



欧洲文化简明教程

A Concise Course Book on European Culture

李正栓 主编



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前 言

《欧洲文化简明教程》旨在介绍欧洲文化的精华，把语言学习和文化学习紧密结合在一起，给语言学习加上丰富的文化内涵。本教程是为英语专业学生编写的一本教材，也可以用作非英语专业学生相关选修或拓展课教材。

全书共分十章，从古希腊罗马讲起，到当代结束，讲授欧洲文化的各个方面，包括历史、哲学、宗教、文学、艺术、建筑等。每章后配有知识性习题和批判性思维问题，书后附参考答案。

本教材有以下特色：

1. 语言简明，易学易懂。不照搬国外原版书籍的相关内容，使教材语言接近学生认知和欣赏水平，简明易懂，易学易记。
2. 脉络清楚，详略得当。以历史发展为脉络，重点讲解不同时期的重要文化现象，有详有略，详而不繁，略而不漏。
3. 图文并茂，直观有趣。选配大量图片，帮助学生直观地认知所学内容。在行文时对文化现象进行适当的研究型介绍。
4. 加注音标，选配译文。对某些读音复杂的单词加注音标，音标以英音为主。对一些人名、作品名等配有汉语译名，使学习欧洲文化无障碍。
5. 配有练习，便于掌握。编写了多种题型的练习，全面帮助学生巩固所学，把学习和复习结合起来。
6. 不同文化，适当比较。在讲述欧洲文化时与中国文化进行提及性比较，以熟悉感克服陌生感。

讲授本教程需要 36 学时。第二章、第三章、第六章、第八章、第九章各需要 3 学时；第一章、第五章、第七章和第十章各需要 4 学时。第四章需要用 5 学时。建议在第三或第四学期开设。

学生学习本课程时应做到几点：预习时通读教材，课堂上与老师互动，课后做练习并复习。建议同学们加强比较意识，多学习中国文化并与欧洲文化进行比较，尝试用英语讲述中国文化。

本书的讲义几经使用，广泛征求意见并不断修改，终成此稿。在此，对所有为本书提出建设性修改意见的专家学者表示衷心的感谢。同时，感谢商务印书馆栾奇主任和责任编辑刘军怀先生，他们对此书倾注了很多心血。

尽管我们已经做了很大努力，但水平所限，不当之处在所难免，敬请各位专家学者不吝指正。

李正栓

2014 年 1 月

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Chapter One



The Classic Age: Greek and Roman Cultures

I. Greek Culture

1. Background

Whenever we talk about ancient Greece, we cannot fail to mention the Trojan ['trəʊdʒən] War. The Trojan War lasted ten years, beginning in 1194 BC and ending in 1184 BC. Many stories have been told about this war. However, Homer's vivid account in the *Iliad* ['ɪliəd] (《伊利亚特》) is the most famous.

In the 5th century BC Greece entered a more glorious period in which the Greek people drove away their enemy, the Persian ['pɜːʃən] invaders and the city-state of Athens ['æθɪnz] established a democracy in which, however, only adult male Greek citizens had power and rights. Athens developed its economy through slavery.

During this period, science, philosophy, literature, history writing and the arts developed quickly. However, after the victory over the Persians, a civil war broke out between Athens and Sparta ['spɑːtə] towards the end of the century.

In the second half of the 4th century BC, one of the Greek states called Macedon ['mæsidən] became more and more powerful under the leadership of Alexander the Great who unified Greece just as Qinshihuang (the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty) unified China. Macedon covered large territories including parts of Europe, Asia and Africa.

History is always such that a fall comes after a rise. No country can avoid such a fate. In 146 BC Greece was conquered by the Romans.

2. Literature

1) Greek mythology

Greek mythology was a brilliant achievement of ancient Greek literature, a rich literary legacy left to the world. It displayed the rich imagination of people who tried to express their wishes to learn about the world and dominate nature. They regarded mythology as a daily cultural necessity and as a means of recording history. Myths were used to explain nature, culture, enmity, friendship and a myriad of experiences and emotions.

It also displayed the early laws and system in Greek society. A hierarchy within the social structure ranked Zeus as the highest god, placing the different gods in lower positions according to their own work. Each god had his or her place in genealogy and chain of command, each with his or her different interest, expertise and personality. Gods in Greek mythology denoted people's consciousness of division of work that was closely associated with various aspects of life. For example, the goddess Aphrodite was in charge of love and beauty; the god Ares was in charge of war; the god Hades was in charge of the dead, and the goddess Athena was in charge of wisdom and courage.

