The mastery of Derek Walcott’s epic, *Omeros* (1990), was immediately recognized: “No poet rivals Mr. Walcott in humor, emotional depth, lavish inventiveness in language, or the ability to express the thoughts of his characters and compel the reader to follow the swift mutations of ideas and images in their minds” (1990, Lefkovitz, *The NYT Book Review*). In 1992 Walcott was awarded the Nobel Prize “for a poetic oeuvre of great luminosity, sustained by a historical vision, the outcome of a multicultural commitment.” Through a creative dialogue with Homer, Virgil, and Dante, *Omeros* introduces an enriching postcolonial perspective on classical literature.

In addition to our in-depth exploration of *Omeros*, we will discuss two recent re-imaginings of the *Iliad*: David Malouf’s gripping rendering of the meeting of King Priam and Achilles in *Iliad* XXIV as a tale of redemption and Pat Barker’s insightful retelling of the Trojan War through the sensibility of Briseis.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**
**WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>TEXT/READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| Week 1  
Date: 9/30 | Walcott | Introduction: Iliadic themes in modern literature  
*Omeros*, Book I |
| Week 2  
Date: 10/7 | Walcott | *Omeros*, Book II |
| Week 3  
Date: 10/14 | Walcott | *Omeros*, Book III |
| Week 4  
Date: 10/21 | Walcott | *Omeros*, Book IV |
| Week 5  
Date: 10/28 | Walcott | *Omeros*, Book V |
| Week 6  
Date: 11/4 | Walcott | *Omeros*, Book VI |
| Week 7  
Date: 11/11 | Walcott | *Omeros*, Book VII |
| Week 8  
Date: 11/18  
(no class 11/25) | Malouf | *Ransom* (the whole novel, about 200 pages) |
| Week 9  
Date: 12/2 | Baker | *The Silence of the Girls* (Parts 1 and 2) |
| Week 10  
Date: 12/9 | Baker | *The Silence of the Girls* (Part 3) |

This syllabus is a *summary of course objectives and content*, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.