

HIST 4113 Archaic Greece
Paper 1 (1600-1800 words)
Due September 22 by 5 pm

As we discussed in class, the Homeric epics are rich, but problematic, sources of information about 8th century Greece. For this paper you will choose a topic or theme in the *Iliad* and trace its role in the epic and explain its importance in Homeric society. You can pick your own topic, but since this is a short paper be careful that you do not get bogged down in a really big concept like hospitality or warfare. It might be advisable to follow several topics through the *Iliad*, and then write your paper on the one that seems most promising when you finish the poem. Here are some suggestions, but this list is by no means exhaustive:

Bathing	Swearing	Cleaning/Purification
Herding	Singing	Prophecies
Fire	Clothing	Eating
Hunting	Oil	Sleeping
Drinking	Sailing/Seafaring	Gold
Heralds	Beds/Bedding	Hair
Crying/Tears	Singing	Arms
Sex	Laughter	Legs
Rumor	Pain	Darkness
Wine	Sickness/Healing	Light

Some questions you might want to consider in your paper:

- What role does this theme or topic have in Homeric society?
- Why is this theme or topic important to the poem?
- How does this theme or topic help characterize the various figures in the poem?
- Is the theme or topic depicted differently depending on what part of the poem it is in?
- Does this theme or topic stay pretty much the same, or does it develop as the poem progresses?
- How is this theme or topic connected with the overall development of the story?

Make sure to support your arguments with citations of specific passages of the *Iliad*. Use direct quotes sparingly and when they will specifically illustrate the point you are trying to make. Paraphrase when you need to, but try to avoid excessive summary. Whenever you quote or paraphrase, be sure to cite the passage in Homer. Cite the *Iliad* parenthetically by book and line numbers, e.g. (12.235). Don't forget to put a page number at the bottom of each page. Use 1" margins all around and 12 point Times New Roman, double-spaced.

You are to limit yourself to the text of the *Iliad* - DO NOT look at any other texts, sources, or scholarship. Doing so will result in an automatic F on the paper. Papers are due on September 22 by 5 pm. Email your paper as an attachment (in Word, Pages, RTF, or PDF formats) to Professor Muntz, cmuntz@uark.edu. Late papers will not be accepted except in cases of documented emergencies.