

Epic

Seminar 2: In this seminar we will analyse in detail the final book of the *Iliad*, book 24.

Discussion topics:

- Does the final book of the *Iliad* provide us with a sense of closure?
- What is the relationship between this book and the very first book of the epic?
- How does Homer use the literary techniques of suspense, foreshadowing, and dramatic irony?
- How are the two protagonists (Priam and Achilles) characterised?
- How does the book deal with the ethical themes of mercy, respect, and pity and the heroic values.
- What is the role of the gods at the beginning of the episode and the role of Hermes as a guide?
- The importance of the supplication and the 'father-son' themes.
- The use of a typical scene: the visitor's / hospitality scene

Secondary literature:

- Cairns, D.L. (1993), *Aidos: the Psychology and Ethics of Honour and Shame in Ancient Greek Literature*, Oxford, 48-146.
- Edwards, M.W. (1987), *Homer: Poet of the Iliad*, Baltimore & London, 149-58.
- Griffin, J. (1980), *Homer on Life and Death*, Oxford, 81-102.
- Griffin, J. (1992), 'Heroic and unheroic ideas in Homer', in Emlyn-Jones, C., Hardwick, L., and Purkis, J. (eds), *Homer: Reading and Images*, London, 21-32.
- McLeod, C.W. (1982), *Homer: Iliad Book 24*, Cambridge.
- Richardson, N. (1993), *The Iliad: A Commentary, Volume VI: books 21-4*, Oxford.
- Schadewaldt, W. (1997), 'Achilles' Decision', in Wright G.M. & Jones, P.V., *Homer: German Scholarship in Translation*, Oxford, 143-69.
- Schein, S.L. (1984), *The Mortal Hero: An Introduction to Homer's Iliad*, Berkeley.
- Schein, S.L. (1997), 'The Iliad: Structure and Interpretation', in Morris, I. & Powell, B. (eds), *A New Companion to Homer*, Leiden, 345-59.
- Stanford, W.B. (1999), 'The Untypical Hero', in De Jong, I.J.F. (ed.), *Homer: Critical Assessments*, London, 190-205.