This course provides the opportunity to read ancient epic in English: the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer and Vergil’s Aeneid. We will enter the world of Achilles and Hektor, Odysseus and Penelope, and Aeneas and Dido. Attentive reading, engaged class discussion, and thoughtful writing assignments will be the means by which we investigate topics such as: what constitutes a hero and the nature of glory; how the ‘traditional’ view of the hero is challenged, questioned, and refined in all three epics; what role the gods play in setting human limits, thereby defining what it means to be human and mortal; and how each of these poems represents women and their interactions with men and the city.