



Political Science 488/597
Politics, Philosophy, and Culture

Dr. Jeffrey Herndon
160 Ferguson Social Sciences
Office Hours: 8:00-9:30 TTH
1:00-2:00 M
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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

Aeschylus. 2013. *Aeschylus II: The Oresteia (The Complete Greek Tragedies)*, 3rd edition. , Edited and Translated by Mark Griffith, David Grene, and Richmond Lattimore. Chicago. University of Chicago Press.
ISBN: 978-0226311470

Aristotle. 1984. *The Rhetoric and Poetics of Aristotle*. New York. Modern Library.
ISBN: 978-0075546023

Doerries, Bryan. 2016. *The Theater of War: What Ancient Greek Tragedies Can Teach Us Today*. New York. Vintage.
ISBN: 978-0307949721

Doerries, Bryan. 2016. *The Odyssey of Sergeant Jack Brennan*. New York. Pantheon Books.
ISBN: 978-0375715167

Euripides. 2013. *Euripides I: Alcestis, Medea, The Children of Heracles, Hippiytus (The Complete Greek Tragedies)*, 3rd Edition, Edited and Translated by Mark Griffith, David Grene, and Richmond Lattimore. Chicago. University of Chicago Press.
978-0226308807

Homer. 1991. *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles. New York. Penguin Classics.
ISBN: 978-0140445923

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Sophocles. 2013. *Sophocles I: Antigone, Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus* (The Complete Greek Tragedies) 3rd Edition, Edited and Translated by Mark Griffith, David Grene, and Richmond Lattimore. Chicago. University of Chicago Press.
ISBN: 978-0226311517

PSCI 597 Students must also get the following:

Nussbaum, Martha C. 2001. *The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy*, 2nd ed. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.
978-0521794725

In addition, your instructor will distribute secondary readings from time to time.

Course Description

The course studies contemporary writing, mostly non-fiction, that is characterized by originality of topic, breadth of subject matter, clarity of expression and audacity. In reading logs, students make observations, take notes, and explore questions. In finished writings, they work out connections among ideas from various fields, moving from analysis to synthesis and fresh insights.

In this case the writings examined will explore the idea of tragedy and myth and the lasting influence these civilizational categories have on art, philosophy, politics, and culture.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable)

1. Students will be able to effectively communicate key ideas, concepts and arguments in political philosophy orally.
2. Students will effectively communicate key ideas, concepts, and arguments in political philosophy orally.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze scholarly research within political science.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods

This course is a senior *seminar*. What this means is that in addition to periodic lectures from your instructor, you will teach and learn from each other through interaction and discussion over materials examined in the course.

GRADING

Final grades for undergraduates in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 91-100 pts	C = 70-80 pts	F = 0-58 pts
B = 81-90 pts	D = 59-69 pts	

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Assessments

If you are an undergraduate in this class you are responsible for writing 3 brief discussion papers (6-8 pages), two film analyses, and the presentation of a work that would classify as myth or tragedy in the context of the terms as we will explore them in our work this semester. The written assignments and class discussions will give you the opportunity to communicate both orally and in writing key concepts, ideas, and content. The presentation of the work that you define as tragedy/myth is an exercise in analytical and critical thinking and provides the opportunity for you to synthesize and expand upon the content of the course. Specific instructions will be distributed at the appropriate time.

Discussion Papers (3)	30 points	Participation:	20 points
Film Analysis (2)	20 points	Final Presentation:	30 points

Graduate students will do all of the above in addition to creating a literature review on some aspect of the readings in the course and presenting this review to the class. This project will be worth 100 points. So the grading scale for graduate students will be:

A = 181-200	C = 130-160	F = 0-109
B = 161-180	D = 110-129	

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance is necessary—if for no other reason than experience dictates that poor performance tends to correlate with poor attendance. In addition, this course is a “seminar.” As such, you will learn from and teach each other. This cannot happen if you are not in class. Since our class only meets once a week it is imperative

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

As a matter of class policy, plagiarism is intolerable. If you attempt to pass others work as your own, at the very least you will fail the assignment and be reported to the Dean of Students Office for further disciplinary action.

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

- January 29: Homer, *The Iliad*, Books 1-6
- February 5: Homer, *The Iliad*, Books 7-9; 16; 18-19; 22-24
- February 12: Film; Reading to be assigned
- February 19: Doerries, *The Odyssey of Sergeant Jack Brennan*; Aristotle, *The Poetics*
- February 26: Euripides, *Medea* (Also begin reading Doerries, *The Theater of War*)
- March 4: Film

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March 12: Spring Break
March 19: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*
March 26: Sophocles, *Oedipus at Colonus*
April 2: Sophocles, *Antigone*
April 9: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*
April 16: Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers*
April 23: Aeschylus, *The Eumenides*
April 30: Film
May 7: Modern Tragedy Presentations

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