Bill Beck

Ballantine Hall 669, 1020 E Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405

PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

Homeric epic; Homeric scholia; ancient literary criticism

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Indiana University, Bloomington

Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, 2020–

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, 2019–20

EDUCATION

Degrees Awarded

2019 Ph.D., Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation: *The Narrative of the Iliad: Time, Space, and Story*. Advisor: Sheila Murnaghan

2011 B.A., Greek and Latin, Swarthmore College, Phi Beta Kappa, Highest Honors

Non-Degree Training

American School of Classical Studies at Athens
Summer Session Participant, 2010; Academic Year Program, 2016–17; Student Associate Member, 2017–18

2009 Poggio Colla Field School, Mugello Valley Archaeological Project

2008 CUNY Latin/Greek Institute, Basic Program in Greek, *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. *The Iliad and the Trojan War: Ten Years in Troy, Fifty-One Days at Ilios*. Forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.
2. *The Ancient Scholia to Homer's Iliad: A Translation*. *Volume 1: Books 1–2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2025. Pp. 451.
3. *The Ancient Scholia to Homer's Iliad: Exegesis and Interpretation*. *BICS* 64-1. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2021. Pp. 136. (Co-editor with A. Kelly and T. Phillips.)

Articles and Book Chapters

1. "'Through this, Homer teaches': The Exegetical Scholia on the Lessons of the *Iliad*." *Classical World* 119.1 (2026) 1–26.
2. "The Exegetical Scholia on Factual, Aesthetic, and Ethical Problems in the *Iliad*." *Aevum Antiquum* 25 (2025) 53–77.
3. "On the Attribution and Interpretation of the AbT-scholion to *Iliad* 2.87." *Mnemosyne* 78.7 (2025) 1133–1148.
4. "How Did Homer's Troilus Die?" *Classical Quarterly* 73.2 (2023) 495–507.
5. "Homer's Verbal Mimesis in the *Iliad*'s Exegetical Scholia." *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* 63 (2023) 78–102.
6. "Harshing Zeus' μέλω: Reassessing the Sympathy of Zeus at *Iliad* 20.21." *American Journal of Philology* 143.3 (2022) 359–384.

7. "Doorways and Diegesis: Spatial and Narrative Boundaries in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*." *Classical Philology* 117.4 (2022) 706–719.
8. "Introduction," in B. Beck, A. Kelly, and T. Phillips (eds), *The Ancient Scholia to Homer's Iliad: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Oxford (2021) 1–5. (Co-author with A. Kelly and T. Phillips.)
9. "Reading for Achilles in the bT-Scholia to the *Iliad*," in B. Beck, A. Kelly, and T. Phillips (eds), *The Ancient Scholia to Homer's Iliad: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Oxford (2021) 48–58.
10. "Reassessing the Scholiastic Evidence for the Cretan *Odyssey* Theory." *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 150.2 (2020) 357–378.
11. "Lost in the Middle: Story Time and Discourse Time in the *Iliad*." *Yearbook of Ancient Greek Epic* 1 (2017) 46–64.
12. "*Causas Memora*: Epic Etiology and Vergil's *Aeneid*." *Vergilius* 62 (2016) 57–78.
13. "Provocative Contradictions in Plato's Myth of Er." *Proceedings of AMPAL* (2013).
14. "Tying Up Loose Ends: The Metapoetics of Closure in *Odyssey* 22." *Rosetta* (2013).

Encyclopedia Entries
1. "Commentaries/scholia." *The Encyclopedia of Greek and Roman Epic*. Submitted.
2. "Troilus." *The Encyclopedia of Greek and Roman Epic*. Submitted.

Book Reviews
1. "Metalepsis in the *Iliad*," a review of Leonie von Alvensleben, *Erzähler und Figur in Interaktion. Metalepsen in Homers Ilias* (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2022). *Classical Review* 74 (2024) 148–50.
2. Katherine L. Kretler, *One Man Show: Poetics and Presence in the Iliad and Odyssey* (Washington, DC, 2020). Reviewed in *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 142 (2022) 335–336.
3. Alexander C. Loney, *The Ethics of Revenge and the Meaning of the Odyssey* (Oxford, 2019). *Classical Philology* 117.3 (2022) 564–567.
4. Franco Montanari, ed. *History of Ancient Greek Scholarship. From the Beginnings to the End of the Byzantine Age* (Leiden, 2020). *Sehepunkte* 21:6 (2021).
5. Tobias Meyers, *Homer's Divine Audience: The Iliad's Reception on Mount Olympus* (Oxford, 2019). *Classical Journal*: 2021.06.02.
6. Thomas Van Nortwick, *The unknown Odysseus: alternate worlds in Homer's Odyssey* (Ann Arbor, 2020). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*: 2021.04.09.
7. Richard J. Defouw, *The Subtlety of Homer* (Boulder, 2018). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*: 2019.09.44.
8. Anthony Verity, *Homer, The Odyssey* (Oxford, 2016). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*: 2017.09.11.

