



Classics 3345: Myth and Performance in Greek Tragedy

University of Houston, Fall 2007

Professor: Casey Dué Hackney (e-mail: Casey.Due@mail.uh.edu). Office hours: Tuesdays 11am-1pm or by appointment, Agnes Arnold Hall room 454. MCL Dept. phone number: (713) 743-3007.

Course WebCT Page: This course is being taught as a hybrid (this concept will be discussed further on the first day of class), and important components of the course are delivered through WebCT. You should log in to the WebCT site regularly to participate in on-line discussions, watch film clips, and check for email and announcements. To get full credit, every week you must post at least once to that week's on-line discussion.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course. If you have never taken a Classics course, however, or if you have never read any Greek literature before, you will need to put in extra effort in order to succeed in this class. It will be essential for you to devote a significant amount of time to reading (and rereading!). This course is best suited to those with some experience in Classics or reading Classical literature.

Required Reading:

Oresteia (Oxford World's Classics) by Aeschylus (Author), Christopher Collard (Translator)

* Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA; ISBN-10: 0192832816; ISBN-13: 978-0192832818

Seven Against Thebes (Greek Tragedy in New Translations) by Aeschylus (Author), Helen H. Bacon and Anthony Hecht (Translators)

* Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA; ISBN-10: 0195070070; ISBN-13: 978-0195070071

Persians (Greek Tragedy in New Translations) by Aeschylus (Author), Janet Lembke and C. J. Herington (Translators)

* Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA; ISBN-10: 0195070089; ISBN-13: 978-0195070088

The Oedipus Cycle: Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone by Sophocles (Author), Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald (Translators)

* Publisher: Harvest Books; ISBN-10: 015602764X; ISBN-13: 978-0156027649

The Gospel at Colonus by Lee Breuer (Author)

* Publisher: Theatre Communications Group; ISBN-10: 0930452941; ISBN-13: 978-0930452940

The Trojan Women and Other Plays (Oxford World's Classics) by Euripides (Author), James Morwood (Translator)

* Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA; ISBN-10: 019283987X; ISBN-13: 978-0192839879

Bacchae and Other Plays: Iphigenia among the Taurians; Bacchae; Iphigenia at Aulis; Rhesus
(Oxford World's Classics) by Euripides (Author), James Morwood (Translator)

* Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA; ISBN-10: 019283875X; ISBN-13: 978-0192838759

Components of Course Grade: Participation in Class Discussion 10%; Weekly Participation in Web Discussion 15%; In class exam 25%; Take home exam 25%; Final Exam 25%

Attendance Policy: Because of the nature of this course, which meets only once a week and depends heavily on class discussion, attendance is absolutely required. One unexcused absence will result in the loss of a letter grade. I reserve the right to drop you from the course after 2 absences.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1

Introduction to Greek Tragedy (Democratic; Religious; Performed); historical overview

Week 2

Greek Tragedy and Democracy I: The Beginnings of Greek Democracy and the Possession of Poetry
Read: Aeschylus, *Oresteia*

Week 3

The Performance of Greek Tragedy: Aeschylus' *Seven Against Thebes*
Read: Aeschylus, *Seven Against Thebes* and reviews of recent productions

Week 4

Tragedy and Representation: Aeschylus' *Persians*
Read: Aeschylus, *Persians*; watch: *300*

Week 5

Exam 1

Week 6

Greek Tragedy and Democracy II: Pericles and the beginning of the Peloponnesian War
Read Sophocles, *Antigone* and *Oedipus Tyrannos* [aka *Oedipus Rex*]

Week 7

Antigone and *OT* Performed
Watch: Films to be announced

Week 8

Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*

Read: Sophocles, *Oedipus at Colonus*

Week 9

The Gospel at Colonus (PBS Great Performances)

Read and watch *The Gospel at Colonus*

Week 10

Take home exam due

Greek Tragedy and Democracy III: The "Radical" Democracy at the height of Peloponnesian War

Read: Euripides, *Iphigenia at Aulis*

Week 11

Michael Cacoyannis' *Iphigenia*

Watch: *Iphigenia*

Week 12

The Politics of Performing Greek Tragedy: *Hecuba* and the *Trojan Women*

Read: Euripides, *Hecuba* and *Trojan Women*; reviews of recent performances; (optional) view Cacoyannis' *Trojan Women*

Week 13

The Emotions of Greek Tragedy: *Hecuba* and the *Trojan Women*

Read: Nicole Loraux, *The Mourning Voice* (Introduction) and Casey Dué, *The Captive Woman's Lament in Greek Tragedy* (Conclusion)

Week 14

Dionysus and the Religious Background of Greek Tragedy

Read: Euripides, *Bacchae*

Final Exam