**Course Title: Greek Tragedy**

**Course Code: LR211**

**Semester:**

**Course Instructor:**

**Email:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**The course of Greek Tragedy will see the sights about different themes like problems faced by the humans in social and private life.**

Greek tragedy explores central questions about the nature of human behaviour, the social structures of public and private life, and the problematic relationships between gods and human beings. Violence, crime and conflict are prominent among its themes, particularly conflict within the family, the battle between the sexes, and the competing claims of household and state. Although the product of a particular historical moment - 5th-century Athens - tragedy raises large and complex issues which still concern us today. The module will focus on selected plays of each of the three tragedians, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. We shall study these plays in their social and cultural contexts, and also consider the wider implications of the problems which they dramatize.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this course is to study Ancient Greek tragedy in its social, political and literary context. We will examine the conventions of the Greek stage and the origins of Greek drama, along with the impact of that drama on subsequent theatre and literature. As we explore the specific religious, political and cultural conditions of fifth-century Athens that brought about the rise of ancient drama (the plays were publically funded, at enormous expense, and presented as part of a religious festival), we will also consider the enduring legacy of Greek tragedy, its influence on later literature, and the idea of ‘The Tragic.’

**Course Policies**

* No late work/submission of Assignments.
* Class participation is mandatory. Beware! 10% of your course marks is based on your performance in class
* **Academic honesty** is assumed. All work you submit must be your own.
* **Avoid Plagiarism.** All the cases of plagiarism will be referred to controller’s office. Please click the link given below for university policy on plagiarism. (<http://www.uvas.edu.pk/news/HEC_PLIAGERISM_POLICY.pdf>)

**Resource Material**

1. **Greek Drama**
2. **Essentials of Drama**
3. **Tradition of Drama**
4. **Republic by Plato**
5. **Poetics by Aristotle**
6. **Greek Playwrights and Dramatic Festival**
7. **Greek theatre and tradition**
8. **Plays of Sophocles**
9. **Plays of Aeschylus**
10. **Plays of Euripides**

[**https://www.google.com.pk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCIQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.slideshare.net%2Fcafeharmon%2Felements-of-greek-tragedy-and-the-tragic-hero&ei=GYEbVeK7NJPVaqz8gIAL&usg=AFQjCNGYcN9MRukP4Q5LyCgMVmto9ZPBRw&sig2=2Fih0OuulWuJ1uANFdjWSA&bvm=bv.89744112,d.d2s**](https://www.google.com.pk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCIQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.slideshare.net%2Fcafeharmon%2Felements-of-greek-tragedy-and-the-tragic-hero&ei=GYEbVeK7NJPVaqz8gIAL&usg=AFQjCNGYcN9MRukP4Q5LyCgMVmto9ZPBRw&sig2=2Fih0OuulWuJ1uANFdjWSA&bvm=bv.89744112,d.d2s)

[**http://www2.cnr.edu/home/bmcmanus/poetics.html**](http://www2.cnr.edu/home/bmcmanus/poetics.html)

[**http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/engl257/Classical/greek\_drama.htm**](http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/engl257/Classical/greek_drama.htm)

[**http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/ClasDram/chapters/061gkthea.htm**](http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/ClasDram/chapters/061gkthea.htm)

[**http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14484/14484-h/14484-h.htm**](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14484/14484-h/14484-h.htm)

[**http://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/the-oedipus-trilogy/critical-essays/the-power-of-fate-in-the-oedipus-trilogy**](http://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/the-oedipus-trilogy/critical-essays/the-power-of-fate-in-the-oedipus-trilogy)

[**http://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/the-oedipus-trilogy/play-summary/oedipus-at-colonus**](http://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/the-oedipus-trilogy/play-summary/oedipus-at-colonus)

[**http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides6/antigone.html**](http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides6/antigone.html)

[**http://www.egs.edu/library/sophocles/biography/**](http://www.egs.edu/library/sophocles/biography/)

**Required Reading:**

 Graham Ley, *A Short Introduction to the Ancient Greek Theater*, 48-56

* + [Oedipus: The Theban story and its interpretation](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~loxias/myth.htm) (The Classics Pages, by Andrew Wilson)

**Related link for the book** [**http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~loxias/myth.htm**](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~loxias/myth.htm)

* + “[Tragic Flaws in the Oedipus Plays](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~loxias/letter4.htm)” (The Classics Pages, letters of the month)

**Related link for the book** <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~loxias/letter4.htm>

* + [Oedipus the Wreck: Summary of *Oedipus the King*](http://vccslitonline.cc.va.us/OedipustheWreck/SiteMap.htm) (Virginia Community College System Litonline)

**Related link for the book** <http://vccslitonline.cc.va.us/OedipustheWreck/SiteMap.htm>

<https://sites.google.com/site/nmeictproject/home/six-formative-elements-of-tragedy> poetics

**Text Books Required:**

1. **Prometheus Bound by Aeschylus**
2. **Oedipus Rex by Sophocles**
3. **Oedipus at Colonus by Sophocles**
4. **Antigone by Sophocles**
5. **Agamemnon by Aeschylus**
6. **The Libation Bearers by Aeschylus**
7. **The Eumenides by Aeschylus**
8. **Medea by Euripides**
9. **Poetics by Aristotle**
10. **Republic by Plato**

**Assessment Criteria**

**Passing Percentage 50%**

Quizzes 15%

Assignments 10%

Presentation 10%

Class Participation 05%

Mid Term 25%

Final Exam 35%

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|  | **Topics** | **Activities and tasks given to students in the form of:**   * **Research** * **Presentation** * **Discussion** * **Analysis and evaluation** |
| Week 1 | Introduction to Course Outline    Introduction to drama  Tradition of Drama  Greek drama Competition and Festival | * Research on Trojan War * Myth of Dionysius |
| Week 2 | Greek Theatre, Structure, staging actors, role of mask, tradition of tragedy.  Chorus and its role in Greek Tragedy/ Greek Tragedy as Choral Tragedy  Oedipus Rex Reading | * Activity on Greek mythology |
| Week 3 | Republic by Plato overview  Poetics by Aristotle  Tragedy and tragic Hero  Important Terms in Greek Literature |  |
| Week 4 | Oedipus Rex (reading) | * Analysis of the plot * Application of Poetics on the play |
| Week 5 | Oedipus Rex  Textual Analysis and Discussion | * Fate versus Free Will in Greek Drama |
| Week 6 | Agamemnon  Reading | Character Analysis  Image of Greek Women and their representation in plays |
| Week 7 | Discussion on events of Agamemnon  Textual analysis  Reference to context | Character flaw and its importance in the tragedy: a comparative analysis of Oedipus and Agamemnon  Comparison of the character of King Oedipus  With Agamemnon |
| Week 8 | Midterm |  |
| Week 9 | The Libation Bearers  Reading  Textual analysis | Analyze the plot by following Aristotelian View |
| Week 10 | Discussion and Critical Evaluation of Greek Elements in the play |  |
| Week 11 | Medea  Reading | Evaluation by students |
| Week 12 | Medea  Textual analysis and discussion | Compararive analysis with other plays  Role of Gods in Greek Mythology |
| Week 13 | Oedipus at Colonus | Visual Presentation |
| Week 14 | Antigone | Visual Presentation |
| Week 15 | Review & Revision  Final Examination |  |