Media, Outreach, and Public-Facing Scholarship
- Podcasts: *Word Journeys* (6.7.2019); *Lesche* (4.8.2026); *Life, Literature, and the Pursuit of Happiness* (4.22.2026); *Weather Authority Now* (8.5.2026)
- Writing: "Trump's Winged Words" (*Eidolon*, 2018); "The Measure of a Man" (*Eidolon*, 2018); "Pindr" (*Eidolon*, 2018); "Etymandrology" (*Eidolon*, 2018); "Pandora's Radio" (*Eidolon*, 2018); "The Homer We Want" (*Eidolon*, 2018); "OkCupīdō" (*Eidolon*, 2019); "Funding Opportunities for Students and Teachers of Classics, Ancient History, Art History, and Archaeology" (SCS Blog, 2019); "Homeric Word Journeys" (*Unravel*, 2019, with Dallas Simons); "Honest Ads for Cars of Myth" (*Eidolon*, 2019)
- Interviews: Interviewed by the *Indianapolis Recorder* for "*The Odyssey* is driving conversation around Greek mythology, film and ticket sales" (8.5.2026)

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2012 "Tying Up Loose Ends: The Metapoetics of Closure in *Odyssey* 22," CA; AMPAL

2012 "The Silence of the Nightingale: Hesiodic Self-Promotion," University of Buffalo
2013 "Provocative Contradictions: Plato's Mythic Refamiliarization," AMPAL
2014 "Overdetermination and Undermotivation in the *Aeneid*," APA
2014 "Physical and Narrative Boundaries in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*," CAMWS
2015 "No Story of Troy Before *The* Story of Troy," CAMWS
2015 "The Turning Post and the Finish Line: False Boundaries in the *Iliad*," SCS
2015 "Horace's Homer," CA
2016 "Lost in the Middle: Story Time and Discourse Time in the *Iliad*," Reading University; CA
2016 "Statius' *Thebaid*: 1.46–78," Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa
2017 "Time in the Scholia to the *Iliad*," SCS
2018 "Ancient Approaches to 'Illogical' Homeric Epithets,'" SCS
2018 "The Use and Abuse of Homeric Scholia," American School of Classical Studies at Athens
2018 "Reassessing the Evidence for the 'Cretan *Odyssey*,'" Oxford University
2019 "Reassessing the Evidence for Zenodotus' 'Cretan *Odyssey*,'" SCS
2019 "Mind the Gaps: Translating the Scholia to the *Iliad*," Università di Genova
2021 "Homer's Mimetic Poetics in the *Iliad*'s Exegetical Scholia," SCS
2021 "Harshing Zeus' μέλω: Reassessing the Sympathy of Zeus at *Iliad* 20.21," CAMWS
2022 "The *Iliad* and the First Nine Years of the Trojan War," Swarthmore College
2022 "'Ear, ear for the sea-surge': Sound and Sense in the Homeric Scholia," CA
2024 "Keeping Track of Casualties in the *Iliad*," CAMWS
2025 "'Through this, Homer teaches': The Exegetical Scholia on the Lessons of the *Iliad*," SCS
2025 "From Alpha to Omega: A Brief History of the Alphabet," Indiana Junior Classical League
2026 "A Brief History of Writing in the Ancient Mediterranean," Indiana Junior Classical League
2026 "Daily Life in Ancient Greece," National Junior Classical League
2027 "Homer, Dares, and the First Nine Years of the Trojan War," SCS

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2011 Phi Beta Kappa
2015 President Gutmann Leadership Award, University of Pennsylvania
2015–16 Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2015–16 US-UK Fulbright All-Disciplines Postgraduate Award, University of Reading
2016–17 James Rignall Wheeler Fellowship, American School of Classical Studies at Athens
2016–17 Arts & Sciences Dean's Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
2017 Vodantis Memorial Scholarship for Greek Studies, Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia
2017–18 Edward Capps Fellowship, American School of Classical Studies at Athens
2018 Residential Fellowship, Fondation Hardt
2019 Ezra Pound Translation Award, 1st Prize, University of Pennsylvania
2022–24 Collaborative Research Award, IU Institute for Advanced Study
2023 Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award, Indiana Classical Conference
2023 Career Program Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, IU Bloomington
2023–24 Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship, Loeb Classical Library Foundation
2023–24 Fellowship in Hellenic Studies, Center for Hellenic Studies (declined)
2023–24 Research Leave Supplement, IU Bloomington
2025 Summer Research Fellow, IU Institute for Advanced Study

