Classics 304G/599G: Euripides

Texts

REQUIRED TEXTS
Euripides (Mastronarde, Donald J. [2002]). Medea. Cambridge Classical Texts ("The Green and Yellow Series") 0-521-643864

RECOMMENDED TEXTS
Halporn, D. et al. (1994) Meters of Greek and Latin Poetry Hackett 0-872-202437

Course Description and Objectives

Our course objective has to do with reading Euripides: students will be expected to show deep love and appreciation for this most tragic of Greek tragedians (just ask Aristotle) by reading his Medea with facility and ease, using skills acquired through the course of fifteen weeks of office visitations, as demonstrated by (1) oral recitation of in-class prepared translations, (2) written prosodic analysis of Euripides’ iambic trimeter, (3) written translation of select passages from Medea on a final exam, and (4) a stylistic analysis paper (6 pages in length) of a passage (approximately 25-30 lines in length) from Euripides (either from Medea or another Euripidean play of the student’s choosing).

We want to read Euripides with ever growing alacrity (attempting to approach a clip of over 100 lines per week), with increasing familiarity (handling his customary phrases and phrasings with dexterous renderings into a correspondingly well crafted English idiom), and with a general sympathy to the large and small issues of Athenian tragedy—its themes, idiosyncrasies, and traditions—as well as Euripides’ vast influence upon them.

As far as the classical world from the 4th century onward was concerned, Euripides was culturally foundational, canonically central, and pedagogically essential. Let me show you how and why.

Grading

Daily Recitation 50%
Prosody and Metrics Exercises 10%
Term Paper 20%
Final Exam 20%