

GREE 316: Advanced Greek literature B

Classics, Greek, and Latin
School of Art History, Classics, and Religious Studies
Victoria University of Wellington
2/2008

Course organisation

Class times: Mon./Wed./Fri. 12.00-12.50, Old Kirk 501.

Additional information: Any further information, such as announcements and unofficial final results, will be posted on noticeboards in Old Kirk, level 5.

Lecturers:

- Dr Diana Burton (OK 512), ph. 463 6784, e-mail diana.burton@vuw.ac.nz
- Dr Peter Gainsford (course organiser, OK 525), ph. 463 6453, e-mail peter.gainsford@vuw.ac.nz

Set texts

- Plato, *Symposium* ed. Dover (Cambridge University Press)
- Sophocles, *Philoktetes* ed. Webster (Cambridge University Press)
- Liddell & Scott, Greek lexicon (any of the three editions — the little Liddell, *Abridged Greek Lexicon* or the middle Liddell are recommended)

We will be working on Plato in weeks 1-6 with Diana Burton, and Sophokles in weeks 7-12 with Peter Gainsford.

Further resources:

- See the bibliographies on Plato and Sophokles in this handout.
- Grammars for classical Greek may be obtained for free from <http://www.textkit.com>:
 - Herbert Weir Smyth, *Greek Grammar* (15.67 MB)
 - William W. Goodwin, *Greek Grammar* (8.52 MB)

For reference purposes, PG recommends Smyth slightly ahead of Goodwin. (It's a good idea to have both.)

Course content and objectives

The course examines literary and historical texts for translation and study of subject matter, language and literary setting. We focus on Plato's *Symposium* and Sophokles' late tragedy *Philoktetes*. Students who have successfully passed the course will have improved their fluency in ancient Greek, and reinforced their knowledge of grammatical and morphological points learnt previously; improved their appreciation of niceties of classical Greek prose and verse style; and gained an appreciation of the historical contexts, literary genres, and philosophical background of the texts studied.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory requirements for this course.

Workload

Students should expect to put an average of 16 hours' work per week into this course. There is no requirement on attendance as such (see above), but it is highly unlikely that any student will be able to manage satisfactorily with the 'seen' elements of the assessment without attending at least 85% of classes.

Assessment

Assessment is by internal assessment (40%) and a three-hour final exam (60%). Assessment is designed to determine students' ability to understand literary Greek and to express coherent, informative, and insightful comments both on specific passages and in the context of the larger work.

Internal assessment (40%)

Two assignments — 20% each.

Due dates:

- Plato — Fri. 15 August (end of week 6)
- Sophokles — Fri. 20 September (end of week 9)

Each assignment will focus on a passage in the relevant text, which you may choose subject to the approval of the relevant lecturer. Each assignment should be approximately 2000 words in length.

You may EITHER do an in-depth text analysis, appropriately researched and referenced, OR a more discursive essay about the passage and its relation to the rest of the text. Alternatively, subject to the approval of the relevant lecturer, you may apply for permission to take another approach.

If you submit any assignment after the due date without obtaining an extension *beforehand*, your assignment will incur a lateness penalty of 3 marks out of 100 per day.

Three-hour final exam (60%)

Full details on the exam format and how much each question is worth will be forthcoming in class as the term progresses. The exam period is 17 October to 8 November 2008.

Bibliography

Plato, *Symposium*

Prof. Radcliffe G. Edmonds III (Bryn Mawr) has a good bibliography on the *Symposium* at <http://www.brynmawr.edu/classics/redmonds/sympbib.html>, and there's a huge amount of stuff in the Library. There is also a fairly random collection of mostly recent articles in the file drawer in the Classics Library. Here are a few recent titles:

Plato — texts, translations, commentaries

Plato, *The Symposium*, trans. with commentary by R. E. Allen. New Haven 1993

Plato, *The Symposium*, trans. by Christopher Gill. London 2003

Plato, *The Symposium*, trans. with commentary by Allan Bloom and Seth Benardete. Chicago 2001

Plato, *The Symposium*, Greek text with commentary by C. J. Rowe. Warminster 1998

Plato — recent books:

Corrigan, Kevin, and Elena Glazov-Corrigan 2004. *Plato's Dialectic at Play: Argument, Structure, and Myth in the Symposium*. University Park, Pa. **BF385 C825 P**

Hobbs, Angela 2000. *Plato and the Hero: Courage, Manliness, and the Impersonal Good*. Cambridge. **B398 C69 H682 P**

Hunter, Richard 2004. *Plato's Symposium*. Oxford. **B385 H946 P**

Leshner, J.H., Debra Nails, and Frisbee C.C. Sheffield (eds) 2007. *Plato's Symposium: Issues in Interpretation and Reception*. Cambridge, Mass. **B385 P718**

Reeve, C.D.C. (ed.) 2006. *Plato on Love: Lysis, Symposium, Phaedrus, Alcibiades, with Selections from Republic, Laws*. Indianapolis. **B358 R331 P**

Sheffield, Frisbee C.C. 2006. *Plato's Symposium: The Ethics of Desire*. Oxford. **B385 S542 P**

