

## 790:316: Politics, Literature, and the Arts: Passion and Death

Fall 2020

Online Hybrid Course

Professor Danielle Hanley, Department of Political Science

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Office Hours (via Zoom) Tuesdays 12:00 –2:00pm and by appointment

**Course Description:** “The Politics of Passion and Death” is a course for political science majors, particularly those interested in the study of political theory and its intersection with literary texts. It introduces students to ways to apply skills gained in political theory courses to the reading of literary texts, particularly close reading and interpretation. In particular, this course looks to epic poetry and tragedy coming out of ancient Greece, exploring the way in which these texts grapple with death, grief, and mourning. The central texts of this course center around death and grief, and also grapple with power, making these texts undeniably political. We will interrogate the way death and grief perform important roles in political life, and the way that these are represented within our course texts. In addition, this course considers the relationship between the forms of writing (epic and tragedy) and the study of politics. This course is framed around the questions: How do death and emotions inform our political choices? How does the type of text affect the way we read and interpret it? How can we use literary texts to help answer political questions? This course uses the study of texts to help understand how tragedians and poets approached these questions over time, and to shed light on these questions for our own purposes. This course also engages with commentary on these texts, including takes from political theorists from both the ancient world and today. The aim of this course is to explore the manner in which political themes emerge in selected works from ancient Greece, and the way these are related to death and the attendant emotions.

**Assigned texts:** The book for this course is listed below, with publisher in parentheses. This text is available at Rutgers/Barnes and Noble, but I encourage you to find the best deals wherever you can. The underlined texts must be purchased, but this book is a good investment for students of political theory. Please purchase the specific edition indicated on the syllabus—the best way to do so is to search for the listed ISBN. Additional readings will be uploaded or linked on Sakai, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) on the syllabus.

*The Greek Plays* (Penguin Random House) ISBN: 978-0812983098

### Grading:

Three short papers: 45% (15% each)

Weekly discussion forum posts and responses: 30%

Class citizenship (attendance and participation in Deme activities): 25%

### Course Meetings and Mechanics

This is a hybrid course. This means that it has both synchronous and asynchronous elements. Please read through the following bullet points carefully:

- Our class will use **SAKAI** as our Learning Management System. [INSERT LINK HERE]
- Class meetings will occur via **Zoom** at the following recurring link: [INSERT LINK HERE].

- Professor Hanley will use the **'Announcements'** feature of SAKAI to send relevant information, reading, and updates for the course. Please make sure your SAKAI is set to send to your Rutgers email, and please check your Rutgers email daily for potential communication.
- Class will meet Tuesdays from 11 am – 12 pm Eastern for group discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Please reach out to Professor Hanley directly if you have a scheduling conflict.
- Prior to class, you should read the assigned text(s) and watch the assigned video(s), if any. You should come prepared to discuss the relevant text(s) and video(s) with your classmates.
- Students will be placed in small groups, called Deme, for the semester. Your Deme will be your Zoom break-out group, and you will be asked to complete certain activities and discussions with your Deme throughout the semester.
- Students are responsible for weekly Discussion Forum posts. Posts are due Thursdays by 11:59 PM (so, a few days after our weekly class). Posts should be between 250-300 words. [there are 10 total discussion forums]
- Students are also responsible for 2 weekly forum responses. Responses are due Saturdays by 11:59 PM (so, a few days after your initial discussion post). Responses should be between 50-100 words. [10x2 is 20 total responses]
- Weeks that have PEER REVIEW **do not** have discussion posts or responses. Instead, revised paper drafts are due that following Thursday, when the discussion post is typically due.

### **Summary of Assignments and Coursework**

- EVERY TUESDAY: read and watch videos of play before class, add to group note document
- EVERY THURSDAY: complete discussion post
- EVERY SATURDAY: complete forum response

### **Deme Project: Group Note-Taking**

- As a Deme, you will develop a group set of notes on the readings and plays that we will watch. This will count as 50% of your total participation grade. You should take notes on a Google doc, or another shared note-taking software. You can use these notes to help you in class discussions and as aids for your papers that you will write for the course.
- Your Deme should decide what the note-taking schedule/plan is for the semester, and turn it into Professor Hanley by **September 15** after class.

### **Course policies and information:**

- Class citizenship is made up of attendance and participation, which is mandatory. More than two absences will begin to affect your class citizenship grade. Please be in touch with the professor if circumstances arise that will result in more than two absences.
- Submission of all assignments is required to pass the course.
- Please note the University's policy on disability accommodations. I will gladly make accommodations for any student who needs them, though students must work with the Office of Disability Services (dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu). Their website is at

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>

- Please note the University's policy on academic integrity and plagiarism:  
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

I especially recommend the resources under "For Students" in the upper right corner of the page. I encourage you to discuss the course readings and the issues that they raise with your classmates. But all work turned in with your name on it must be entirely your own. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with, and abiding by, the University's academic integrity policy. (See also <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-tutorial/>.) Violations of academic integrity will be handled personally by the professor and prosecuted through the Office of Student Conduct.

