



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΠΑΤΡΩΝ
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES
Department of Philology**

Reception of Ancient Greek Drama

8th semester (Classics Division)

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Academic Year: 2014-1015

Course Syllabus and Bibliography

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of *Reception of Ancient Greek Drama* is to introduce students to Reception Studies and to examine the re-interpretation of ancient Greek drama in modern times. The primary reading for the course includes canonical plays of Greek classical antiquity (Sophocles' *Ajax*, *Electra*, *King Oedipus* and *Antigone*; Euripides' *Medea*; and Aristophanes' *Birds*).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to have read all the assigned reading prior to each session and to attend and participate actively in all class sessions. They are required to make a short oral presentation and to write a research paper (of approximately 2500 words) on a topic related to the reception of Greek classical antiquity. The research paper is a pre-requisite for participation in the final oral exams.

COURSE MATERIAL

1) Coursebooks

- Castoriadis, Cornelius. *Η αρχαία ελληνική δημοκρατία και η σημασία της για μας σήμερα*. [Ancient Greek Democracy and Its Importance for Us Today]. Athens: Ypsilon, 1986.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*. Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Group Psychology and Other Works. Trans. James Strachey with Anna Freud. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud 18 (1920-1922). 1955. London: Vintage, 2001. 3-65.
- ---. *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. A Case of Hysteria, Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality and Other Works. Trans. James Strachey et al. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud 7. 1953. London: Vintage, 2001. 125-243.
- Hardwick, Lorna. *Reception Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Holub, Robert. "Reception Theory: School of Constance." *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*. Vol. 8: *From Formalism to Poststructuralism*. Ed. Raman Selden. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995. 319-346.

2) **Karakantza, Efimia. Πρόσληψη Αρχαίου Δράματος [Reception of Ancient Drama].** The University of Patras, 2014. Web. 10 June 2015.

<<https://eclass.upatras.gr/courses/LIT1919/>>.*

*Password needed for registration.

3) **Jocasta.** Department of Philology, The University of Patras, June 2015, forthcoming. Web. <<http://jocasta.upatras.gr>>.

COURSE BREAKDOWN

> Unit 1: “Introduction to the Course” (Seminar 1)

Reception: basic terms and concepts – Ancient Greek tragedy and comedy in the framework of the *polis*.

 **Required Reading:**

(i) Primary Sources:

(ii) Secondary Sources: ¹Holub and/or Eagleton 47-78 ²Hardwick, *Reception* 1-11

³Martindale, “Redeeming the Text” ⁴Martindale, Introduction ⁵Castoriadis

> Unit 2: “Reception in Antiquity” (Seminar 2)

Sophocles’s *Ajax* in relation to Homer and the epic tradition.

 **Required reading:**

(i) Primary Sources: ¹Homer, *Il.* Book 17 ²The Trojan Epic Cycle: *Aethiopis*, *The Little Iliad*, *The Sack of Iliion* (read everything related to Ajax) ³Sophocles, *Ajax*

(ii) Secondary Sources: ¹Hardwick, *Reception* 12-31 ²Karakantza, “Eating from the Tables of Others”

> Unit 3: “Mis-receptions?: Misunderstanding Sophocles” (Seminar 3)

Sophocles’ *Electra* and its performance by Peter Stein at the National Theatre of Greece in 2007.

 **Required reading:**

(i) Primary Sources: Sophocles, *Electra*

(ii) Secondary Sources: Karakantza, “Throwing out the *Menos*”

> Unit 4: “Oedipuses” (Seminars 4 to 7)

Sophocles’ *King Oedipus* and its reception in 20th- and 21st-Century theatre and cinema.

1) *King Oedipus*: A reading of the Sophoclean tragedy (Seminar 4)

 **Required Reading:**

(i) Primary Sources: Sophocles, *King Oedipus*

(ii) Secondary Sources: ¹Freud, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* ²Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* ³Karakantza, *Ancient Greek Myths*: read everything on the interpretation of *King Oedipus* ⁴Segal, *Tragic Heroism* 73-178.

2) Pier Paolo Pasolini’s *Edipo Re* (Seminar 5)

 **Required Reading:**

(i) Primary Sources: ¹Sophocles, *King Oedipus* ²Pasolini, *Oedipo Re*

(ii) Secondary Sources:

3) Jean Cocteau, *The Infernal Machine* [*La Machine infernale*] (Seminar 6)

 **Required Reading:**

- (i) Primary Sources: ¹Sophocles, *King Oedipus* ²Cocteau
- (ii) Secondary Sources:

4) “Oedipus in the 21st century” (Seminar 7)

The reception of *King Oedipus* in Koutras and Evangelidis’s *Strella* aka *A Woman’s Way* (2009) and Dennis Villeneuve’s *Incendies* (2010).

