Greek Tragedy

Class Meetings: MW 3:10-4:25 (Malloy 021)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Required Texts: 5 titles

1- Aeschylus: Oresteia, translated by Robert Fagles
   Paperback: 336 pages
   Publisher: Penguin Classics
   Language: English
   ISBN-10: 0140443339

2- Sophocles II: Ajax, The Women of Trachis, Electra & Philoctetes (The Complete Greek Tragedies) [Paperback]
   Paperback: 260 pages
   Publisher: University of Chicago Press
   Language: English

3- The Three Theban Plays: Antigone; Oedipus the King; Oedipus at Colonus Paperback
   Paperback: 430 pages
   Publisher: Penguin Classics
   Language: English

4- Euripides I
   Publisher: University of Chicago Press
   Language: English
   ISBN-10: 0226307808
Course Overview:
The rise of drama in ancient Greece was one of the most influential movements in literature. The stories of the dramatists Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides have captured the imaginations of countless audiences and provided inspiration to all the literary movements of the Western tradition. Greek tragedy’s continued relevance stems from its interaction with essential questions such as the nature of death, the relationship between fate and free-will, and man’s relation to the divine. In this course we will examine important works from the Greek tragedians. We will see how each dramatist shaped his particular version of a popular myth according to his own world view and that of his contemporary society. Finally, we will investigate how modern preconceptions and cultural values influence how we view Greek tragedy.

Grading:
20% = Paper
10% = Participation
20% = Quizzes
25% = Midterm Exam
25% = Final Exam

Final grades are determined according to the following scale:
A 93-100%    A- 90-92%    B+ 87-89%    B 83-86%    B- 80-82%
C+ 77-79%    C 73-76%    C- 70-72%    D+ 67-69%    D 60-66%    F ≤59%
Quizzes: Approximately eight quizzes will be given this semester. One quiz will be dropped. There are no make-up quizzes. The first missed quiz will count as a dropped quiz. Subsequent missed quizzes will be counted as zeros.

Participation: Attendance is extremely important. Roll will be taken at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to approach me after class to ensure you are not counted as absent. After 2 absences, continued absences will reflect negatively on your participation grade. If you cannot attend class, please let me know before class. Your participation grade, however, is not based solely on your attendance. You will be expected to discuss the assigned readings when called upon in class.

Paper: A paper of 10 pages (12pt TNR font, double spaced) will be due on Monday, April 24th. All papers are to be turned in electronically (MS Word). The topic is to be of the student’s choosing with the approval of the instructor. Late papers (the first day starting after class has ended) will be deducted one letter grade per day. Students who fail to turn in the paper by May 5th will be given an F for the class.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final. Both will be cumulative, including material from everything covered up to that point. There are no make-ups for the midterm or the final.

Reading Assignments:
Reading assignments will be handed out in class and posted on blackboard. The following is a list of the plays we will read this semester.

Aeschylus
  • Agamemnon
  • The Libation Bearers
  • Eumenides

Sophocles
  • Oedipus
• *Antigone*
• *The Women of Trachis*

**Euripides**
• *Medea*
• *Iphigenia in Aulis*
• *Bacchae*

**Policy on Electronic Devices in Class**
The use of laptops, cellphones, and tablets is prohibited unless medically necessary (See C&DS below). Use of such devices during class will result in a 5 point deduction from your participation grade for each occurrence. If there are extenuating circumstances that require you to monitor your phone, please inform me before class and step outside if necessary.

**Policy on Academic Dishonesty**
Every offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists, and such offenses will be dealt with expeditiously according to the following criteria.

**Definition**
Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:
• Cheating on an examination or test; for example, by copying from another’s paper or using unauthorized materials before or during the test;
• Plagiarism, which represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;
• Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student, even though one’s own work is not directly affected;
• Any conduct which reasonable persons in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.

**Penalty**
The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the faculty member, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of “F” for the course.
Counseling and Disability Services (C&DS)
Counseling and Disability Services (C&DS) provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2169.

Important Dates:
Monday, January 23rd = First day of class
Monday, March 13th - Friday, March 17th
Wednesday, May 3rd = Last class
Monday, May 8th 3:00p.m. – 5:30p.m. = Final Exam