**Course Description**
The Greece and Rome sequence is about traditions—not as stable, pre-given structures, but as bodies of texts that influence and transform each other across historical time periods. In that light, the sequence offers a grounding in some major texts of the Classical Greek and Latin traditions (read in English translation) as well as their reception at pivotal moments in modernity. These texts have sustained a community of reading, commentary, and debate ever since their inception, and they continue to resonate through our institutions and values today. In our encounter with them, we will develop the tools to read in inquiring and original ways, as well as to defend our readings with respect to the texts.

In the Winter quarter of the sequence, we delve into the paired genres of tragedy and history, examining how each represents society through distinct modes of narrative and speech. The quarter will focus in particular on how tragedy and history confront familial, social, and external conflict in different genres. Readings cover Aeschylus’ *Oresteia*, selections from the histories of Herodotus, Livy, and Tacitus, tragedies by Seneca, and Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*.

**Required Texts** (available at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, 5751 S. Woodlawn Avenue)
Seneca, *Thyestes*, trans. Shadi Bartsch (PDF will be distributed via Chalk)

Please make sure to purchase these exact translations. You may not use other translations of these texts. It’s important that we’re all on the same page.

**Course Requirements**
*MAY VARY FROM SECTION TO SECTION*
As a seminar-style class, this course requires substantial reading and writing as well as your active involvement in class. Specific course requirements are:

- **Participation** (including writing seminars and one sequence-wide lecture): **25%** of final grade
- **Three Papers** (approx. 4-5 pages each): **75%** of final grade

**Participation**
Your informed, thoughtful participation is crucial to the success of this course and our collective learning. Please speak up to voice your thoughts, no matter how incomplete they may be. Some ideas for how to participate meaningfully:

- bring to class questions and observations about specific aspects of the reading. Be ready to direct us to a passage that you think is important for discussion (so bring the readings with you!)
- respond to the readings generously and thoughtfully: be ready to talk about what you think is important or relevant about them, as well as things that are troubling or questionable.
- introduce new topics or issues for discussion while also being responsive to the comments or questions that others have introduced, so that we can generate sustained discussion.
You will each take one turn leading the discussion on a particular day, to be determined on the first
day of class.

**Writing Seminars**
The writing intern for this course will conduct writing seminars and meet with you individually.
Participation in these seminars is mandatory and absences will affect your grade for the course.

**Papers**
The prompts for each paper will be distributed one week before each draft is due. These writing
assignments are not research papers, but rather opportunities to build an original argument based on
close readings of the text. I will evaluate your papers according to the quality of your own thought,
argument, and style. Be sure to follow the instructions of each prompt.

**Events**
*Sequence-Wide Event TBD.*

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Academic Honesty**
Your education requires you to come up with your own ideas and express them in your own words.
Plagiarism can occur not just intentionally but also through carelessness about the attribution of
others’ ideas and the citation of sources. Since the writing assignments do not entail secondary
reading, we will not be covering proper citation practices in class. If you do read secondary sources
to form your ideas, however, you must cite them. The following resources are helpful in explaining
what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, and in providing guidelines for citation practices:
http://writing-program.uchicago.edu/undergrads/wic5stuck
http://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/c.php?g=297265&p=1984219
If you submit plagiarized material, you will receive a 0 in this course.

**Attendance and Lateness**
You are permitted two absences in this class, no emails or explanations required. More than two
absences will reduce your participation grade by one letter. Three such absences will lower your
participation grade by another letter and may affect your standing in the course. Repeated lateness
will also affect your participation grade; if you are more than twenty minutes late to class you will be
counted as absent for that session.

**Electronic Devices**
This classroom is a no-device space. Phones must be turned off and kept out of sight at all times.
You are expected to print out and bring to class hardcopies of the readings posted on Canvas. Please
do not read from tablets and laptops.

**Accessibility**
I am committed to making this class fully accessible. If you have a disability that requires
accommodation so that you can participate in class and complete assignments, please be in touch
with me as soon as possible. You will need to provide me with a copy of your Accommodation
Determination Letter, which you can obtain from the Student Disability Services office.

**Late Papers and Extensions**
Late papers will be penalized by a third of a grade each day. I will not accept papers that are more
than three days late. You are allowed *one* 48-hour extension during the quarter, no questions asked.
The extension must be requested at least 48 hours in advance of the paper’s due date.
COURSE SCHEDULE
Subject to Change. Please arrive to each class prepared to discuss the reading that is listed for the day.

Week 1
Introduction
Agamemnon

Week 2
Libation Bearers
The Furies

Week 3
Herodotus, Histories 1.1-130, 3.61-97; Paper #1 draft due to writing intern
Herodotus, Histories 5.28-6.86

Week 4
Herodotus, Histories 6.87-7.137; Paper #1 due
Herodotus, Histories 7.138-8.96

Week 5
Livy, preface and book 1
Livy, book 2

Week 6
Livy, book 3
Livy, book 4

Week 7
Livy, book 5; Paper #2 due
Seneca, Thyestes

Week 8
Tacitus, Book 1.1-15, 12.58-14.51
Tacitus, 14.52-16.35

Week 9
Shakespeare, Coriolanus
Shakespeare, Coriolanus

Week 10
Wrap Up

Paper #3 due Monday by noon.