Required Reading:

- (i) Primary Sources: ¹Sophocles, *King Oedipus* ² Koutras and Evangelidis ³Villeneuve
- (ii) Secondary Sources: ¹Evangelidis

➤ Unit 5: “Antigones” (Seminars 8 and 9)

Sophocles’ *Antigone* and its reception in 20th-century theatre and cinema.

1) *Antigone: A Reading of Sophocles’ Tragedy* (Seminar 8)

Required Reading:

- (i) Primary Sources: Sophocles, *Antigone*
- (ii) Secondary Sources: ¹ Butler ²Griffith ³Sourvinou-Inwood

2) “World War II Antigones” (Seminar 9)

Required Reading:

- (i) Primary Sources: ¹Sophocles, *Antigone* ²Anouilh ³Brecht
- (ii) Secondary Sources:

or

“Postcolonial Antigone: Athol Fugard, *The Island*” (Seminar 9)

Required Reading:

- (i) Primary Sources: ¹Sophocles, *Antigone* ²Fugard
- (ii) Secondary Sources: ¹Hall, Macintosh & Wrigley, eds. 233-42

➤ Unit 6: “Medeas” (Seminars 10 and 11)

Euripides’ *Medea* and its reception in 20th-century cinema.

1) *Medea: A Reading of Euripides’ tragedy* (Seminar 10)

Required Reading:

- (i) Primary Sources: ¹Euripides, *Medea*
- (ii) Secondary Sources:

2) *Medea* in film (Seminar 11)

Required Reading:

- (i) Primary Sources: ¹Euripides, *Medea* ²Pasolini, *Medea* ³von Trier
- (ii) Secondary Sources:

➤ Unit 7: Aristophanes for Kids and Teens (Seminars 12 and 13)

1) *Birds*: A Reading of Aristophanes' Comedy (Seminar 12)

📖 Required Reading:

(i) Primary Sources: ¹Aristophanes

(ii) Secondary Sources:

2) Aristophanes for kids and teens (Seminar 13)

📖 Required Reading:

(i) Primary Sources: ¹Aristophanes ²Kakoudaki ³Apostolidis

(ii) Secondary Sources:

Jocasta.upatras.gr

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Primary

- Allen, Thomas W., ed. *Homeri Opera*. Vol. 5. OCT. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1912.
- Anouilh, Jean. *Antigone*. Trans. Barbara Bray. Methuen Drama Student Editions. 1987. London: A. & C. Black, 2000.
- Apostolidis, Tasos, and Giorgos Akokalidis. *Birds*. Aristophanes' Comedies in Comics. Athens: Metaechmio, 2007.
- Aristophanes. *Birds*.*
- Brecht, Bertolt. *The Antigone of Sophocles*. Trans. David Constantine. *Brecht Collected Plays 8 (The Antigone of Sophocles; The Days of the Commune; Turandot or The Whitewasher's Congress)*. London: Bloomsbury, 2004. 1-52.
- Cocteau, Jean. *The Infernal Machine [La Machine infernale]*. Trans. Albert Bermel. *The Infernal Machine and Other Plays*. New York: New Directions, 1963. 1-96.
- Euripides. *Medea*. *
- Fugard, Athol. *The Island. Township Plays: No-Good Friday, Nongogo, The Coat, Sizwe Bansi is Dead, The Island*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993. 193-227.
- Pasolini, Pier Paolo. *Οιδίππους Τύραννος, Μήδεια: Σενάρια [Edipo Re, Medea: The Scripts]*. Trans. Dimitris Arvanitakis. Athens: Kastaniotis, 2004.
- Sophocles. *Ajax, Antigone, Electra, King Oedipus*. *
- West, Martin L., ed. *Greek Epic Fragments from the Seventh to the Fifth Centuries BC*. Trans. Martin L. West. Cambridge, MA; London: Harvard University Press, 2003.

*All ancient Greek texts are available (in ancient Greek and translated in English) in the "Perseus Collection of Greek and Roman Materials," *Perseus Digital Library 4.0*, ed. Gregory R. Crane, Tufts University, 2005. Web. 10 June 2015. < <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>>.

📺 Works for the cinema, the theatre and the television*

1) based on Sophocles' King Oedipus:

- *Incendies*. Dir. Denis Villeneuve. 2010. (based on Wajdi Mouawad's second part of the *Le Sang des promesses* cycle.)
- *Oedipo Re*. Dir. Pier Paolo Pasolini. 1967.
- *Strella* aka *A Woman's Way*. Dir. Panos Koutras. 2009.