- Please note the University's religious observance policy:  
<https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>

You should consider yourself excused when class falls on a religious holiday that you observe. You should inform the professor in advance, and you must make up any class notes or assignments that you miss.

- Announcements and course information will be posted to the course Sakai site and at times sent via email, through Sakai, to the class email list. The system automatically sends email to your official Rutgers address. If you don't know this email address, please find out and be sure to check it regularly.

### **Schedule of readings and lectures:**

#### **Introduction: Greek Tragedy and Political Theory**

September 1: First Meeting, go over syllabus and course expectations

September 3:

Submit: Discussion Post 1 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

September 5:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 1

September 8: NO CLASS, University on Monday Schedule

NO DISCUSSION POST OR RESPONSES THIS WEEK

#### **Tragedy and Membership**

September 15:

Read: Sophocles *Oedipus Tyrannus* in *The Greek Plays*

Watch: *Oedipus Tyrannus* Online Production from Center for Hellenic Studies

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCvHfVK50ck&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=11\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCvHfVK50ck&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=11)

Submit: Deme Note-taking Plan to Professor Hanley

September 17:

Submit: Discussion Post 2 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

September 19:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 2

September 22:

Read: Sophocles, *Antigone* in *The Greek Plays*

Watch: *Antigone* from Center for Hellenic Studies

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSnfzgN7QfA&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=19>]

September 24:

Submit: Discussion Post 3 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

September 26:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 3

September 29:

Read: Euripides' *The Bacchae* in *The Greek Plays* (Including "Introduction to Euripides' *Bacchae*")

Watch: *Bacchae* from Center For Hellenic Studies

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA1FDcF2hQ&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=4>]

October 1:

Submit: Discussion Post 4 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 3:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 4

October 6: PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP 1

Bring draft of Paper 1 to class—make sure your draft is shareable (word, PDF, google docs, etc.)

October 8:

Submit: Final Draft of Paper 1 due to SAKAI 'Assignment'

### **Motherhood and Grief**

October 13:

Read: Euripides' *Trojan Women* in *The Greek Plays* (Including "Introduction to Euripides' *Trojan Women*")

Watch: *Trojan Women* from Center for Hellenic Studies  
[[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uOf\\_Rubvic&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uOf_Rubvic&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=9)]

October 15:  
Submit: Discussion Post 5 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 17:  
Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 5

October 20:  
Read: Euripides' *Helen*

Watch: *Helen* from Center for Hellenic Studies  
[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxxMaLqYPu4&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=1>]

October 22:  
Submit: Discussion Post 6 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 24:  
Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 6

October 27:  
Read: \*Euripides' *Hecuba*

Watch: *Hecuba* from Center for Hellenic Studies  
[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMNfNt0oSKw&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=13>]

October 29:  
Submit: Discussion Post 7 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 31:  
Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 7

November 3: PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP 2  
Bring draft of Paper 2 to class—make sure your draft is shareable (word, PDF, google docs, etc.)

[ELECTION DAY—OPTION FOR ASYNCHRONOUS PEER REVIEW]

November 5:  
Submit: Final Draft of Paper 2 due to SAKAI 'Assignment'

November 10:  
Read: Euripides' *Medea* in *The Greek Plays* (Including "Introduction to Euripides' *Medea*")  
\*The Medea Project (excerpts)

November 12:

Submit: Discussion Post 8 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

November 14:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 8

### **Passion, Death and Justice**

November 17:

Read: Aeschylus' *The Oresteia: Agamemnon* in *The Greek Plays*

Aeschylus' *The Oresteia: Libation Bearers* in *The Greek Plays*

November 19:

Submit: Discussion Post 9 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

November 21:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 9

November 24:

Read: Aeschylus' *The Oresteia: Eumenides* in *The Greek Plays*

Watch: \**The Oresteia*

NO DISCUSSION POST THIS WEEK-THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 1:

Read: \*Simon Critchley, *Tragedy, the Greeks, and Us* (excerpts)

DEMES-CHECK IN WITH PROFESSOR HANLEY ABOUT GROUP NOTES

December 3:

Submit: Discussion Post 10 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

December 5:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 10

December 8: PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP 3

Bring draft of Paper 3 to class—make sure your draft is shareable (word, PDF, google docs, etc.)

December 10:

Final Draft of Paper 3 due to SAKAI 'Assignment'

December 18:

**Group Notes due to Professor Hanley via email or link by 11:59 PM**