

Mythology in Context

Humanities 332

Section: J100

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructor: David Mirhady

Discussion Topics: We will study interrelationships between Athenian tragedy and rhetorical theory by first connecting the two as a unified Aristotelian theory, understanding tragedy as a form of rhetoric and applying Aristotelian concepts of tragedy to understand the nature of speech-making. Aristotelian rhetoric describes different genres of speeches, for the law courts, for political assemblies, and for display, with regard to the listeners they address and the values they promote. Tragedy will be understood through the same analysis as a rhetorical genre. Conversely, tragedy, especially as Aristotle understands it, entails several phenomena that will be applied to rhetoric (e.g., emotional catharsis, reversal of fortune, and recognition). Five plays will be the focus of our study, but students will be invited to take on other plays for their research papers.

Grading: 20% - Participation

20% - Assignments (4 x c. 500 words)

20% - Paper one (5-7 pages)

20% - Paper two (5-7 pages)

20% - Final Exam (90 minutes)

Required Texts: Greek Tragedies, Volume 3. Second Edition. D. Grene and R. Lattimore. U of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-30791-3

Aristotle. On Rhetoric. Second Edition. Translated by George Kennedy. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-530509-8

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 45 units

Notes: SFU NOW students have priority enrollment for this course. Available spaces will be open to all students on July 28. Questions about the program should be directed to SFU NOW Coordinator (sfunow@sfu.ca 778-782-8655) or visit their website www.sfu.ca/sfunow.

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