

The Iliad

Selected Readings and Reverberations

Course #	20SIL
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Elizabeth Armstrong
Date and Time:	Monday, 10:00- Noon 10 weeks, starting Feb. 24, 2020
Location:	Applewood in Amherst, meeting room
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: The purpose of the seminar is to become familiar with the story of Homer's *Iliad* and see how its message and characters resonate in today's world.

Description: *The Iliad* is a powerful, first-rate story, whose dramatic action is wrapped around such time-tested themes as insulted honor, love, loss and revenge.... Central to this tragic vision is the Trojan War..... riveted on what may be called the enduring realities of war: the fact that an individual warrior must risk his life for a cause in which he does not believe, or subject himself to the command of a lesser man." (Caroline Alexander)

After reading selections from the text (less than half the total), we will go on to read and discuss modern-day re-imaginings and interpretations (including *The Song of Achilles*). In addition, various short articles and video clips will illustrate the wide applicability of Homer's message.

Role of participants: Participants will be expected to read all the assignments and participate in the classroom discussions.

Resources: Publications and other resources:
The Iliad: A New Translation, Caroline Alexander, 2016
The Song of Achilles: A Novel, Madeline Miller, 2012

About the Moderator: Elizabeth (Lise) Armstrong has moderated many seminars on literary subjects, including *Beowulf* and the *Odyssey*. She recently conducted a summer seminar on the works of Edith Wharton.