Nagy discusses Greek Poetics through Homer

BY MOIRA ZABEL  CRUSADES NEWS STAFF

Professor Gregory Nagy’s visit to Holy Cross on Oct. 31 provided both students and faculty an opportunity to learn from one of the foremost scholars of ancient Greece. Nagy’s lecture, delivered in the afternoon to a packed room in O’Kane, was entitled “Greek Poetics Through the Lens of Homer.” His talk conveyed his vast knowledge of not only Homer’s epic lyric and epic, but also his knowledge and culture.

Nagy’s long career in classics has earned him numerous credentials. He is the center of the Columbia University Classics Department and the director of its esteemed graduate program. He has published extensively on subjects such as humanism in ancient Greek poetry, mythology, Homer, and poetry as a performing art. Currently, he is a visiting professor at the University of Athens and a member of the American Academy in Athens. He has been a visiting scholar at the University of Oxford and a visiting fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

In his lecture, Nagy introduced the audience to the world of Homer, whose works are the cornerstones of Western literature. He traced the development of Homer’s poetry from the oral tradition to the written form and examined how Homer’s poetry influenced later poets such as Virgil and Ovid.

Nagy discussed the importance of Homer’s epic tales in shaping the Western literary tradition. He explained how Homer’s poetry was the basis for the development of the novel and the short story, and how it influenced the development of the modern novel.

Nagy’s lecture ended with a brief discussion of the legacy of Homer’s poetry in modern times. He discussed how Homer’s poetry continues to influence contemporary literature and music, and how it is still relevant today.

Overall, Nagy’s lecture was a rich and informative exploration of Homer’s poetry and its influence on Western literature. It was a delight to hear a scholar of his stature discuss a topic that he clearly loves.