



SHUMUN XXVII // February 7th - 8th, 2026

Joint Crisis Committee: Trojan War

Background Guide



Crisis Directors: Elizabeth Denton & Samuel Thrasher
Chairs: Zainab Pieh & Luke Beys

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Letter from the Achaean Committee Chair

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Trojan War Joint Crisis Committee of SHUMUN XXVII. My name is Luke Beys, and I will be serving as the chair for the Achaean portion of this committee.

Currently, I am a sophomore studying Diplomacy and International Relations here at Seton Hall University where, in addition to participating in the Model United Nations club, I am also a part of the 3 + 3 Diplomacy and law program. Although this is my second year in the club, this is my first time in a chair position and I absolutely cannot wait to do it.

I am extremely excited to see you all work together and plan a successful committee while solving developing problems that come with it. If you have any questions at all concerning the committee, feel free to contact me at the email listed below.

Luke Beys

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Letter from the Trojan Committee Chair

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Trojan War Joint Crisis Committee of SHUMUN XXVII! My name is Zainab Pieh, but you can call me Zee, and I will be serving as the Chair for the Trojan side of this committee.

I am a current junior in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University and an active member of Seton Hall's United Nations Association. In addition to my involvement in Model UN, I serve in several leadership roles on campus, including within conference staff and student organizations. I am especially excited to bring my passion for crisis committees, dynamic debate, and creative problem-solving to this joint setting.

I am very much looking forward to seeing how you navigate the political intrigue, warfare, and diplomacy of Ancient Greece. This committee will reward strong strategy, collaboration, and bold decision-making, and I encourage you to fully embrace your role as a Trojan leader. Should you have any questions or concerns as we approach the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Zainab Pieh

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Letter from the Achaean Committee Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Trojan War JCC of SHUMUN XXVII! My name is Elizabeth (Liz) Denton and I will be the Crisis Director for the Achaean side of this joint crisis committee. A bit about me, I am a current sophomore studying Diplomacy and International Relations as well as Philosophy. While I have been participating in Model UN with Seton Hall's United Nations Association and staffed last year's SHUMUN, this will be my first time working as a Crisis Director.

I am very much looking forward to working with you all and seeing your creative brilliance play out on the stage of Ancient Greece in the midst of Homer's *Iliad*. If you have any concerns going into this committee feel free to contact me.

Liz Denton

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Trojan War JCC

Letter from the Trojan Committee Crisis Director

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to SHUMUN XXVII! My name is Samuel (Sam) Thrasher, and I will be working as the crisis director for the Trojan committee in this year's JCC. I am currently a senior majoring in Diplomacy and International Relations here at Seton Hall, and have been participating in SHUNA for the last four years. This is my fourth SHUMUN conference, and while it is my first time working as a crisis director I have chaired committees the previous two years.

I look forward to working with you all, and if there are any questions regarding the committee or crisis in general, please feel free to contact me at the email below.

Sam Thrasher

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Notes on Procedure

1. SHUMUN uses Parliamentary Procedure (often abbreviated as Parli Pro) to run committees. A Google search will give you more than enough information on how this is used in Model UN, and any other questions can easily be addressed in committee.
2. SHUMUN has a zero-tolerance policy regarding bullying, offensive remarks, harassment, discrimination, or anything of the sort. Model UN should be a fun activity for delegates to participate in and no one should feel excluded at any point during the weekend. If at any point the Senior Secretariat is notified of any violation of this policy, the delegate and advisor will be contacted and the issue will be discussed, potentially resulting in expulsion from the conference or disqualification from awards. In general, if you think even for a second that something would offend someone, do not do or say that thing.
3. Profanity is prohibited.
4. Pre-writing is defined as any notes or directives written outside of committee time and is strictly prohibited. Delegates are allowed to bring research into committee, but not pre-written notes or papers. Engaging in pre-writing will result in immediate disqualification from award consideration.
5. Technology is not allowed to be used within the committee room. Research must be done prior to the beginning of committee sessions. Any usage of cell phones or laptops in the committee is grounds for disqualification.
6. If you need to use the restroom during committee, you do not need to raise your hand or ask permission.
7. SHUMUN XXVII Crisis Committees are PAPER-ONLY. We are utilizing a two-pad system for crisis notes. Delegates will be expected to arrive with 2 standard legal pads and additional scratch paper. For any questions, please contact the secretariat at shuna.sec@gmail.com.

