

Hum 110: Hesiod's *Works and Days* (L. Leibman)

Reading Questions:

1. Authorial Voice: what sort of persona does Hesiod present in *Works & Days*?
2. Education: We know that Hesiod's poetry was part of the Greek and Roman curriculum. Why might later Greeks and Romans treat this as a great work to be preserved as a central cultural document and educational item? What values and lessons does it provide?
3. Ethics: If life is unfair, how can Zeus' order be just? Compare the concept of *eudaimoniä* (human happiness or flourishing) in the poems of Homer and Hesiod.
4. Politics and the social order: compare the representations of women and gender in the *Theogony* and *Works and Days*. Is Hesiod a misogynist (a woman hater)? Support your position with proof from both poems.
5. Social History: describe and explain the relationship between the individual and the community as depicted in the *Theogony* and *Works and Days*. What insights do we gain into class structure in this text? You might want to focus on the 5 ages of man.
6. Trivia: Don't forget that you can look up your trivia questions in the Oxford Classical Dictionary and other books near it in the reference room (reference room call # DE5 O9 1970). Also useful are Robert Graves' *Greek Myths* (BL 781 G65) and the *Oxford Companion to Classical Literature* (reference room call #PA31. H69 1989)