Ancient reflections in a time of modern war
In this course we will explore ancient Greek attitudes toward war, as represented in epic, drama, and historiography. Among the topics we will consider are: rhetoric and rationales for and against war; war and social cohesion; war and empire; the erotics of war; the stakes of civil war; war and gender; the social costs of war; the implications for our contemporary situation.

Week 1. Sept. 7

Week 2. Sept. 14

Week 3. Sept. 21

Week 4. Sept. 28

Week 5. Oct. 5
Euripides, *Trojan Women*; McLaughlin, E. *Trojan Women*
Week 6. Oct. 12  No class, take-home midterm.


*NB.* Performance by The Theater of War at Columbia U. 7 p.m.


Week 12. Nov. 23  No class; reading TBA


Week 14. Dec. 7  Last things

Take-home final exam due December 18 at 9 p.m., emailed and delivered in hard copy to my office.

The primary (ancient) texts for this course are available (under the course number and instructor’s name) at the NYU Bookstore (right across the street from Gallatin). Other readings are available on NYU Classes. Primary texts marked with an asterisk will be posted on NYU Classes. Texts designated ‘recommended reading’ in the weekly schedule above are not required; but you are urged to read them, and it will be to your advantage to draw on them in your written work.

*The Iliad of Homer*, tr. R. Lattimore (Univ. of Chicago Press)


Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*. M. I. Finley (Editor, Introduction), Rex Warner (Translator)
Course requirements: 1) class attendance (more than 1 absence -- except for documented emergencies -- will automatically lower your final grade) and participation; 2) required readings; 3) *weekly response paragraphs on the assigned reading 4) short paper 5) take-home final exam.

Grading will be based on: class participation and response paragraphs 40%; short paper 20%; final exam 40%. All your written work must be your own; “borrowed” work will be severely sanctioned in accordance with school policies. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me.

*Response papers: each week – for our meeting on Sept. 21 and all subsequent meetings except Oct. 12, please post on NYUC by 9 p.m. the Monday evening before each class (AND bring to class) a coherent 1-2 paragraph response to the week’s reading (primary or secondary); students will volunteer or be called on to read their observations and comments. These response paragraphs will NOT be graded individually, but constitute an essential element of your participation in the class. Your paper response may include outlining or critique of arguments in the secondary material. As part of your class participation, you will be asked to lead the class discussion on a given text for roughly 5 min. (date to be determined) – this can be based on your posting for that class.

NB. No non-organic brains in class, i.e. no computers!