2014

GREK 351-01H Aeschylus

Shannon Hogue

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Description and Goals: The purpose of this course is to gain an understanding and appreciation of the playwright Aeschylus and further develop your translation skills of complex ancient Greek by reading the *Prometheus Bound*. To enhance our understanding of the Prometheus myth, we will read in English Hesiod’s *Theogony* and relevant passages from *Works and Days*. Finally, Greek drama and theater will figure into our discussions as we envision how the playwright adapted the myth for the 5th century Athenian stage. We will examine the evidence for various elements of ancient Athenian stagecraft and discuss the limitations thereof.

HAB Objectives Addressed:
--master grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Greek
--analyze texts for grammatical and stylistic features
--articulate ideas about human concerns (e.g. justice, freedom, virtue, faith, allegiance, citizenship, gender, sexuality, power) as they were first expressed in classical antiquity
--collaborate on topics and acquire group-oriented problem solving skills

Texts:
Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*, Cambridge University Press
Hesiod, *Theogony* and *Works & Days*
Supplemental readings on Canvas

Student Responsibilities and Attendance:
• read all assignments before class and come prepared to translate
• bring all relevant materials to class
• give this class the appropriate time it needs
• take notes and ask questions
• be courteous to other students and your teacher
• come to class on time
• attend class regularly and on time

NB: Success in this course is directly proportional to attendance; you are responsible for all material covered in class—not all of which derives from readings—and all changes made to the assignments regardless of your attendance. This course cannot be taken *in absentia*. After three excused absences your total grade for the course will be lowered by one letter grade and your grade will continue to drop with each successive absence. If circumstances arise that cause you to miss class more than the attendance policy allows, you need to drop this course and take it again when you are able to complete its requirements in accordance with the attendance policy. Unexcused absences are not allowed and you will lose one percentage point from your total grade.

In the event of an excused absence:
• read/translate the material assigned for the class on the previous meeting
• contact a classmate to determine what was covered (do not contact me)
• borrow a classmate’s notes for the date
You need an XU account (e-mail account that ends xavier.edu) and access to Canvas and other XU sites in order to keep abreast of assignments and manage course information and material. If you do not have daily access to XU websites, you cannot successfully fulfill the requirements this course.

If you are a student athlete or student with a disability or special needs and you need special services or assistance, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Common Courtesy:**

- Come to class on time. If you come a little late, enter and take your seat quietly. If you come late or leave early by more than 20 minutes, you will be counted absent for that day.
- Be thoughtful of other students. Do not engage in discussions while others are translating.
- Turn off cell phones and put away all electronic and Internet gadgets before class.
- Do not read outside material or prepare work for other classes during our time together.
- Do not wear hats, hoods, or baseball caps to tests.
- Do not bring friends or relatives of any age to class without prior permission.

You will be dismissed from class and need to meet with the Dean for permission to return if you are not mindful of the above rules for common courtesy.

**Grading and Assignments**

**Departmental Grade Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92-91</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-83</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-75</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-95</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-87</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-72</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-85</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-77</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-70</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students can expect a grade of “C” for meeting the requirements stated in this syllabus. To earn above a “C”, students must demonstrate above average (“B”) or outstanding (“A”) performance. It is my policy not to discuss grades without an appointment. If you have a question about your grade, you must make an appointment or come see me during office hours. No Incompletes will be given.

Your grade for this course will be an average of the following (barring participation problems)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 exams</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 translation quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading assignment précis</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exams – Midterm and Final:** (10/28 and 12/18)

Tests will focus on translation, grammar, and syntax for seen passages and may include short answer questions on material covered in class. The Final Exam time and date cannot be changed for any reason without permission from the Dean.

**Translation Quizzes:** (9/11, 10/2, 11/20)

Translation quizzes will focus on translation, grammar, and syntax for seen passages. These will be shorter than the exams and designed to take 10-15 minutes at the beginning of class.

**Play Presentation:**

This assignment is loosely defined as participation in the class production of *Prometheus Bound*. This may include acting, recitation of lines in ancient Greek, recitation of lines in English, research on ancient masks, props, gestures and stage directions, and construction of masks, costumes, and/or props. As a class we will define how much of the play we will reenact and in what format. The project will require group work and may include a written component depending upon the scope of the presentation agreed upon by the class. Using your translations and interpretation of
the action in the text, supplemented with secondary scholarship, we will attempt an approximate reconstruction of a 5th century Athenian tragedy. This reconstruction will consider staging, dance, and costumes keeping in mind limitations of evidence, time and budget, among others. Each student will complete 2 presentation updates to demonstrate research and progress toward completion of the final project. These will each be entered as “reading assignment précis” grades.