Greek mythology contained many love stories, but they often involved incest between mother and son or brother and sister. Some stories described a male god's seduction or rape of a mortal woman in different ways, trying to prove masculine power, and these instances were framed as producing children who later became heroes.

There were also stories of punishment for disobedience. For example, Prometheus [prəu'mi:θju:s] stole fire from Olympus but was punished by Zeus. Zeus chained Prometheus to a rock where an eagle fed each day on his liver which grew again each night.

Greek mythology was one of the important sources in Homer's epics, in which the gods took sides to help both sides of the war. Heroes fought and cities fell.

The mythology also revealed the religious system of the ancient Greeks, and reflected the social structure, family form, relationship between gods and humans, men and women, humanity and nature, daily life and even agricultural production.

Greek mythology was the source of later Greek art. Different forms of art from all eras including poetry, drama, painting and sculpture were inspired by mythology.

2) Homer

Homer ['həʊmə] (荷马) lived around 700 BC. It was said that he might have been hostage and blind. He was considered the author of two epics, namely, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* ['ɒdəsi] (《奥德赛》).

The *Iliad* dealt with the war between Troy [trɔɪ] and the united forces of the states on the mainland of southern Greece. The alliance of the Greek army was led by Agamemnon [æɡə'memnən] with Achilles [ə'kɪlɪz], Odysseus [ə'dɪsjʊ:s] and other generals as their main commanders. Trojan forces were led by Hector ['hektə]. The war ended with the victory on the Greek side.

The *Odyssey* told the story about the return of Odysseus after the Trojan War to his country Ithaca ['ɪθəkə]. The first 12 volumes dealt with his adventures on the sea. The latter 12 volumes dealt with adventures on land. The epic ended with Odysseus' reunion with his faithful wife Penelope. Penelope was a person like the faithful lady Wang Baochuan in a Chinese play, who waited patiently and faithfully for her husband to return home after long absence.

3) Lyric poetry

Two famous lyric poets of this time are worth remembering: Sappho ['sæfəʊ] (萨福, c. 612 BC–580 BC) and Pindar ['pɪndə] (品达, c. 518 BC–438 BC).

Sappho, born in Lesbos ['lezbɒs], was the most important lyric poet of ancient Greece and was famous for her passionate love poems which prompted the English Romantic poet George Gordon Byron [dʒɔ:dʒ 'ɡɔ:dn 'baɪərən], commonly known as Lord Byron, to call her “burning Sappho”. Plato ['pleɪtəʊ] called her the tenth

Muse.

Pindar, regarded as a national poet, was famous for his odes celebrating the victories at sports games, referred to as the 14 Olympian odes. He was a talented musician, playing both pipes and harps. His poems were characterized by forceful diction and vivid figures of speech, creating a deep artistic conception and profound thought. His style was imitated by many later renowned poets such as John Dryden and John Keats, the widely read and famous British Romantic poet who wrote some of the greatest odes ever written in English history.

4) Drama

Greek drama developed quickly and prosperously during the 5th century BC. Taking materials from Homer's epics, mythology and legends about heroes, Greek drama touched upon the concepts of fate, religious beliefs, civil and international wars, politics, democracy, social relationships and family disputes.

Most early plays were performed at religious festivals in open-air theaters. Plays were comprised of a big chorus but had few actors. The actors wore masks.

The most noteworthy was tragedy in Greek drama during this period. The tragedies mostly told stories about royal families, noble families and great heroes. One could argue that it gave the impression that the term "tragedy" applied only to the higher class. In this sense, some tragedies in Chinese drama should not use this term because some tragedies in Chinese drama talked about the fate of the common people.

Greek drama had something in common with ancient Chinese drama: actors wore masks and dramatic faces with diverse colours and designs as symbols of character.

A. Aeschylus

Aeschylus [ˈiːskələs] (埃斯库罗斯, 525 BC-456 BC) wrote *Prometheus Bound* (《被缚的普罗米修斯》), *Persians* (《波斯人》) and *Agamemnon* (《阿伽门农》), all in verse. He was adept at portraying vivid characters through his majestic poetry, in which his characters must face the inescapable fate of death.

Aeschylus used two actors and a chorus in his plays.