Sample Reading Lists for HON 1003 Ancient Greek Culture

For at least 25 years, Honors scholars have begun their Honors studies by reading Homer’s *The Iliad* over the summer.

One semester, students read the following poets, playwrights and philosophers to examine the role of ἀρέτη and logos in ancient Greek life.

Homer, *The Odyssey*  
Aeschylus, *Oresteia*  
Sophocles, *Oedipus Tyrannus*  
Sophocles, *Philoctetes*  
Euripides, *Hecuba* and *The Bacchae*

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*  
Plato, *Apology of Socrates*  
Plato, *Phaedrus*  
Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*  
Epictetus, *The Handbook*

In a different year, the seminar focused on the question, “What makes a person virtuous?” by engaging these readings:

Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*  
Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* and *The Oresteia*  
Sophocles, *The Theban Plays*  
Herodotus, *The Histories*  
Euripides, *Phoenician Women*, *Bacchae*, and *Iphigenia at Aulis*.

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, and *Women at the Thesmophoria*  
Plato, *Apology*  
Gorgias, *Encomium to Helen*  
Plato, *Gorgias*  

In yet a different year, the seminar attended to the intertwined themes of war and law, reading:

Aeschylus, *Persians*  
Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*  
Edith Hamilton, *Mythology*  
Herodotus, *The History*

Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*  
Plato, *The Republic*  
Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*

Other readings engaged by students in HON 1003 have included:

Euripides, *Trojan Women*  
Aristophanes, *Frogs*  
Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*  
Plato, *Symposium*  
Gorgias, “Defence of Palamedes”  
Isocrates, *Antidosis*