**Reading assignment précis:**

For each secondary reading assignment students will complete a 2-paragraph written assignment. Please bring a printed copy to class. Keep in mind that a paragraph must have a minimum of 3 sentences and typically not more than 8-10 sentences. The first paragraph will be a précis (a concise summary of the essential points presented). The second paragraph may be used as a continuation of the précis or as a place for analysis or questions. The length restriction is in place as an exercise in distilling main points of an article or argument and clearly articulating them in writing for yourself and others. For this reason, points will be deducted for précis that are longer than 2 paragraphs. Despite the length requirement, your précis must cover each of the essential points presented. This will require you to read thoroughly and then assess what is essential before you begin writing or you will likely run out of room.

**Translation and Participation:**

Come prepared to translate and to ask questions about vocabulary and grammar on weekly readings. If you feel behind, I highly recommend two things:

1. Talk to your classmates and arrange study sessions to review your translations after we have covered the material in class. If you do this on a weekly basis, the vocabulary and grammar will stay fresher and it will not be quite so overwhelming to review for the quizzes and exams.
2. Talk to me. I can offer additional suggestions on an individual basis.

For translation in class you may not read off of a fully written English translation. Translate only from the Greek text. As you translate at home, keep a vocabulary/grammar list of your own making in a separate notebook that you can refer to in class. Keep interlinear notations to a bare minimum; your Greek text should be clear and visible. Translation and participation are essential to this course. Grades are not given for participation; however you will lose one percentage point from your class total for each day you are unprepared to translate. Always consult the commentary in your text as you translate.

**Late Assignments:**

All work must be completed on time. You will lose 10% the first day and 5% each successive day for late précis and presentations. Précis that are emailed or submitted after the class period has ended are late. Tests must be taken at the scheduled dates during class. Make ups cannot be administered except for emergencies documented by the Dean, must be taken within a week of documentation, and may differ from the original. Please write legibly. Points deducted for unclear penmanship cannot be made up.

**Academic Honesty** (from XU’s handbook):

“The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.
All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own.

Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignments, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.”
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*

PB = translation of lines TBD in Aeschylus, Prometheus Bound

T 8/26  Introduction and syllabus; discuss Play Presentation
R 8/28  PB; Hesiod, Theogony (all) and Works and Days (pp. 59-62; ll. 42-105); PB

T 9/2    PB; Read Prometheus Bound in English; Taplin, “Appendix F: The Authenticity of
           Prometheus Bound” in The Stagecraft of Aeschylus, pp. 460-469 (Précis);
           Read/Review Agamemnon and Eumenides in English for comparative context
R 9/4    PB; Foley, “Modern Performance and Adaptation of Greek Tragedy,” pp. 1-12
           (Précis)

T 9/9    PB; Easterling, “Form and Performance,” in The Cambridge Companion to Greek
           Tragedy, pp. 151-165 (Précis)
R 9/11   Translation Quiz 1; PB

T 9/16   PB; Taplin, “Stage management and stage directions” in Greek Tragedy in Action,
           (Précis)
R 9/18   PB

T 9/23   PB; Taplin, “The Pictorial Record” in The Cambridge Companion to Greek Tragedy,
           pp. 69-90 (Précis)
R 9/25   PB

T 9/30   PB; The Pronomos Vase and its Context, pp. 1-9 (Précis)
R 10/2   Translation Quiz 2; PB

T 10/7   PB; Wyles, “The Tragic Costumes” in The Pronomos Vase and its Context, pp. 231-
           253 (Précis)
R 10/9   FALL BREAK

           188-202 (Précis); Hammond and Moon, “Illustrations of Early Tragedy at Athens,”
           pp. 375-376.
R 10/16  PB

T 10/21  PB; presentation updates
R 10/23  PB

T 10/28  MIDTERM EXAM
R 10/30  PB

T 11/4   PB
R 11/6   PB

T 11/11  PB
R 11/13  

T 11/18   PB
R 11/20  Translation Quiz 3; PB

T 11/25   PB; presentation updates  
R 11/27   THANKSGIVING

T 12/2   PB
R 12/4   PB

T 12/9   Prometheus Bound Production  
R 12/11   review

R 12/18   Final Exam 10:30 am – 12:20 pm

*Students are expected to consult this schedule and be aware of their assigned presentation and report dates. The Cicero translation assignments are tentative and will likely change based on our class progress. I reserve the right to change this schedule at any time.

NB: M 11/24 - Last Day to Withdrawal from Classes