



## **Required Textbooks**

Two Penguin books to purchase: David Raeburn, *Sophocles Electra and Other* Plays; Robert Fagles, *The Three Theban Plays*. (Only use these translations.) ISBN-10 : 9780140449785 ISBN-10 : 0140444254

## Assessments

Assignments include a series of 2 pp. critical papers on different topics, and a final 5-10 pp. paper on a topic following consultation with the teacher. No exams.

## Course Description:

Sophocles' plays, including Antigone and Oedipus, are enmeshed in conflicts sparked by Athens' new democracy: aristocrats vs. democrats, philosophy vs. religion, freedom vs. control, controversies regarding women, foreigners, and slaves. We shall study the seven surviving plays and different major social and political issues facing Athens' classical democracy. Except on one issue (personal freedom), Sophocles seems mostly to have written on the right side of history and liberal democratic values, which is why so many read him still.