

SYLLABUS

CLAS 487: Advanced Ancient Greek – Euripides' *Medea*

Fall Semester 2011

MWF 2:20 – 3:20 PM, Old Main 009

Instructor: Dr. Brian V. Lush

Office: 316 Old Main

E-mail: blush@macalester.edu

Office Phone: 651.696.6820

Office Hours: MW – 12:00 – 1:00 PM

T – 2:00 – 3:00 PM

or, by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT:

Mastronarde, D.J. (ed. and comm.). 2002. *Euripides. Medea*. Cambridge.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Euripides' *Medea* has remained since its initial performance in 431 BCE a captivating source of entertainment, critical inquiry and literary speculation. It has variously caused in scholars and spectators responses of incredulity, revulsion, radical action, inspiration and bafflement. It is my hope that we may in some way sympathize with each of these perspectives and more as we engage in a thorough study of one of Euripides' most well known and disturbing tragedies. The pace of our efforts will be rigorous (around 50-60 lines of Greek per class meeting) but rewarding, and will help to solidify our growing mastery of ancient Greek grammar, vocabulary and style.

In CLAS 487, students will . . .

- 1) improve their knowledge and command of Attic Greek by reading, translating and discussing the Greek text of Euripides' *Medea* in its entirety.
- 2) gain a familiarity with key examples of scholarship treating Euripides' *Medea*.
- 3) produce a substantive piece of scholarly writing that critically examines Euripides' *Medea*.
- 4) become acquainted with the conventions and essential characteristics of Greek tragedy.

EVALUATION AND COMPOSITION OF GRADE:

Preparation and Participation:	35%
Quizzes (5% each):	35%
Research Essay (12-15 pages):	30%
Thesis Statement Submission = 4%	
Abstract and Working Bibliography = 6%	
Final Draft = 20%	

DISABILITIES AND RESOURCES:

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Contact the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, at 696-6220 to make an appointment. Students are encouraged to address any accommodations with me as soon as you become aware of your needs. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/.

Course Schedule:

n.b. – Schedule of assignments is subject to change at instructor’s discretion.

Week 1:

9/7 (W) – introduction to course, syllabus
lecture on performance context of Athenian tragedy, generic conventions, etc.

[Prologue (1-130):]

9/9 (F) – Nurse’s monologue – 1-48
Students will be expected to have read the whole of Euripides’ Medea in translation by the beginning of the second week of classes.

Week 2:

9/12 (M) – dialogue between Nurse and Tutor – 49-95

9/14 (W) – *kommos* (Medea and Nurse) – 96-130

[Parodos (131-213):]

9/16 (F) – chorus sympathizes with Medea – 131-167

Week 3:

9/19 (M) – chorus sympathizes with Medea – 168-213

9/21 (W) – **Quiz #1** (lines 1-213) – article discussion #1
Page, D.L. (ed. and comm.). 1938. *Euripides. Medea*. Oxford: vii-xxxvi.

[First Episode (214-409):]

9/23 (F) – Medea’s *rhexis* to Corinthian women – 214-270

Week 4:

9/26 (M) – first meeting with Creon – 271-315

9/28 (W) – first meeting with Creon – 316-363

9/30 (F) – Medea’s second *rhexis* (decision for retribution) – 364-409

Week 5:

- 10/3 (M) – **Quiz #2** (lines 214-409) – article discussion #2
Knox, B.M.W. 1977. “The *Medea* of Euripides.” *Yale Classical Studies* 25: 193-225.

[*First Stasimon* (410-445):]

- 10/5 (W) – feminine poetics, promises broken – 410-445

[*Second Episode* (446-626):]

- 10/7 (F) – *agōn logōn* between Jason and Medea – 446-487

Thesis Statement Submissions Due

Week 6:

- 10/10 (M) – *agōn logōn* between Jason and Medea – 488-521

- 10/12 (W) – *agōn logōn* between Jason and Medea – 522-575

- 10/14 (F) – *agōn logōn* between Jason and Medea – 576-626

Week 7:

- 10/17 (M) – **Quiz #3** (lines 410-626) – article discussion #3
Rehm, R. 1989. “Medea and the *Logos* of the Heroic.” *Eranos* 87: 97-115.

