CLASS 330 Classical Drama

Spring 2006

T R 9:30-10:45 (AH-2127)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the tragedies of the three great playwrights of 5th century BC Athens--Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides--and of three modern playwrights who adapted ancient tragedies to suit their contemporary contexts: Sartre, Anouilh, and Racine. We will supplement these plays with theoretical works by Aristotle, Nietzsche, and Ley and with films of both the tragedies themselves and of contemporary treatments of ancient themes (e.g., hubris).

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OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course you will gain an appreciation for three primary aspects of drama: 1) the individual play as a work of art, 2) the plays of a given playwright as representative of his distinctive approach to tragedy, and 3) the way the three tragedians differ from each other stylistically and thematically. Through our theoretical readings we will grapple with the question of what tragedy is in a general sense, as a distinctive genre, with special emphasis on what it does to us as audience-members. As for the relationship between ancient and modern drama, I want you to realize that by understanding ancient drama, you understand modern drama better as well. Above all, I want us to explore together the meaning of these plays and to have fun in the process!

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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Anouilh, Antigone
Greene/Lattimore, *Aeschylus I*

Greene/Lattimore, *Sophocles I*

Greene/Lattimore, *Euripides I*

Ley, *A Short Introduction to the Ancient Greek Theater*

Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings*

Russell/Winterbottom, *Classical Literary Criticism*

Sartre, *No Exit and Three Other Plays*

Wilbur, *Racine's Phaedra*

**GRADING POLICY**

Your final grade for the course will be determined by 1) one 4-6 page response paper (15%), 2) three non-cumulative exams (20% each), and 3) attendance/participation (25%).

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance and participation are mandatory, and discussion and recitation will be a regular part of the course. It is small enough so that we can all contribute on a regular basis. After all, plays are meant to be performed and not only read (although you will be expected to complete your reading assignments before class).
EXAMINATIONS
The three exams in this course (make-ups require a letter from a dean or a physician) will consist of short answer and essay type questions, based upon subjects covered and visual information encountered in class lectures/discussions, viewings, and readings.

PAPERS
You are also responsible for one 8-12 page response paper (due on 5/9; no late papers accepted) on a topic of your choice pertaining to the dramatic works read and watched in class during the most recent course unit. These are not research papers, so express your own thoughts about these issues rather than the thoughts of others. You will be graded, not on whether I agree with your opinions or not, but rather on how deeply you go into your thought process and how well you express your thesis. You will also be graded, however, on technical matters such as formatting (use typewriter or printer; white, 8 1/2 x 11" paper; include a separate title page), grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc., so be sure to craft a clear, well-organized paper and to proofread it carefully before handing it in.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS
1) Thursday (1/19/06): Introduction to the Course

Required readings (for class discussion): none

2) Tuesday (1/24/06): Euripides, Alcestis

Required readings (for class discussion): Introduction and lines 1-475; Chapter 1 (i.e., pp. 51-57) of Aristotle's Poetics in Russell/Winterbottom; "Introduction," "Greek Drama," and "The Organization of the Festivals" in Ley.

3) Thursday (1/26/06): Euripides, Alcestis

Required readings (for class discussion): lines 476-772; Chapter 2 (i.e., pp. 57-65) of Aristotle's Poetics in Russell/Winterbottom; "The Writer," and "The Theater" in Ley;

4) Tuesday (1/31/06): Euripides, Alcestis

Required readings (for class discussion): lines 773-end ; Chapter 3 (i.e., pp. 66-80) of Aristotle's Poetics in Russell/Winterbottom; "Sceneography" and "Masks, Costume, and Properties" in Ley;

5) Thursday (2/2/06): Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Required readings (for class discussion): Introduction and lines 1-299; Chapter 4 (i.e., pp. 81-90) of Aristotle's Poetics in Russell/Winterbottom; "Chorus" and "Actors" in Ley

6) Tuesday (2/7/06): Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 300-633; Pp. 143-153 of Longinus' On Sublimity in Russell/Winterbottom; "The Playing Space" and "The Audience" in Ley;

7) Thursday (2/9/06): Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 634-923; pp. 154-163 of Longinus' On Sublimity in
Russell/Winterbottom; “Delivery” and “Distance and Physical Action” in Ley;

8) Tuesday (2/14/06): Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 924-1185; pp. 163-175 of Longinus’ On Sublimity in Russell/Winterbottom; “Choral Song and Choral Action” and “Parody” in Ley.

9) Thursday (2/16/06): Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 1186-end; pp. 164-end of Longinus’ On Sublimity in Russell/Winterbottom; “Translation and Adaptation” in Ley;

10) Tuesday (2/21/06): Viewing: Oedipus Rex

11) Thursday (2/23/06): Exam #1

12) Tuesday (2/28/06): Aeschylus, Agamemnon

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 1-350; pp. 192-202 of Plutarch’s On the Study of Poetry in Russell/Winterbottom;

13) Thursday (3/2/06): Aeschylus, Agamemnon

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 351-680; pp. 203-end of Plutarch’s On the Study of Poetry in Russell/Winterbottom;

14) Tuesday (3/7/06): Aeschylus, Agamemnon

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 681-1071; pp. 1-7 of Plato’s Ion in Russell/Winterbottom;

15) Thursday (3/9/06): Aeschylus, Agamemnon

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 1072-end; pp. 7-13 of Plato’s Ion in Russell/Winterbottom;

SPRING BREAK

16) Tuesday (3/21/06): Sartre, The Flies

Required readings (for class discussion): Act I; items 1-2 (i.e., pp. 14-21) of The Birth of Tragedy.


Required readings (for class discussion): Act II; items 3-4 of The Birth of Tragedy.

18) Tuesday (3/28/06): Sartre, The Flies

Required readings (for class discussion): Act III; items 5-6 of The Birth of Tragedy.
19) Thursday (3/30/06): Exam #2

20) Tuesday (4/4/06): Euripides, *Hippolytus*

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 1-562; items 7-8 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

21) Thursday (4/6/06): Euripides, *Hippolytus*

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 563-1153; items 9-10 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

22) Tuesday (4/11/06): Euripides, *Hippolytus*

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 1154-end; items 11-12 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

23) Thursday (4/13/06): Racine, *Phaedra*

Required readings (for class discussion): Acts I-II; items 13-14 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

24) Tuesday (4/18/06): Racine, *Phaedra*

Required readings (for class discussion): Acts III-V; items 15-16 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*


Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 1-639; items 17-18 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

26) Tuesday (4/25/06): Sophocles, *Antigone*

Required readings (for class discussion): Lines 640-end; items 19-20 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

27) Thursday (4/27/06): Viewing: Sophocles’ *Antigone*

28) Tuesday (5/2/06): Anouilh, *Antigone*

Required readings (for class discussion): Pp. 1-29; items 21-22 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

29) Thursday (5/4/06): Anouilh, *Antigone*

Required readings (for class discussion): Pp. 29-end of play; items 23-25 of *The Birth of Tragedy.*

30) Tuesday (5/9/06): Viewing: Anouilh’s *Antigone*; paper due at beginning of class.

Exam #3