

The Theater of the Greeks(CC-257)

Fall 2013 - Tues-Fri 11.00 am - 12.15 pm; McDermott 202

In this class, we will study ancient Greek drama -- the root of almost all subsequent Western drama -- by reading translations of tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides and by investigating the archaeological and art historical evidence of the ancient Greek theater. We will focus on the central role of dramatic productions and performance in Greek society and religion, as well as the influence of the theater and plays of the Greeks on later authors (Seneca, Shakespeare) and on contemporary cinema and TV shows.

Instructor

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Office Hours: Thursday: 10am -1pm

Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of this course, the student will have achieved the following:

- Knowledge of the historical and religious context of ancient Greek drama.
- Knowledge of archaeological sites that are key to our understanding of the performance of Greek drama.
- Knowledge of the three great Greek tragedians, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides.
- Familiarity with key literary texts of Greek drama and of Ancient Greek literary terms such as katharsis and hamartia.
- Familiarity with various Internet resources for the study of ancient Greece, Greek drama, ancient Greek history and classical mythology.

Required Texts

(1) *Oresteia: Aeschylus*

Translated, with Notes, by Peter Meineck; Introduction by Helene P. Foley (Hackett Publishing Company 1998)

(2) *Theban Plays: Sophocles*

Translated by Paul Woodruff and Peter Meineck; Introduction by Paul Woodruff (Hackett Publishing Company 2003)

(3) *Four Tragedies: Ajax, Women of Trachis, Electra, Philoctetes: Sophocles*

Translated, with Introduction and Notes, by Peter Meineck & Paul Woodruff (Hackett Publishing Company 2007)

(4) *Alcestis, Medea, Hippolytus: Euripides*

Translated by Diane Arnson Svarlien; Introduction and Notes by Robin Mitchell-Boyas (Hackett Publishing Company 2007)

Optional Text

Cambridge Companion to Greek Tragedy, ed. P. E Easterling (Cambridge University Press 1997)

SCHEDULE

(subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Week 1: Aug. 30: What is "tragedy"?

Week 2: Sept. 3, 6: Aeschylus' *Oresteia: Agamemnon*

Week 3: Sept. 10, 13: Aeschylus' *Oresteia: Agamemnon*

Week 4: Sept. 17, 20: Aeschylus' *Oresteia: Libation Bearers*

Week 5: Sept 24, 27: Aeschylus' *Oresteia: Libation Bearers, Eumenides*

Week 6: Oct. 1, 4: Aeschylus' *Oresteia: Eumenides*

Week 7: Oct. 8, 11: Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*

Week 8: Oct. 15, 18: Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus*; Oct. 15: Students celebrating Eid al-Adha excused from class

Week 9: Oct. 22, 25: Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone*

Week 10: Oct. 29, Nov. 1: Sophocles' *Philoctetes*

Week 11: Nov. 5, 8: Sophocles' *Philoctetes*

Week 12: Nov. 11, 15: Sophocles' *Women of Trachis*

Week 13: Nov. 19: ~ Nov 22: *Euripides' Medea*

Week 14: Nov. 25, 29; *Euripides' Medea*; Nov. 28-29: Thanksgiving break (no class)

Week 15: Dec. 3, 6; *Euripides' Hippolytus*

Week 16: Dec. 10. *Euripides' Alcestis*

Grading

Class Participation and Homework ~ 20%

2 essays (5 pages, 8-10 pages) ~40%

Oral Presentations ~ 15%

Mid-term ~ 10%

Final exam ~ 15%

Grading Scale

100-97 A 4.086-83 B- 2.769-67 D+ 1.3

96-94 A- 3.782-80 C+ 2.366-63 D 1.0

93-91 B+ 3.379-76 C 2.062-0 F 0.0

90-87 B 3.075-70 C- 1.7

Class Participation and Homework

This course will be taught in a seminar/lecture format. Students are expected to have prepared all assignments (reading, writing, and presentations) before coming to class and to be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion and to answer questions concerning the assigned reading.

Writing Assignments/Essays/Oral Presentations

There will be two essays (the first, 5 pages; the second, 8 - 10 pages) and one 10-15 minute oral presentation.

- You will be required to make specific reference to ancient primary sources in your essays.
- Essays and all written assignments are due at the start of the class on the due date.
- Essays may be submitted in hard copy format or via email.
- I am glad to discuss your essay with you prior to your writing it and will read rough drafts (either in hard copy format or sent via email) if you get them to me at least three days before the due date (i.e., if a paper is due on a Tuesday, the last date that I will read a draft is Saturday evening).

Midterm and Final

These exams will require you to (1) identify short passages from the plays we have read and (2) write short essays in response to questions.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the stealing, purchasing, or copying of someone else's ideas, writing, or other original work and using them as one's own. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered academic dishonesty and all instances will be reported to the Office of the Academic Dean. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are not tolerated under any circumstances.

Students who cheat or submit plagiarized work are liable to receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course at the discretion of the instructor. In more serious cases, the student who cheats or plagiarizes is liable to be suspended or dismissed from the University by the appropriate Academic Dean. Instructors submit Academic Dishonesty Reports to the Academic Dean and these reports are included in students' permanent files.

Attendance Policy

Students are permitted no more than four absences after which they are in danger of failing the course. After missing two consecutive classes, you must contact the professor by email or phone to provide an explanation of your absence and a plan for making up all missed work. After three absences, an Early Warning form will be sent to the Academic Dean, who will ask you to meet with her in person to discuss the reasons for your absences and your commitment to the class. Lateness to class (more than two times) will count as an absence.

- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor and to check the professor's website to find out the assignment for the next class meeting.
- Always bring the following to class: our textbook, a notebook, and a pen or other writing implement.
- Students will help to make this class a community by being courteous and committed members of the class, speaking frequently and thoughtfully in class discussions, and collaborating in group work with one or two other students.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

The University will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is encouraged to speak to the instructor as soon as possible, to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Conduct in the classroom

- The use of smart phones or other communication devices can be disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Except in emergencies, these devices should not be used during classtime.
- If you have a laptop computer, you are required to turn it off and keep it closed during class, unless you have consulted in advance with the professor about using it. You are not permitted to check email, visit websites, or send text messages during class time. Failure to comply with this policy will significantly lower your class participation grade and, ultimately, your overall grade in the course.