[*Second Stasimon* (627-662):]

- 10/19 (W) – ode to Eros, promises broken – 627-662

[*Third Episode* (663-823):]

- 10/21 (F) – Aegeus scene – 663-707

Week 8:

- 10/24 (M) – Aegeus scene – 708-740

- 10/26 (W) – Aegeus scene – 741-763 – article discussion #4
Kovacs, D. 1993. “Zeus in Euripides’ *Medea*.” *American Journal of Philology* 114: 45-70.

- 10/28 (F) – Fall Break!

Week 9:

- 10/31 (M) – Medea’s third *rhexis* (decision for filicide) – 764-810

- 11/2 (W) – **Quiz #4** (lines 627-810) – article discussion #5
Rabinowitz, N.S. 1993. “Vindictive Wife, Murderous Mother: Medea.” In *Anxiety Veiled: Euripides and the Traffic in Women*. Ithaca, NY: 125-54.

11/4 (F) – dialogue with chorus – 811-823

[*Third Stasimon (824-865):*]

third stasimon (in praise of Athens, *sophia* and a prudent Eros) – 824-865

Week 10:

[*Fourth Episode (866-975):*]

11/7 (M) – second dialogue with Jason – 866-907

Abstract and Working Bibliography Due

11/9 (W) – second dialogue with Jason – 908-940 – article discussion #6

Boedeker, D. 1991. Euripides' *Medea* and the Vanity of ΛΟΓΟΙ." *Classical Philology* 86: 95-112.

11/11 (F) – second dialogue with Jason – 941-975

Week 11:

11/14 (M) – **Quiz #5** (lines 811-975) – article discussion #7

Mueller, M. 2001. "The Language of Reciprocity in Euripides' *Medea*." *American Journal of Philology* 122: 471-504.

[*Fourth Stasimon (976-1001) and Fifth Episode (1002-1080):*]

11/16 (W) – hope abandoned, chorus rethinks retribution – 976-1001

Tutor goes into the house – 1002-1020

11/18 (F) – Medea's great monologue – 1021-1080

Week 12:

11/21 (M) – choral interlude – 1081-1115

[*Sixth Episode (1116-1250):*]

arrival of messenger – 1116-1135

11/23 (W) – **Quiz #6** (lines 976-1135) – article discussion #8

Foley, H. 1989. "Medea's Divided Self." *Classical Antiquity* 8: 61-85.

Dillon, J.M. 1997. "Medea among the Philosophers." In Clauss, J. and S.I.

Johnston (eds.). *Medea. Essays on Medea in Myth, Literature, Philosophy, and Art*. Princeton: 211-18.

11/25 (F) – Thanksgiving Break!

Week 13:

11/28 (M) – messenger's *rhexis* – 1136-1185

11/30 (W) – messenger's *rhexis* – 1186-1235

12/2 (F) – Medea steels herself – 1236-1250 – article discussion #9
McClure, L.K. 1999. “The Worst Husband: Discourses of Praise and Blame in Euripides’ *Medea*.” *Classical Philology* 94: 373-94.

Week 14:

[*Fifth Stasimon (1251-1292):*]

12/5 (M) – revulsion at filicide, a mythic exemplum – 1251-1292

[*Exodos (1293-1419):*]

12/7 (W) – Jason arrives on the scene, *Medea ex machina* – 1293-1332

12/9 (F) – *Medea ex machina* – 1333-1377

Week 15:

12/12 (M) – *Medea ex machina*, epilogue – 1378-1419

12/15 (R) – **Quiz #7** (lines 1136-1419) in lieu of final exam – 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Old Main 009

Final Draft of Research Essay Due