

Prof. B. Currie: Homer, *Odyssey* Books 9-12: lecture prospectus

The lectures will alternate between offering a detailed look at individual books (books 9 and 11 have been selected) and more wide-ranging thematic approaches to Odyssey, books 9-12.

Week 1: *Odyssey* Book 9: Odysseus and the Cyclops

Examines among other things the intricacies of Odysseus' 'No-man' trick.

Week 2: Odysseus and Others: The Wanderings in a Comparative Perspective

Assesses the value of comparing and contrasting Odysseus with other Greek and non-Greek heroes such as Jason, Heracles, Achilles, Gilgamesh, and Sindbad.

Week 3: *Odyssey* Book 11: The *Nekyia*

Considers the significance of Odysseus' encounters with the various shades of the dead.

Week 4: Odysseus as Narrator of the Wanderings

Explores the narrative motivations and consequences of making Odysseus the narrator of his own wanderings.