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Courses in translation:

Ancient Greek Culture (F20, S21, SUM21, F21, SUM22, S23, SUM23, SUM24, F24, SUM25, S26); Classical Mythology (F19, S20); Classical Drama (F19); Classical Epics (S22, F26); Greek Literature in Translation: The Trojan War (S20)

Undergraduate Greek courses:

Elementary Greek II (S25, S26); Intermediate Greek I (F20, F21); Intermediate Greek II (S25)

Graduate Greek courses:

History of Greek Literature (F24, F26); Readings in the Greek Novel (S23); Readings in Greek Epic (S22); Survey of Greek Poetry (S21)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Undergraduate Greek/Latin courses:

Intensive Introductory Greek (2015); Vergil's *Aeneid* (2013); Intermediate Latin Prose: Caesar and Cicero (2012)

Courses Assisted:

Greek and Roman Mythology (2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019); Reading the *Iliad* (2016, 2017); Orders and Origins: Paradise Lost (2014); Post-Baccalaureate Seminar in Greek (2013)

CLASS VISITS

2019 Swarthmore College: GREK 012: Homer's *Iliad* (4/4/19)
2021 University of Pittsburgh: GREEK 0220: Intermediate Greek Verse (3/12/21)
2023 University of Pennsylvania: CLST 9000: Dissertation Prospectus Workshop (2/21/23)
2024 Northwestern University: LAT 310: *The Latin Iliad* (1/16/24)

STUDENT SUPERVISION (INDIANA UNIVERSITY)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

1. Sidney Kochman, *Forensic Fabulae: Structures of Story in Attic Orations*, 2025
2. Bean Leach, *What It Means to Be a Hellene: The Consistency of Ethnic Representation in Herodotos' Histories*, 2026
3. Iris Coats, *A City Full of Birdsong: Metatheater, Antiphonal Reality, and Greek Old Comedy*, in progress
4. Brian Pulverenti, *"torches, and a marriage song": Form and Concealment in Epithalamia of the Long Nineteenth Century*, in progress

Ph.D. Special Topic Exam Committees

1. Ben Leach, Herodotus, 2023
2. Margaret Kammerer, Horace's *Odes*, 2025
3. Iris Coats, Aristophanes, 2025
4. Alec Smitten, Ancient Greek Grammatical Theory, 2026

M.A. Thesis Committees

1. Walker Rhea, *Singing the World into Existence: A Comparison of Hebrew and Greek Creation Songs*, 2021
2. Simon Kaplan, *Projecting Cassandra: The Reception of the Cassandra Myth in Renaissance Europe*, 2024

B.A. Thesis Committees

1. Avery Schollenberger, "Reconstructing the Mycenean Warrior Ethos: Exploring the Displays of Power of the Mycenean Elite through Chariot Iconography," 2025

SERVICE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Department of Classical Studies

Director of Graduate Studies, 2026–28
Greek PhD Translation Exam Committee, 2020–27
Graduate Committee, 2024–27
Director of Elementary Latin Program, 2021–22, 24–25
Salary Committee, 2021, 2023, 2024
Lecture Committee, 2020–21, 22–23, 26–27
Undergraduate Committee, 2020–23
G100/150 Supervisor, 2020–22
Faculty Search Committee, 2020, 21–22
MA Exam Committee, 2020

College of Arts & Sciences

Dissertation Research Fellowship and Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Reviewer, 2025

University Graduate School

University Graduate School Underrepresented Recruitment Fellowships, Reviewer, 2025

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Refereeing

Book Proposals: I have refereed one academic book proposal (Oxford University Press)
Articles: I have refereed fourteen articles for ten academic journals (*American Journal of Philology*, *Canopos*, *Classical Journal*, *Classical Quarterly*, *Classical World*, *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*, *Mnemosyne*, *Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World*, *Transactions of the American Philological Association*, *Yearbook of Ancient Greek Epic*)

Other Service

Presider, The *Odyssey* and Homeric Scholarship Panel, SCS, 2027
Judge, IJCL Costume Contest, 2026
Presider, Greek Poetry Panel, SCS, 2025
External Honors Examiner, Swarthmore College, 2023
Panelist, Pedagogy Panel, Indiana Classical Conference, 2022
Content Consultant, *Zeus*, Abdo, 2022