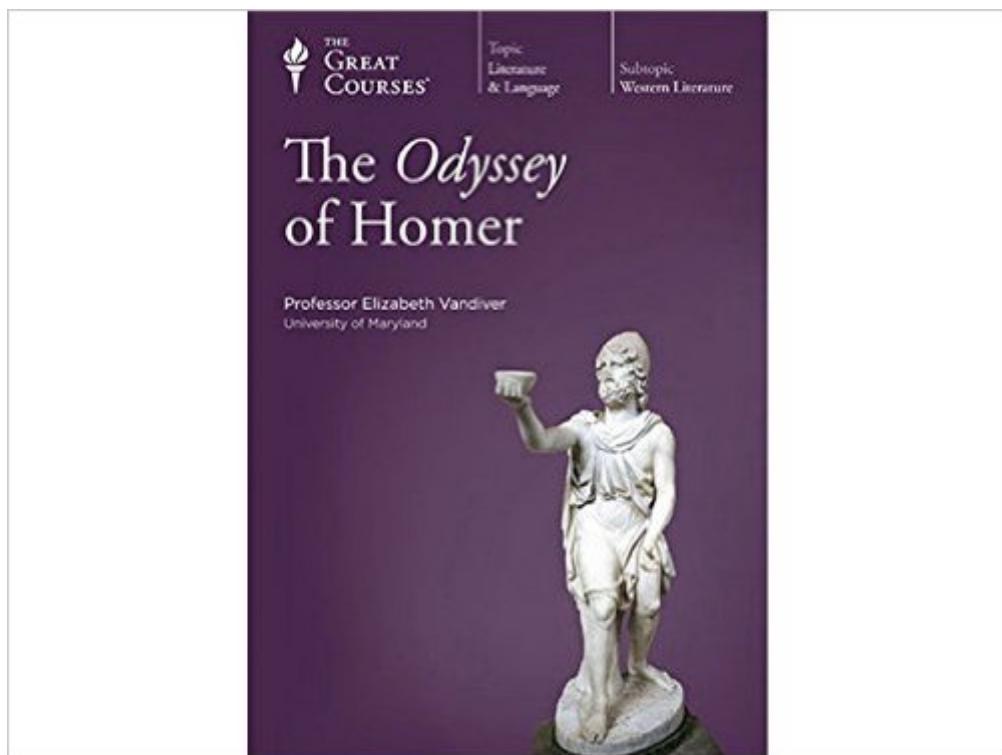


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The Great Courses: The Odyssey Of Homer



Synopsis

What is it in Homer's *Odyssey* that has so enthralled readers from around the world for thousands of years. By joining Professor Vandiver for these 12 lectures on the *Odyssey*, you'll find out why. This literary exploration centers on a single provocative question about the epic poem's protagonist, Odysseus: Why does he long so powerfully to go home. To probe the depths of this question, you'll embark on meticulous, insightful examinations of the most important episodes in the *Odyssey*. In doing so, you'll understand the cultural assumptions that lie behind Homer's lines and the critical and interpretive issues involved in truly unpacking this ancient masterpiece. Among the range of episodes, themes, and topics you'll explore are: Odysseus's superb skills as a rhetorician; the abrupt break in the text at the end of the "Great Wanderings" episode, when the poem briefly returns to the third-person narrative; Penelope's knowledge and motives as they relate to the inevitability of her suitors' doom; the effectiveness (or possible lack thereof) in the poem's ending; the historical basis for the Trojan War from which Odysseus returns; and more. For anyone who's loved the stories of Odysseus's encounters with witches, monsters, and vengeful gods; for anyone who's longed to truly grasp the intricate nature of Homer's epic; or for anyone who has been looking for ways to approach a work that can often be intimidating to first-time readers, these lectures are an invaluable resource and a helpful introduction to the grandest adventure story in Western literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The course was OK but rambles on a bit. The explanations are not particularly clear. But overall, adds to an understanding of this great epic.

A great lecture!

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