

GREE 216

Greek Literature

TRIMESTER 2 2015



SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**CLASSICS PROGRAMME
GREE 216: GREEK LITERATURE
20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Study period: 19–23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Monday 11-12, Von Zedlitz 108

Tuesday 11-12, Von Zedlitz 108

Thursday 11-12, Von Zedlitz 108

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr. James Kierstead, Old Kirk 511, Ph. 463 6785,
James.Kierstead@vuw.ac.nz. Office hours: Thursdays 2-4 pm.

Communication of additional information

Notices about changes in the schedule etc. will be distributed to students via e-mail and Blackboard.

General information (e.g. special lectures in the Classics programme; examination schedule) will be posted on the Classics Notice Board, 5th Floor, Old Kirk.

Prescription

Literary and/or historical texts for translation, comment on subject matter, language and literary setting.

Course content

Weeks 1-6: Euripides, *Medea*

Weeks 7-12: Plato, *Protagoras*

For a list of possible class presentations, see the list at the end of this Outline.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Read Greek texts.
2. comment critically on the use of language by the authors studied.
3. Be aware of the general nature of genre-specific texts (here: tragedy and philosophical dialogue).
4. Be aware of major scholarly topics associated with these authors.
5. comment on matters (here: historical, philosophical, and performance-related) discussed in the texts.

Teaching format

The class will be taught as a small seminar group, examining the Greek texts and discussing matters that arise. Students are expected to attend all classes. In addition, they will be expected to present two brief surveys of two topics chosen from each of the two authors.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory requirements for this course.

Workload

In order to complete the course successfully an average student should expect to spend about 200 hours. This includes 3 hours of class time and 8 hours preparing texts and wider reading and assignment work each week of the trimester and 25 hours preparing for the examination.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Class presentations on two topics, one on each text, 10-15 minutes in total (5-7.5 minutes each). [5 hrs preparation time]	10%	1, 2, 4	TBA
2	Commentary on a coherent section of Euripides' <i>Medea</i> [18 hrs preparation time] 1500-2000 words	20%	2, 3, 5	23 August
3	Essay on Plato's <i>Protagoras</i> [18 hrs preparation time] 1500-2000 words	20%	2, 3, 4, 5	15 October
4	3-hour Final Examination	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	TBA

Marking Criteria

For class presentation: the ability to synthesize the topic and present it clearly to the class.

For commentary: the ability to give an overview of the passage selected and discussion of salient points (literary, historical, and cultural) within this.

For essay: the ability to analyse primary material, to show awareness of some secondary work, and to present this in clear English to communicate the ideas of the essay.

For examination: the ability to translate accurately Greek into English and to analyse the material for its salient points.

In all cases, the student should show they understand the Greek texts they are considering.

Submission and return of work

Submission of work: commentary and essay should be submitted electronically.

Return of Work: the commentary and essay will be returned, with comments and a grade, by email.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions will be granted, where circumstances warrant them, only if permission is first sought, BEFORE THE DUE DATE, from the lecturer.

Extensions are usually only granted for illness (on production of a medical certificate) or for family bereavement (where production of evidence may be required).

Set texts

The set texts will be available at Vic Books. www.vicbooks.co.nz

Donald Mastronarde (ed.) *Euripides: Medea* (Cambridge University Press)

Nicholas Denyer (ed.) *Plato: Protagoras* (Cambridge University Press)

Recommended reading

Available at any good bookstore (or online).

Rex Warner (trans.) 'The Medea' in Grene and Lattimore (eds.) *Euripides I* (the Complete Greek Tragedies series, University of Chicago Press)

Adam Beresford (trans.) 'Protagoras' in Brown (ed.) *Protagoras and Meno* (Penguin Classics, Penguin)

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student feedback on this course has been generally positive. No significant changes have been made from last year.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

In-class Presentations

For your presentations, choose one topic from each of the two halves of the trimester. During the first week we will negotiate who will present on which topics.

Topics for Euripides' *Medea*:

Week 1 (Friday, 18 July): Euripides' *Medea*. Discussion of *Medea* in translation.

Week 2 (Friday, 25 July): The *Medea* of Euripides. Mastronarde pp. 1-6, 37-69 ('Euripides: life and works', 'Production', 'Euripides' *Medea* and the Medea Myth', 'Neophron's *Medea*', Medea after Euripides and the influence of his *Medea*')

Week 3 (Friday, 1 August): The text. Mastronarde pp. 70-73, 109, 388-397 ('The text', 'A note on the critical apparatus', 'Appendix: Medea's great monologue')

Week 4 (Friday, 8 August): Structure, language, style. Mastronarde pp. 74-96 ('Structural elements of Greek tragedy', 'Introduction to language and style')

Week 5 (Friday, 15 August): Metre. Mastronarde pp. 97-108 ('Introduction to prosody and metre', 'Key to metrical symbols')

Week 6 (Friday, 22 August): Interpreting Euripides' *Medea*. Mastronarde pp. 7-36 ('The play: structure, themes, and problems')

Topics for Plato's *Protagoras*:

Week 7 (Friday, 12 September): Plato's *Protagoras*. Discussion of *Protagoras* in translation.

Week 8 (Friday, 19 September): Protagoras the sophist. Kerferd, 'The Sophists', pp. 244-270 in Taylor (ed.) *From the Beginning to Plato* (vol. 1 of the Routledge History of Philosophy series, London 1997)

Week 9 (Friday, 26 September): Protagoras the democrat. Balot, 'Democratic Political Thinking at Athens', pp. 48-85 in Balot, *Greek Political Thought* (Oxford 2006)

Week 10 (Friday, 3 October): Protagoras the democrat (again). Gagarin, 'The Purpose of Plato's *Protagoras*,' *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 100, 1969.

Week 11 (Friday, 10 October): Free Speech and Socratic Dialogue. Saxonhouse, 'Protagoras' Shame and Socrates' Speech', pp. 179-206 in Saxonhouse, *Free Speech and Democracy in Ancient Athens* (Cambridge 2006)

Week 12 (Friday, 17 October): Plato vs. Protagoras. Nussbaum, 'The *Protagoras*: A Science of Practical Reasoning', pp. 89-121 in Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness* (Cambridge 1986)