SURVEY OF GREEK LITERATURE

Instructor: Chien-heng Wu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will be given a proper introduction to Greek literature. During the first few weeks, students will be familiarized with the mythological background of Greek literature. Then we will proceed with selective readings of the Homeric epics that foreground such fundamental Greek values as *xenia*, *polis* and *oikos*. The rest of the course will be devoted to reading and discussing works from three major Greek playwrights, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. These literary texts will not be discussed in and of themselves; they will be studied in relation to several important philosophical articulations concerning the nature of tragedy (e.g., Aristotle's *Poetics*). Students are encouraged to analyze these texts and express whether the emotional effects they experience from reading tragedies conform to or deviate from the standard set by Aristotle and others. In general, the course adopts a balanced approach in its engagement with Greek literature, with equal emphasis on textual analyses, historical contexts, and theoretical perspectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce terms and topics in literary studies.
2. Establish the relationship between literary texts and their cultural and historical contexts.
3. Help students acquire the ability for literary analysis.
4. Cultivate student's capacity for critical thinking through discussion and writing.

GRADING

- Participation: 25%
- Presentation: 20%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 30%

* Please apply for a free Office365 account at http://learning.cc.nthu.edu.tw/p/412-1319-

12292.php?Lang=zh-tw. After registration, download Teams application. I will set up a forum for online discussion and communication.

SCHEDULE

Week	Schedule
01	General Introduction
02	Introduction to Greek Literature
03	The Mythological Background
04	Homer's *Iliad* Lecture 1
05	Homer's *Iliad* Lecture 2
06	Homer's *Odyssey* Lecture 1
07	Homer's *Odyssey* Lecture 2
08	Review Session
09	Mid-Term
10	Introduction to Greek Tragedy
11	Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*
12	Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*
13	Sophocles, *Antigone*
14	Euripides, *Medea*
15	Review Session
16	Final