley on "Homer the Classic."

Kenneth Scott Morrell is associate professor and chair of Greek and Roman Studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee and is currently the director of outreach at the Center for Hellenic Studies. In addition to publishing and teaching on ancient Greek and Latin literature, he has participated in an archaeological survey in southwestern Turkey and been active in a variety of initiatives related to the use of information technology. He was an original member of the Perseus Project and has more recently been involved with Sunoikisis (www.sunoikisis.org) and the Collaboratory for GIS and Mediterranean Archaeology (CGMA) Project (cgma.depauw.edu).

Participants, Location, and Expenses

Up to 30 individuals will be selected by competitive nomination. The seminar will take place at the Center for Hellenic Studies, 3100 Whitehaven Street NW, Washington, DC, 20008. Housing will be provided at the center and at a nearby hotel. Room, board, books, and other expenses will be fully covered with support from CIC, the Center for Hellenic Studies, and the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. Participants or their institutions will be expected to provide transportation to Washington.

Nomination Process

The chief academic officers of the nominees' institutions must nominate faculty members who wish to participate. Each institution may nominate more than one individual, and faculty members of any academic rank are eligible to participate. Each nomination package should consist of a signed original plus three copies of the following:

- 1) Nomination form completed by the chief academic officer (please use the form on the back of this booklet);
- 2) Nominee's curriculum vitae; and
- 3) Nominee's statement of reasons for wishing to participate in the seminar and of anticipated outcomes (no more than one page).

Nomination Deadline and Selection of Participants

Please send the signed original plus three copies of the completed nomination package to the address specified on the next page by **March 2, 2007**. Selected participants will be notified by Friday, March 30, 2007.

★ NOMINATION FORM

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*A Seminar Sponsored by the Center for Hellenic Studies
and the Council of Independent Colleges*

July 9–13, 2007 ★ Washington, DC

Name of Faculty Member Being Nominated: _____

Institution: _____

Faculty Rank and Department: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator's Statement: (Please comment on the ways that the seminar would benefit the nominee in his or her teaching and/or research, and the ways the nominee's participation would benefit the home institution. Use additional sheets as needed.)

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Nominator's Name (*Please print*): _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please submit together as a package:

- 1) the nomination form (including nominator's statement);
- 2) the nominee's curriculum vitae; and
- 3) the nominee's statement. (Please explain what you hope to gain from participation in the seminar with respect to benefits in teaching, research, and/or institutional development.)

Send signed original plus three copies to:

Stephen Gibson

Director of Projects

Council of Independent Colleges

One Dupont Circle, Suite 320

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 466-7230

Email: sgibson@cic.nche.edu

Nominations Deadline: **Friday, March 2, 2007**

Selection of Participants Announced: **Friday, March 30, 2007**