

PHILOSOPHY 177, WINTER 2017

Professor Georgios Anagnostopoulos

Office: H&SS 8034; email: ganagnostopoulos@ucsd.edu Lectures are on Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00-6:20, SEQUO 148. Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:00, and by appointment.

The course will focus on some philosophical issues in ancient Greek tragedy and the relation between tragedy and philosophy. That there was a connection between the two was taken for granted by ancient philosophers, and it has been defended by some philosophers of the modern era, e.g., Hegel and Nietzsche. We will critically examine the philosophical theories about tragedy in the ancient and modern eras and discuss several ancient tragic plays by the Greek tragic dramatists against the background of these theories and the objectives and intellectual aims of the dramatists.

Texts:

Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*

Aristotle, *Poetics*

B. Williams, *Shame and Necessity*

Aeschylus, Vol. II, *Oresteia*

Sophocles, Vol. I (*Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone*)

Euripides, Vol. I (*Medea, Hippolytus*)

Euripides, Vol. V (*Bacchae*)

Materials on BLACKBOARD (TritonED)

READINGS & LECTURES

Course organization and requirements

4/4 Course content, organization, and requirements

Tragedy vs. Tragic Vision or Sense of Life

4/6 M. Krieger, "Tragedy and the Tragic Vision" (Blackboard)

L. Abel, "Is there a Tragic Sense of Life?" (Blackboard)

M. Unamuno, "The Hunger of Immortality" (Blackboard)

4/11 S. Kierkegaard, "The Ancient Tragical Motif as Reflected in the Modern" (Blackboard)

Theories of Tragedy

4/13 Plato, *Republic*, from Book X (Blackboard)

4/18 & 4/20 Aristotle, *Poetics*, pp. 1-42, 58-59.

R. Janko, "From Catharsis to the Aristotelian Mean" (Blackboard)

4/25 Hegel, "On Tragedy", from his *The Philosophy of Fine Art* (Blackboard)

A.C. Bradley, "Hegel's Theory of Tragedy" (Blackboard)

T. Nagel, "The Fragmentation of Value" (Blackboard)

4/27 Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*, Sections: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25

Nietzsche, "Truth and Lie in an Extra Moral Sense" (Blackboard)

Our Understanding of/Relating to Greek Tragedy

5/2 B. Williams, Chapters I and II

[]For some general issues in Greek tragedy, consult these essays in connection with our study of the Greek plays and the writing of your papers:

P.E. Easterling, "Introduction to the Greek Theatre" (Blackboard)

D. Cairns, "Values" (Blackboard)

P. Wilson, "Music" (Blackboard)
D. Mastrorarde, "The Gods" (Blackboard)]

Aeschylus, *Oresteia*.

5/4, 5/9 & 5/11 *Agamemnon, Libation Bearers, Eumenides*
S. Said, "Aeschylean Tragedy" (Blackboard)
B. Williams, Chapters, III and VI
A. Lesky, "Decision and Responsibility in the Tragedy of Aeschylus" (Blackboard)
H. Lloyd-Jones, "The Guilt of Agamemnon" (Blackboard)

Sophocles

5/16 & 5/18 *Oedipus Rex & Oedipus at Colonus*
R. Scodel, "Sophoclean Tragedy" (Blackboard)
Nietzsche, "Sophoclean Tragedy," (Blackboard)
S. Freud, "Oedipus Rex" (Blackboard)
E.R. Dodds, "On Misunderstanding the *Oedipus Rex*" (Blackboard)

5/23

Antigone
C. Segal, "Sophocles' Praise of Man and the Conflicts of the *Antigone*" (Blackboard)
M. Heidegger "The Ode on Man in Sophocles' *Antigone*" (Blackboard)
P.E. Easterling, "Character in Sophocles" (Blackboard)

Euripides

5/25 & 5/30 *Hyppolytus and Medea*
J. Gregory, "Euripidean Tragedy" (Blackboard)
Aristotle on Akrasia (moral weakness), from his *Nicomachean Ethics* (Blackboard)
H. Lorenz, "Aristotle's Analysis of Akratic Action" (Blackboard)
D. Davidson, "Paradoxes of Irrationality" (Blackboard)

6/1 & 6/6

Bacchae
H. Diller, "Euripides' Final Phase: The *Bacchae*" (Blackboard)
G.M.A. Grube, "Euripides and the Gods" (Blackboard)

6/8

Presentation and discussion of a film of one of Euripides' plays

Books on Reserve:

M. Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness*.
B. Vickers, *Towards Greek Tragedy*.

Writing Requirements for the Course

The writing requirements for the class will be two papers, each about 8-10 pages long. The first paper will be due in class on Tuesday of the sixth week (May 9); the second will be due by Wednesday of Finals Week (June 7), by 5:00 pm, in my mailbox (H&SS, 7th Floor). Topics for the papers will be handed out in class at least two weeks before each paper is due. Each paper will be worth 40 points. The remaining 20 points will be distributed as follows: 10 points for two brief in-class quizzes (5 points each); 10 points for participating in and contributing to class discussion.