Background

*The wrath sing goddess, of the ruinous wrath of Peleus' son Achilles...*¹

Welcome to the Trojan War Joint Crisis Committee for SHUMUN XXVII! This committee is based on a section of Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*, which recounts the legendary Trojan War. It divides participants into the Achaean forces and the Trojans. The setting draws from what is believed to be a fictionalized account of historical conflicts potentially occurring between 1500 and 1200 B.C.

The story begins with Paris, prince of Troy, taking Helen from her Achaean husband, Menelaus. The Achaeans raise a massive army and sail to Troy to win Helen back by force. *The Iliad* focuses on a specific period during the ninth year of the Trojan War. The conflict in the epic begins when a priest of the god Apollo arrives at the Achaean camp to ransom his daughter, Chryseis, who had been captured and given to Agamemnon, the commander-in-chief, as a war prize. When Agamemnon refuses, he is forced by the gods to eventually return the girl but, in turn, attempts to seize Briseis, the captive prize belonging to the greatest Achaean warrior, Achilles. Enraged by this slight to his honor, Achilles withdraws himself and his troops from battle. He then appeals to his mother, the sea-goddess Thetis, to ask Zeus to intervene and ensure the Achaean forces begin to lose the war until his honor is restored.

Thus the Achaeans and Trojans meet on the battlefield. Paris and Menelaus agree to a truce – a duel to end the conflict without a full-on war, with the agreement that the victor would claim Helen and end the fighting. However, upon defeat, Paris is rescued and taken from the field by the goddess Aphrodite, allowing him to escape death or capture. This act

¹ *The Iliad* by Homer

of divine intervention is seen as a betrayal of the truce and reignites the conflict. The ensuing conflict between the two parties, now fully committed to war after the failure of the duel, is the focus of this committee.



In this committee, the Trojans hold the homefield advantage, but the Achaean forces are numerous. Delegates will be faced with an ongoing battle that has been brewing for years, requiring them to curry favor with their godly supporters.

Many gods were involved in the Trojan War. At this point, some have chosen sides while others attempt to stay neutral. Notably, the Trojans are supported by Aphrodite, Apollo, and Poseidon while the Achaeans earned the favor of Hera, Athena, and Thetis.

Among the uncommitted were Zeus, Hades, Hermes, Iris, Demeter, and Persephone². The gods are crucial to the conflict, treating it as a proxy war between them.³

This Joint Crisis Committee begins during a short respite after the duel between Paris and Menelaus. Forces on both sides are strategizing their next moves as an inevitable war brews between them. Delegates must choose the next path forward, ultimately deciding the fate of Greece.



² <https://www.csun.edu/~hcfll004/homnotes.html>

³ <https://europe.factsanddetails.com/article/entry-244.html>

Positions

Achaean

❖ Achilles

- Son of the sea nymph Thetis and a mortal father, Achilles was trained by Chiron from a very young age. His mother made his body impervious to harm when he was a child, with his only weakness being a spot on his heel. As the ruler of the Myrmidons from Thessaly, he has control over a portion of the Achaean forces⁴.

❖ Agamemnon

- King of Mycenae and elder brother of Menelaus, Agamemnon is the commander of the Achaean forces. As such, he is in charge of each individual captain, though they may oppose him in some aspects they ultimately report to him. He is widely known to be prideful and quick to anger, but his prowess in war is also widely regarded⁵.

❖ Menelaus

- King of Sparta and original husband of Helen, Menelaus is one of the key players in this conflict. He leads the Spartan contingent of the Achaean force under his brother, but has shown himself to be of a less arrogant character than Agamemnon⁶.

❖ Greater Ajax

- King of Salamis and one of the Achaean's greatest fighters, Ajax is known for his colossal stature and fighting prowess as well as sound advice. Though he is

⁴ <https://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/arch/iliad/IliadGuide05.html>

⁵ <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/iliad/character/agamemnon/>

⁶ <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/iliad/character/menelaus/>

capable on the battlefield, his virtuous character makes him a common choice for diplomatic missions⁷.

❖ Odysseus

- King of Ithaca, Odysseus is known for his cunning and craftiness. As Athena's favored one, Odysseus's strengths come from his mind, though he is certainly a skilled warrior. He has often been sent to spy on the Trojan camp or used to rally the troops with his wordcraft⁸.

❖ Nestor

- King of Pylos and the oldest Achaean commander, Nestor serves to showcase the intellectual side of war. His intelligence and experience has earned him the name Nestor the Sage and he is one of the most gifted speakers in the epic. Nestor is known for his tactical decisions and is a trusted member of the Achaean force⁹.

❖ Patroclus

- As companion and advisor to Achilles, Patroclus is often approached to help convince Achilles to take action. Despite this, Patroclus is a skilled fighter and is widely considered capable. Many of the commanders find him much more approachable than Achilles¹⁰.