2) based on Sophocles' Electra:

- *Electra*. Dir. Petros Sevastikoglou. 2014.

3) based on Sophocles' Antigone:

- Athol Fugard. *The Island* (1972).
- *Antigone* by Sophocles. Adapted and dir. Georgina Kakoudaki. Teatro tou Neou Kosmou. 2014-15.

4) based on Euripides' Medea:

- *Medea*. Dir. Pier Paolo Pasolini. 1969.
- *Medea*. Dir. Lars von Trier. 1988.

5) based on Aristophanes' Birds:

- *Birds* by Aristophanes. Adapted and dir. Georgina Kakoudaki. Theatro tou Neou Kosmou. 2011-2013.

*See "Links" in e-class.

B. Secondary

1) General

Blanshard, A., and K. Shahabudin. *Classics on Screen: Ancient Greece and Rome on Film*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Castoriadis, Cornelius. *Η αρχαία ελληνική δημοκρατία και η σημασία της για μας σήμερα*. [Ancient Greek Democracy and Its Importance for Us Today]. Athens: Ypsilon, 1986.

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. 1983. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1996.

Freud, Sigmund. *A Childhood Recollection from Dichtung und Wahrheit*. An Infantile Neurosis and Other Works. Trans. James Strachey et al. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud 17 (1917-1919). 1955. London: Vintage, 2001. 145-56.

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---. *Creative Writers and Day-dreaming*. Jensen's "Gradiva" and Other Works. Trans. James Strachey et al. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud 9 (1906-1908). 1959. London: Vintage, 2001. 141-54.

---. *The Theme of the Three Caskets*. The Case of Schreber, Papers on Technique and Other Works. Trans. James Strachey et al. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud 12 (1911-1913). 1958. London: Vintage, 2001. 289-302.

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Graziosi, B., and E. Greenwood. *Homer in the Twentieth Century: Between World Literature and the Western Canon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Hall, E. *Adventures with Iphigenia in Tauris: A Cultural History of Euripides' Black Sea Tragedy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

--- F. Macintosh, and A. Wrigley, eds. *Dionysus since '69: Greek Tragedy at the Dawn of the Third Millennium*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Hardwick, Lorna. *Reception Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

---, and C. Stray. *A Companion to Classical Receptions*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008.

Holub, Robert. "Reception Theory: School of Constance." *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*. Vol. 8: *From Formalism to Poststructuralism*. Ed. Raman Selden. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995. 319-346.

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Honig, Bonnie. *Antigone, Interrupted*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

- Jauss, Hans Robert. *Η θεωρία της πρόσληψης: Τρία μελετήματα* [Reception Theory: Three Essays]. Trans. Miltos Pechlivanos. Athens: Estia, 1995.
- . "Literary History as a Challenge to Literary Theory." Trans. Elizabeth Benzinger. *New Literary History* 2.1 (1970): 7-37.
- Kallendorf, Craig W. *A Companion to the Classical Tradition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.
- Karakantza, Efimia D. "Polis Anatomy: Reflecting on polis Structures in Sophoclean Tragedy." *Classics Ireland* 18 (2011): 21-55.
- Leonard, Miriam, ed. *Derrida and Antiquity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- . *Athens in Paris: Ancient Greece and the Political in Post-War French Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Macintosh, Fiona, et al., eds. *Agamemnon in Performance: 458 BC to AD 2004*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Martindale, Charles. "Redeeming the Text: The Validity of Comparisons of Classical and Postclassical Literature (A View from Britain)". *Arion* 1.3 (1991): 45-75.
- . "Introduction: Thinking through Reception". Charles Martindale and Richard F. Thomas 1-13.
- , and Richard F. Thomas, eds. *Classics and the Uses of Reception*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.
- Michelakis, Pantelis. *Greek Tragedy on Screen*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Nikoloutsos, Konstantinos P., ed. *Ancient Greek Women in Film*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Van Steen, Gonda. *Theatre of the Condemned Classical Tragedy on Greek Prison Islands*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

2) Special

i) on *Ajax*

Karakantza, Efimia D. "Eating from the tables of others: Sophocles' *Ajax* and the Greek Epic Cycle". *Classics@* 6 (2010): *Reflecting on the Greek Epic Cycle*. Online. Internet. 9 March 2015. <<http://chs.harvard.edu/CHS/article/display/3228>>.

ii) on *Electra*

Karakantza, Efimia D. "Throwing out the *Menos* with the Bath Water: The Sophoclean Text vs Peter Stein's *Electra* (2007)". *Dialogues with the Past: Classical Reception Theory and Practice*. Vol. 1. Ed. Anastasia Bakogianni. *The Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies (BICS)* 126-1 (2013): 61-78.

iii) on *King Oedipus*

Carey, C. "The Second Stasimon of Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus*". *JHS* 106 (1986): 175-179.

