

# IDH2930 (sect. 14EC): Oedipus

Spring 2017 – Dr. Biagio Santorelli

- **Time and Location**

M period 9, [Hume Hall](#) 119

- **Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Biagio Santorelli ([b.santorelli@ufl.edu](mailto:b.santorelli@ufl.edu))

Office hours: MWF period 6 (12:50-1:40pm) and by appointment  
134 Dauer Hall

- **Course objectives and goals**

Nobody can escape his destiny, and very few get to unravel the threads of Fate. When king Laius of Thebes learned from an oracle that he was doomed to perish by the hand of his own son, he tried to bend the rules of Fate by ordering a servant to kill his newborn son. He could not know that a shepherd would rescue the baby, name him Oedipus, and take him to Corinth to be raised by the king of the city as his own child. Neither the grown-up Oedipus could know that, when he murdered a passerby on his way to Thebes, he had killed his very father Laius. When the Thebans offer him the throne of their city and the hand of their queen Jocasta, the tragedy of Oedipus' self-discovery begins.

In this course I plan to read the three Greek tragedies by Sophocles devoted to the cycle of Oedipus. We will start with *Oedipus the King* (c. 429 BCE): in this drama, Oedipus has married Jocasta, who bore two sons and two daughters to him. Nobody knows that Jocasta is actually Oedipus' mother. When a plague ravages the city, the seers predict that it will end only when Laius' murderer will be punished. Oedipus curses the unknown murderer and starts searching for him, unaware that the killer he is looking for is none other than himself. When truth comes to light, Jocasta hangs herself and Oedipus gouges out his own eyes and goes into exile. In the second tragedy, *Oedipus at Colonus* (c. 401 BCE), we will witness the conflict between Oedipus' two sons, Eteocles and Polynices, for the throne of Thebes. In the third tragedy, *Antigone* (c. 441 BCE), Eteocles and Polynices had killed each other as a consequence of Oedipus' curse, and their sister Antigone will challenge the laws of the state to ensure both her brothers the burial prescribed by the laws of family.

- **Textbook**

R. Fagles (ed.), *Sophocles: the three Theban plays*, London (Penguin Classics) 1984 – ISBN: 9780140444254.

## ■ Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1	Jan. 2	No classes
Week 2	Jan. 9	Introduction to Greek tragedy and Sophocles
Week 3	Jan. 16	No classes
Week 4	Jan. 23	<i>Oedipus the King</i> , Episode I
Week 5	Jan. 30	<i>Oedipus the King</i> , Episode II
Week 6	Feb. 6	<i>Oedipus the King</i> , Episode III
Week 7	Feb. 13	<i>Oedipus the King</i> , Episode IV
Week 8	Feb. 20	<i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> , Episode I
Week 9	Feb. 27	<i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> , Episode II
Week 10	Mar. 6	No classes
Week 11	Mar. 13	<i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> , Episode III
Week 12	Mar. 20	<i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> , Episode IV
Week 13	Mar. 27	<i>Antigone</i> , Episode I
Week 14	Apr. 3	<i>Antigone</i> , Episode II
Week 15	Apr. 10	<i>Antigone</i> , Episode III
Week 16	Apr. 17	<i>Antigone</i> , Episode IV

## ■ Course requirements and grades

Students in IHD3931 are expected to read the assigned texts prior to class and to be prepared to participate in the discussion. Your grades will be based on your participation in class and in a presentation you will be asked to give during the course. The calendar of presentations will be set during the first week of class.

## ■ ADA requirements

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## ■ Grading scale

A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	below 60

- **Course evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

- **Honesty policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

- Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:  
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575;  
and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.