

Course Number

CLA 340

Course Title

Greek and Roman Drama: Athenian Tragedy, Then and Now

Quarter/Year

Spring 2022

Day/Time

TR 2-3:20

Instructor

Marianne
Hopman

Distro Fulfillment

Language and Verbal Arts
Theater, Drama and Performance



Course Description

The scripts and fragments from plays produced in fifth-century BCE Athens in honor of Dionysos, god of wine and theater, are among the most enduring and powerful legacies of ancient Greek culture. Since their rediscovery in the early modern period, directors, translators, and adaptors have repeatedly turned to the poetry of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides to reflect on political, ethical, social, and theological issues of their time. More recently, the plays have proved fertile ground for directors eager to imagine alternative ways of thinking about race, gender, and class. In this course, we will read a selection of Athenian tragedies, with special emphasis on their form, ancient performance context, and themes, as well as select examples of their contemporary reception for diverse audiences. All readings will be in translation, and students will be encouraged to work in groups to perform and develop creative responses to individual scenes.

Required Textbooks

1. Taplin, O., transl. 2018. Aeschylus, *The Oresteia: Agamemnon, Women at the Graveside, Orestes in Athens*. New York and London: W.W. Norton. 978-0393923285. 2. Sommerstein, A., transl. 2010. Aeschylus, *The Persians and Other Plays*. Penguin Classics. 978-0140449990..
 Meineck, P., trans. 2003. *Sophocles: Theban plays*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett. 978-0872205857. 3. Meineck, P., trans. *Sophocles: Four tragedies*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett. 978-0872207639. 4. Morwood, James, ed. and trans. 2000. *Euripides: Bacchae and other plays*. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press. 978-0199540525. 5. Morwood, James, ed. and trans. 2008b. *Euripides: Medea and other plays*. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press. 978-0199537969. 6. Powers, Melinda. 2020. *Reclaiming Greek Drama for Diverse Audiences*. Routledge. 978-1138601024.

Assessments

Attendance, Class
 Participation, Group Project,
 Group Work, Paper, Final,
 Paper, Mid-Term, Readings,
 Writing Assignments