

CLSX 168: Ancient Epic Tales
Assignment 4: Achilles

Directions: At the top of the paper, put your title, your name, and the word count.

Requirements: 700-900 words (approximately 2-3 pages, double spaced).

Prompt:

Consider the artwork below, painted by Barnett Newman in 1952, entitled *Achilles*.

What about this painting evokes Achilles? Why do you think the artist chose to represent Achilles in this way? Do you think this is a comprehensive representation of Achilles as a whole or just particular aspects of his character? Is Newman using criteria only from the *Iliad* or are his own cultural assumptions influencing his choices?

As you are thinking about this prompt, study the painting closely. While at first the painting may seem too abstract to represent Achilles, there actually is significance in the choices that Newman made: colors, shades of color, shapes, their arrangement and order, etc. Use these pieces of information, as well as the *Iliad*, to answer the question.

As you are creating an argument, be sure to provide a specific justification for the answers you choose by citing specific lines or passages from the text and identifying specific features about the painting. Make sure that your conclusion follows from the premises. There is no need to consult any other resources; I am interested only in your opinions about the painting.