Dodds, E. R. "On Misunderstanding the 'Oedipus Rex'". *Greece and Rome* 13.1 (1966): 37-49.

Edmunds, Lowell. "The Cults and the Legend of Oedipus". *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 85 (1981): 221-238.

Evangelidis, Panagiotis. "From Sophocles' *King Oedipus* to Cocteau (*The Infernal Machine*), Pasolini (*King Oedipus*) and Koutras & Evangelidis (*Strella* aka *A Woman's Way*)". Reception of Ancient Greek Drama Course. University of Patras, Patras, Greece. 30 Apr. 2014.

Goodhart, Sandor. "Ληστὰς ἔφασκε: Oedipus and Laius' Many Murderers". *Diacritics* 8.1 (1978): 55-71.

Karakantza, Efimia D. *Αρχαίοι Ελληνικοί Μύθοι: Ο Θεωρητικός Λόγος του 20ού αι. για την Φύση και την Ερμηνεία τους [Ancient Greek Myths: The Theoretical Discourse of the Twentieth Century on Their Nature and Their Interpretation]*. Athens: Metaechmio, 2004.

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Pucci, Pietro. "Gods' Intervention and Epiphany in Sophocles". *The American Journal of Philology* 115.1 (1994): 15-46.

Renger, Almut-Barbara. *Oedipus and the Sphinx: The Threshold Myth from Sophocles through Freud to Cocteau*. Trans. Duncan Alexander Smart and David Rice, with John T. Hamilton. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Segal, Charles. "The Chorus and the Gods in 'Oedipus Tyrannus'". *The Chorus in Greek Tragedy and Culture, Two*. *Arion*, 3rd Series 4.1 (1996): 20-32.

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Sidwell, Keith. "The Argument of the Second Stasimon of *Oedipus Tyrannus*". *JHS* 112 (1992): 106-122.

iv) on *Antigone*

Athanasopoulou, Efstathia-Maria. "Testing the Horizontal Axis of Classical Reception: *Antigone* on the Contemporary Transnational Stage." MA Diss. UCL, 2014.

- Butler, Judith. *Antigone's Claim: Kinship Between Life and Death*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.
- Griffith, Mark. Introduction. *Sophocles' Antigone*. Ed. Mark Griffith. Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999: 1-68.
- Hegel, G. W. F. *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Trans. A. V. Miller. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977. 263-83.
- Lacan, Jacques. *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book VII: The Ethics of Psychoanalysis, 1959-1960*. Ed. Jacques-Alain Miller. Trans. and notes by Dennis Porter. New York and London: W. W. Norton and Company, 1992. 243-87.
- Mee, Erin B., and Helene P. Foley, eds. *Antigone on the Contemporary World Stage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Sourvinou-Inwood, C. "Assumptions and the Creation of Meaning: Reading Sophocles' *Antigone*". *JHS* 109 (1989): 134-148.
- Steiner, George. *Antigones: How the Antigone Legend Has Endured in Western Literature, Art and Thought*. 1984. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1996.
- vi) on *The Island***
- Chanter, Tina. *Whose Antigone? The Tragic Marginalization of Slavery*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2011.
- Hardwick, Lorna. "Greek Drama and Anti-Colonialism: Decolonizing Classics." E. Hall, F. Macintosh, and A. Wrigley, eds. *Dionysus since '69: Greek Tragedy at the Dawn of the Third Millennium*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. 219-242.
- vi) on *Medea***
- Baertschi, Annette M. "Rebel and Martyr: The *Medea* of Lars von Trier". Konstantinos P. Nikoloutsos 117-136.
- Hall, Edith, Oliver Taplin, and Fiona Macintosh, eds. *Medea in Performance 1500-2000*. Oxford: Legenda, 2000.
- Shapiro, Susan O. "Pasolini's *Medea*: A Twentieth-Century Tragedy". Konstantinos P. Nikoloutsos 95-116.
- Lada Stevanović. "Between Mythical and Rational Worlds: *Medea* by Pier Paolo Pasolini". *Ancient Worlds in Film and Television: Gender and Politics*. Ed. Almut-Barbara Renger and Jon Solomon. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2013. 213-227.
- vii) on *Birds***
- Hall, Edith, and Amanda Wrigley, eds. *Aristophanes in Performance 421 BC-AD 2007: Peace, Birds, and Frogs*. Oxford: Legenda, 2007.