

- Review Guide for Exam #3

### Lecture 23 (Homer's *Odyssey*, Book 1-16)

- Homer's *Odyssey*
  - o Opens in *medias res*
    - *Medias res*: in the middle of things
  - o *Telemachy*
    - Books 1-4 are often called "Telemachy" since it's all about him
    - First word of the poem is Andra
      - 'the man'
    - Polutropos ('much-travelled')/ "of many devices""shifty"
    - Telemachus is visited by Athena in disguised as Mentos and prompts Telemachus to be a man
    - More of a coming age story centered on Telemachus
    - Telemachus visits Nestor and Menelaus
      - Telemachus visits Nestor in Pylos, his basic job is to talk a lot about the olden times. He doesn't have a lot to tell him about where Odysseus is. Nestor is full of recollections of the past - and he too tells of Agamemnon's recent demise - but has little info regarding Odysseus
      - Goes to Sparta to speak to Menelaus
        - o Helen has moved back in with Menelaus
        - o Telemachus learns that Odysseus is alive, but a captive of the nymph Calypso, on the island of Ogygia
    - *Xenia*
      - Nestor and Menelaus both follow proper rules of *xenia*
      - Does all the things a proper host is suppose to do

- Important theme throughout the poem
  - Telemachus in essence learns the proper way to act among noble men by seeing how their households are run
- o Odysseus and Calypso on Ogygia
    - Calypso: 'the concealer'
    - She is hiding him from the rest of the world
    - Takes him 3 years to get to Calypsos island and then he is trapped there for 4 years
    - Hermes is sent to order Calypso to release Odysseus
    - Odysseus builds a boat to leave Ogygia
  - o Odysseus washes ashore Scheria
    - Odysseus is wrecked in a storm that was sent by Poseidon
    - Scheria = home of the Phaeacians
  - o Odysseus and Nausicaa
    - Nausicaa; princess of Scheria, daughter of Alcinous and Arete
    - She finds Odysseus on the beach naked and he grabs a stick to cover his junk
    - She gives him directions to get to her parents place so she doesn't show up with a naked man
  - o Alcinous and Arete
    - King and Queen of Scheria
    - Show great xenia to Odysseus
    - Nausicaa is of marriageable age and there are hints that the Phaeacians would love for Odysseus to marry her and stay among them
    - Double standard: Penelope in order to remain above the infidelity she has to remain completely loyal to her

husband and not marry any suitors. Odysseus is allowed to have many lovers along his way

- The poet Demodocus sing the story of Hephaestus, Ares and Aphrodite
  - Also sings about the Trojan War which saddens Odysseus and Alcinous finally ask him who his guest is/where he is from, and Odysseus launches into the story of how he got there

o The *Apologi* (Books 9-12)

- Odysseus' accounts of his wanderings from Troy to Calypso's island
- *Apologi* 'tales/yarns'
- Nature of this section?
  - Odysseus' tale contains monsters, witches, trips to the land of the dead, etc.
    - o Nearly all of the 'fantastical' elements of the Odyssey occur in this section
- Cicones and Lotus-Eaters (Book 9)
  - Cicones: Pirates of some sort, they take a bunch of Odysseus' ships
  - Lotus-Eaters: People sitting around eating the Lotus, and when they eat Lotus they get really lazy.
    - o Mythological version of drug doing' possibly opium
- Polyphemus, the Cyclops (Book 9)
  - A one-eyed giant
  - Cyclops; 'orb-eyed'
  - Represents a kind of 'anti-civilization'
    - o He's a cannibal and despises Zeus