❖ Diomedes

- As the youngest commander and the King of Argos, Diomedes is a bold and talented fighter. He receives divine assistance from Athena, who gives him

⁷ <https://study.com/learn/lesson/ajax-the-greater-the-iliad-homer-character-analysis-description.html>

⁸ <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/iliad/character/odysseus/>

⁹ <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/iliad/character/nestor/>

¹⁰ <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/iliad/character/patroclus/>

superhuman strength and the ability to identify gods on the battlefield. He is considered a valuable member of the Achaean forces¹¹.

❖ Calchas

- Primary seer of the Achaean forces and trusted counselor to Agamemnon, Calchas holds much wisdom and is widely recognized as a reputable prophet. He is highly skilled in divining the future from wildlife, particularly birds. As such, he held much sway in guiding the rulers in the war¹².

❖ Arcesilaus

- As leader of the Boeotian ships and leader of Boeotia, Arcesilaus has access to all of the resources of his land. He has close ties with Menestheus and largely operates in the background¹³.

❖ Thersites

- A controversial character, Thersites is one of the only soldiers to stand against Agamemnon in the Achaean fleet. As a common soldier, he does not have access to armies but is more likely to gain the trust of other soldiers than rulers. He is known for speaking his mind, regardless of where his opinions may land him¹⁴.

❖ Epistrophus

- As co-leader of the Phocians, Epistrophus is in a slightly unique position. He and his brother, Schedius, have full access to the resources provided by the Phocian fleet and he himself is regarded well by the other rulers¹⁵.

❖ Ascalaphus

¹¹ <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/iliad/character/diomedes/>

¹² https://www.greeklegendsandmyths.com/calchas.html#google_vignette

¹³ <https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/IIindexA.php>

¹⁴ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/642996?seq=2>

¹⁵ <https://mythworld.fandom.com/wiki/Epistrophus>

- Son of Ares and co-leader of the Minyans of Orchomenos, Ascalaphus has access to many resources. He is entrusted with responsibilities such as sentry duty by Agamemnon and works with his brother Ialmenus to command the Minyans¹⁴.
- ❖ Elephenor
 - As prince of the Abantes in Euboea, Elephenor leads the Abantes in the Trojan War. He has access to any and all of the Abantes resources in the war and is well regarded by other commanders and royalty¹⁴.
- ❖ Menestheus
 - An Athenian king known as an exceptional tactician, Menestheus leads a company of the Myrmidons. He is also the son of the river-god Spercheus. Because of this he has access to the Myrmidons' resources and sway with Spercheus¹⁴.
- ❖ Sthenelus
 - Commander of the Argives under Diomedes, Sthenelus is regarded as a close friend and companion of Diomedes. He has proven himself a worthy charioteer as well, earning himself respect from his fellow soldiers¹⁴.
- ❖ Agapenor
 - King of the Arcadians, Agapenor received a large fleet of sixty ships from Agamemnon to carry Arcadians into battle. He is trusted by his fellow rulers and holds a large number of men under his command¹⁶.
- ❖ Tlepolemus
 - Son of Heracles and King of Rhodes, Tlepolemus is greatly respected because of his father. He also leads a contingent in the war, however, he has bad

¹⁶ <https://pantheon.org/articles/a/agapenor.html>

blood with anyone from Argos because he was the King of Argos until he killed his uncle and was forced to flee¹⁴.

❖ Nireus

- King of the island Syme, Nireus is renowned for his outstanding beauty (second only to Achilles) and commands three ships. While not the strongest physically Nireus is able to hold his own in conflict and many are willing to work with him due to his beauty¹⁷.

❖ Medon

- Commander of the Thessalians, Medon has much to prove as he fills in for the former commander who was wounded. He is half-brother to lesser Ajax and was forced to flee his homeland after killing one of his step-mother's relatives. He is adept at combat and has access to the full might of the Thessalians¹⁴.

❖ Eurypylus

- Leader of the Ormenion forces, Eurypylus is regarded as an excellent fighter, often taking opposing forces head on. He is well rounded in battle, able to act as support and on the front lines¹⁴.

❖ Prothous

- As leader of the Magnetes and commander of the Magnetes from Mount Pelion and the river Peneius, Prothous holds a large fleet of forty ships. His men come from many places and as such, he has access to a wide variety of resources¹⁴.

