

Course Number

Classics 101-6

Course Title

The Plays of Sophocles

Quarter/Year

Winter 2021

Day/Time

TTh 11-12:20pm

Instructor

Wallace

Degree/Distro Fulfillment



Course Description:

Students will read all seven extant plays (including *Antigone* and *Oedipus the King*) and one fragmentary play (*Phaedra*) of Athens' greatest dramatist, plus critical scholarship. An aristocrat, Sophocles' dramas performed to 17,000 Athenians are enmeshed in the problems and controversies of that city's democracy. What is the relationship of these texts to the democracy and to Athens' democratic leader Perikles, and how do their ideas change over time? Students will learn about one of the world's greatest dramatists and the world's first democracy, while improving their skills in writing, critical thinking, and debate. Grades are based on the weekly papers and class participation. Attendance mandatory.

Required Textbooks

Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays: Antigone; Oedipus the King; Oedipus at Colonus*, Penguin Classics, ISBN = 978-0-14-044-425-4

Sophocles, *Electra and Other Plays*, Penguin Classics, ISBN = 978-0-140-44978-5

Assessments

No exams, but a weekly 1-2 page paper: either a critique of scholarship or an analysis of a play, which we then discuss in class.