

### Update Page for Class of 4/12/22

Course materials and info page: <https://sacks-richard.com/iliad-at-du-materials>

**For our fifth and final class on the *Iliad* (that of 4/12),** we'll begin by spending a few moments on Achilles' return to the battlefield in books 20-21, toward the end of which the narrative switches its focus to an extended battle among the gods. But our main focus will be on books 22 and 24: the former features the climactic confrontation between Achilles and Hektōr, while the latter is obviously the poem's final book and thus our last set of "data" for the *Iliad*'s closing vision and arguments. So please complete your reading of the poem, and try to come to class armed with evidence and prepared with your conclusion(s) about what you think the *Iliad* is ultimately arguing. And one last time, here are some passages you might want to think about, though I hasten to add – also one last time – that any passage is and must be fair game for our concluding discussion:

- 1) What do you make of **the so-called *theomachia* ("battle of the gods") which is introduced at 20.54-75, and then takes over the narrative at 21.328-520?** Note also the intervening scenes involving Achilles' return to the battlefield, especially three of Achilles' extended confrontations in that intervening sequence: vs. Aineias (20.79-352), vs. Lykaōn (21.34-135), and vs. Asteropaios (21.139-204).
- 2) What do you make of **book 22 as a whole and the ways in which it frames and narrates the climactic scene between Achilles and Hektōr?** Here are some passages you may want to think about as you wrestle with that climactic sequence:
  - 2A) the scene in the extended confrontation between Achilles and Hektōr in which Athēnē disguises herself as Hektōr's brother Deiphobos (22.226-305), culminating in Hektōr's speech (22.297-305) when he realizes that Deiphobos is not there to help him.
  - 2B) the final exchange between Achilles and Hektōr after Hektōr is fatally wounded (22.331-366)
  - 2C) Achilles' final speech of book 22 (22.378-394)
- 3) What do you make of **the scene early in book 23 when the ghost of Patroklos appears to Achilles (23.65-108)?** Note also – in terms of general narrative strategy – that over 70% of book 23 (23.257-897) is dedicated to the funeral games Achilles stages in honor of Patroklos.
- 4) What do you make of **book 24, the poem's concluding narrative sequence, as it moves from an Achilles who still both "wept and wept" (24.3) and was "in his fury" (24.22) to one who returns the body of Hektōr to Priam?** Here are some passages you may want to wrestle with as you think about the poem's final book:
  - 4A) the poem's final extended sequence on Olympos (24.23-121)
  - 4B) Priam's arrival at Achilles' encampment and his ensuing speech to Achilles (24.477-512)
  - 4C) the sequence (24.518-620) featuring Achilles' final two extended speeches in the poem (24.518-551 and 24.599-620)
  - 4D) the sequence (24.723-776) featuring the laments of Andromachē (24.725-745), Hekabē (24.748-759), and Helen (24.762-775), the final three extended speeches of the poem as it ends with "the funeral rites for Hektōr, breaker of horses" (24.804)