¹⁷ <https://one-of-the-greatest-sources-for-greek-mythology.fandom.com/wiki/Nireus>

Trojans

❖ Priam

- King of Troy, Priam serves as one of the main leaders of the Trojan forces. Priam prizes his family and his sons, often prioritizing them. He treats Helen kindly and has access to all the resources of Troy¹⁴.

❖ Hector

- Son of Priam and chief hero of the Trojan army, Hector is easily the most popular among the Trojan people and soldiers. He is renowned for his ability in combat and as a tactician as well as honor in battle. Hector scorns his brother's cowardice towards a problem he caused but treats Helen kindly¹⁴.

❖ Paris

- Son of Priam and prince of Troy, Paris took Helen from Menelaus. He is typically more cowardly towards battle than his brother Hector, prioritizing his life over honor. He is favored by Aphrodite, which often allows him to gain the upper hand¹⁴.

❖ Sarpedon

- Lycian prince and ally to the Trojans, Sarpedon is distinguished by his valor in battle. He often leads charges and fights on the front lines, leading him to be well regarded by those in the war. He is also a son of Zeus, which gives him at least Zeus's attention if not favor¹⁴.

❖ Glaucus

- Lycian prince and son of Hippolochus, Glaucus has received assistance from Priam in the past and joins the battle. He is an honorable warrior and distinguished in combat as well as a trusted leader¹⁴.

❖ Odius

- Leader of the Halizones, Odius is an ally of the Trojans. He is not the most accomplished fighter but he is a good leader and the Halizones will follow him to the end. He also holds the trust of Priam as a close ally¹⁴.

❖ Aeneas

- Son of Aphrodite and leader of the Dardanian contingent, Aeneas has close ties with the royal family through distant familial relations. He is favored by his mother, Aphrodite and by Apollo. He is well educated and is a good tactician¹⁴.

❖ Acamas

- Son of Eussorus and Thracian warrior, Acamas is a good speaker, often succeeding in rallying troops as well as being a good fighter. He is known as valiant and tall, often leading Thracian warriors to fight¹⁴.

❖ Archelochus

- Son of Antenor and commander of the Dardanians, Archelochus shares command with his brothers fighting for the Trojans. He is a trusted ally of the Trojans and is well received by his soldiers¹⁴.

❖ Pandarus

- Son of Lycaon and commander of the inhabitants of Zeleia, Pandarus has close ties with Zeleia and Lycian as his father was a Lycian. He is well known for his skills on the battlefield and often provides support in battles¹⁴.

❖ Merops

- King of Rhindacus, Merops is a renowned soothsayer. Because of this not only does he have command over his people, but he also has Priam's trust and a connection with the gods. He also has multiple sons fighting in the war¹⁴.

❖ Asius

- Son of Hyrtacus of Arisbe, Asius is trusted to lead Trojan forces. He and Hector have a close bond, often working together in battle. He holds much trust from the royal family of Troy and has ties to Arisbe¹⁴.

❖ Hippothous

- Son of Lethus and brother of Pylaeus, Hippothous leads a band of Pelasgian auxiliaries from Larissa. He is a staunch ally of Troy and has access to the full resources of the Pelasgian auxiliaries¹⁴.

❖ Peirous

- Commander of the Thracians allied with Troy, Peirous has deep ties with the Thracians and is able to control their forces. He is skilled in both combat and strategy and is trusted by the Trojan leaders¹⁴.

❖ Pylaemenes

- Priam's ally and king of the Paphlagonians, Pylaemenes has full access to all resources held by the Paphlagonians. His son also fought in the war. Troy regards Paphlagonians as an ally, with whom they have close diplomatic and military ties¹⁴.

❖ Ascanius

- Co-leader of the Phrygians and son of Hippotion, Ascanius has ties to Ascania through his father. In addition to Ascanian resources, Ascanius also has access to Phrygian tools as commander. He shares command with Phorcys¹⁴.

❖ Phorcys

- Son of Phaenops and co-commander of the Phrygians, Phorcys shares command with Ascanius. He is a skilled strategist and speaker, often rousing the troops to battle¹⁴.

❖ Mesthles

- One of the leaders of the Maeonian forces, Mesthles shares command with his brother Antiphus. His mother was a nymph, granting him a slight advantage when it comes to water based combat¹⁴.

❖ Antiphus

- Second leader of the Maeonian forces, Antiphus shares command with his brother Mesthles. As their mother was a nymph of the Gygaean Lake he, like his brother, has a slight advantage in water based combat¹⁴.

❖ Antenor

- An elder Trojan statesman, Antenor holds much wisdom and his counsel is widely trusted. He also has a lot of talent with horse-taming. Many of his sons are fighting in the war¹⁴.