Strauss, Leo 2001. *Leo Strauss on Plato's Symposium*. Chicago. **B385 S912 L**

Sophokles, *Philoktetes*

Sophoklean tragedy, heroic ethics, stagecraft

*Blundell, M.W. 1989. *Helping Friends and Harming Enemies: A Study in Sophocles and Greek Ethics*. Cambridge. **PA4417 B658 H (3DL)**

Bowra, C.M. 1944. *Sophoclean Tragedy*. Oxford. **PA4417 B788 S**

*Knox, B.M.W. 1964. *The Heroic Temper*. Berkeley, Los Angeles. **PA4417 K74 H (3DL, CR)**

Seale, D. 1982. *Vision and Stagecraft in Sophocles*. Chicago, London. **PA4417 S438 V (CR)**

Whitman, C.H. 1951. *Sophocles*. Cambridge, Mass. **PA4417 W614 S**

Winnington-Ingram, R.P. 1980. *Sophocles: An Interpretation*. Cambridge. **PA4417 W776 S (CR)**

Philoktetes

Bellinger, A.R. 1939. 'Achilles' son and Achilles,' *YCS* 6: 3-13. **PA1 Y18(p)**

Blundell, M.W. 1987. 'The moral character of Odysseus in *Philoktetes*,' *GRBS* 28: 307-29. **PA1 G794(p)**

*Blundell, M.W. 1988. 'The *phusis* of Neoptolemus in Sophocles' *Philoktetes*,' *G&R* 35: 137-48. **PA1 G793(p) / JSTOR**

Easterling, P.E. 1978. '*Philoktetes* and Modern Criticism,' in: E. Segal (ed.), *Oxford Readings in Greek Tragedy* (Oxford, 1983) 217-28, **PA3133 O98 (3DL)** ; = *ICS* 3 (1978) 27-39 (not in VUW library, but interloanable)

Gill, C. 1980. 'Bow, oracle, and epiphany in Sophocles' *Philoktetes*.' *G&R* 2nd s. 27.2: 137-46. **PA1 G793(p) / JSTOR**

Harsh, P.W. 1960. 'The role of the bow in the *Philoktetes* of Sophocles.' *AJP* 81: 408-14. **PA1 A5 JP(p) / JSTOR**

Lada-Richards, I. 1997. 'Neoptolemus and the bow: ritual theatre and theatrical vision in Sophocles' *Philoktetes*.' *JHS* 117: 179-183. **PA1 J8 HS(p) / JSTOR**

Poe, J.P. 1974. *Heroism and Divine Justice in Sophocles' Philoktetes (Mnemosyne suppl. 34)*. Leiden. **PA9 M686 S 34(p)**

Roberts, D.H. 1989. 'Different stories: Sophoclean narrative(s) in the *Philoktetes*.' *TAPA* 119: 161-176. **PA1 A512 T(p) / JSTOR**

Vidal-Naquet, P. 1981. 'Sophocles' *Philoktetes* and the Ephebeia,' in J.-P. Vernant and P. Vidal-Naquet, *Myth and Tragedy in Ancient Greece*; a.k.a. *Tragedy and Myth ...* (Atlantic Highlands) 175-99. **PA3131 V529 M E (3DL and 6th floor)**

General university statutes and policies

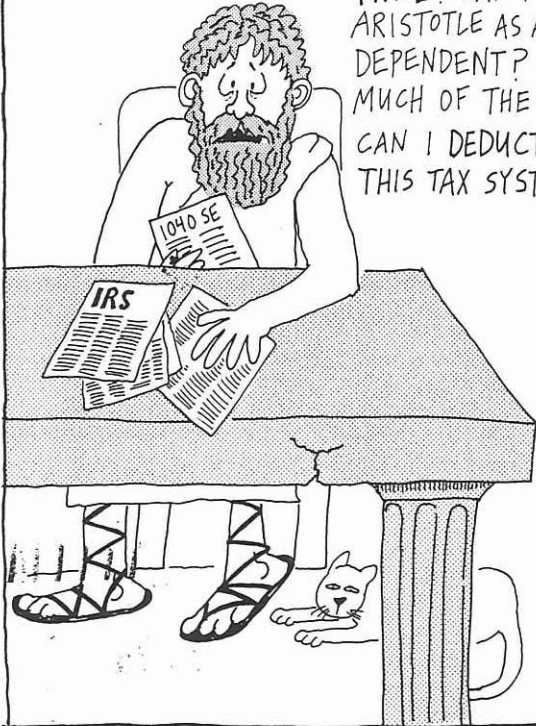
Students should familiarise themselves with the university's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under 'about Victoria' on the Victoria homepage at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html.

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>.

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

PLATO CONTEMPLATES
THE FORMS....

WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY
SOCIAL SECURITY TAX
TWICE? CAN I CLAIM
ARISTOTLE AS A
DEPENDENT? HOW
MUCH OF THE CAVE
CAN I DEDUCT? IS
THIS TAX SYSTEM JUST?



Genrich Bend
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