Unit Description – In this unit we'll be reading a selection of poetic texts from 'archaic' Greece. Many of these are among the most famed poems of antiquity, and we won’t neglect to appreciate the beauty of their language and expression. We will also be concerned to learn about the different literary dialects in which they were written. Finally, we’ll be thinking about the very idea of a unified archaic Greek culture both as it has continued to be explored in recent scholarship and as it has been imagined as the incunabula of classical Athenian culture—either as 'primitive,' inchoate seedbed for future glory or as an age of vigorous health before the ‘sickness’ of rationalism—at various points in the Western tradition.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching: 2 hours per week, seminars and reading classes

Methods of Assessment: One essay of c. 3,000 words (50 marks) and one examination of one and a half hours (50 marks) consisting of a passage each for unseen (10 marks) and prepared translation (10 marks) and two passages (out of four) for comment (30 marks).

Essential Reading
Nietzsche, F. The Birth of Tragedy: Out of the Spirit of Music

Further Information
There will also be a course pack with additional primary texts and essential secondary reading.