

Greek 6101: Greek Tragedy

An Intensive Introduction (Fall 2020)



Monday and Wednesday, 4:55-6:10 on ZOOM
Jeffrey Rusten

An introduction to the language and form of Greek tragedy, with intensive readings in Greek (300+ lines per week) from the three plays on the graduate reading list, and extensive study in English from many of the rest. Besides the plays as drama and the issues raised, topics include precursors, metrical and musical forms and development, dramatic festivals, religious and political issues, Aristotle's *Poetics*, impact of satyr play, and comic paratragedy.

three goals of this course:

- enlarging your Greek recognition vocabulary both in general and for tragedy specifically
- a close reading of the three tragedies studied in the original
- a broad acquaintance with the conventions, plots and issues raised in the entire corpus of tragedy

Requirements for Vocabulary and Translation: There will be a vocabulary or translation quiz (outside of class) every week-end (except the first):

- 3 translation tests (outside of class) on vocabulary, syntax, prepared translation and (with notes) sight reading: tentatively scheduled for after Week 4 (*Bacchae*), Week 9 (*Oedipus*) and Week 15 (*Agamemnon*)
- 7 general vocabulary quizzes on the words in Campbell, M. (1998). *Classical Greek prose: a basic vocabulary: a classified list of 1500 of the commonest words*. Bristol, Bristol Classical Press. (tentatively scheduled for after Week 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 1)

--2 quizzes on specialized (common, but not in Campbell) vocabulary from the three Greek plays, tentatively scheduled for after Week 2 (Bacchae), Week 5 (Oedipus)

There is no final exam and no final paper for this course

TEXTS (DO NOT BUY ANY OF THESE TEXTS UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST CLASS MEETING)

GREEK TEXTS AND COMMENTARIES:

Seaford, Richard, 1996. Euripides, *Bacchae* Aris and Phillips, 978-0856686092

Rusten, J. 1991. *Sophocles, Oedipous Tyrannos*, Bryn Mawr 978-0929524672

Raeburn, D. A. and O. R. H. Thomas. 2011. *The Agamemnon of Aeschylus : a commentary for students*, Oxford ; New York

Note: there are useful running Greek vocabularies for all three plays by Michael Ritter available on Canvas (I will be paying him a license to use this for the class once I know how many students there are)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS (SUBJECT TO CHANGES AS ANNOUNCED)

- *Bacchae*: weeks 1-4 (7 meetings)
- *Oedipus Tyrannus*: weeks 5-9 (9 meetings)
- *Agamemnon*: Weeks 10-14 (10 meetings)
- (translation quiz at end of each)