

The Conflict:

Agememnon refuses to return a captured woman (a daughter) to the priest of Apollo.

Agememnon was rude to the priest & therefore to Apollo.

Achilles calls a meeting
→ ~~Power~~ Power Struggle

Seer calls out Agememnon on his wrong doings

Time → honor
what brings honor?

- war prize (spoils of war)
- gold / medals / jewel
- weapons / armour
- people / slaves

Agememnon - Great King
- political & economical power

- in charge of giving out war prizes

Identity in Ancient Greece

↳ directly linked to publically acknowledged honor and image.

- glory
- honor

Both parties are wrong - both publically undermine each other

Achilles - wants individual glory

~~was~~ individual ⇒ society

→ also selfish "you think you can fight w/o me?"

Troy is unified - Greece is not

Achilles shows his character w/ the 2 messengers
"my fight is not with you"

→ does his anger make him stupid?

1/29
* Which character is most like Achilles and why?

Homer
~ 700 BCE

- oral storyteller
- little known about his life
- not blind

Was the Trojan War real?

The Homeric Questions

- who is Homer?
- Did he write the Iliad/Odyssey
- Written or Oral?
- One person / many people?
- Do they have the same author?

Oral Tradition

Storytelling - about passing tradition

Homer to later Greeks

- most important
- epic poetry
- religion (honouring gods)

- vital to Greek cultural heritage
- education
 - rhetoric
 - morality
 - heroism
 - courage
 - masculinity
- entertainment

Achilles is most like Agamemnon because:

1. Proudful
2. Spoilful
3. Powerful

1. Both characters are reluctant to give up their war prize to the "higher power"
2. Both characters insult others as a result of their actions. Agamemnon insults the priest who claims he has done wrong & Achilles insults the king for his actions.

3. Power - both characters
obtain power in their
respected regions

→ power was
obtained by both
through war

2/10

- oral formulaic composition
- uses formulae
- draws an established oral tradition
- takes pieces → formulae
→ puts together
- rapidly compose
- verse
- dactylic hexameter

foot of a line

dactyl

long

short short

accented

unaccented

unacc

6 feet per line, each is either
a dactyl or spondee

Homer → dactyl
or spondee

u u
- -

epic → dactylic hexameter

Example -

THIS IS THE FOREST PRIMEVAL
THE MURMURING PINES AND
THE HEMLOCKS. BEARDED WITH
MOSS AND IN GARDENS GREEN
INDISTINCT IN THE ~~PROPER~~
TWILIGHT.

* Homer had a set formula

Epithets - descriptions which
go with names
- adjectives

scenes → set scenes
conventions

repetition
lists

2/4/02

Q

Quiz -

write 2 paragraphs making any argument about today's readings. Use enough detail & support to prove that you read.

Email Professor regarding make-up.

Patroclus ~~was~~ losing his armor is or could be a metaphor for him losing his identity

The mortality of man vs. the immortality of Gods
~~was the main theme of the play~~

The brutality of man

was Hector's actions significant of true courage? He runs away at first - he only fights b/c he figures he is going to die anyway.

He knows hes going to die - he asks for a proper burial. Is that courageous?

Athena has to trick Hecuba
in to fighting Achilles

Does Achilles suffer from
PTS? Is that why he
kills Hector? Is it anger
is it both?

are his actions unreasonable
He disrespects Hector's
body ~~copies~~. Would Hector
have done the same
to 'Petroclus' bodies.

Achilles will "take it
when Zeus hands it
to [him]"

→ He is beginning to ISOI
himself before Hector
kills Petroclus?

Achilles dragged around the
body b/c of his pride -
wanted Troy to know that
he is the greatest and that
who believe they could
kill him are arrogant
& naive

Achilles' own arrogance & pride

Are the gods overly involved in the lives of humans?

The gods criticize each other for trying to save humans but they have no opposition to ~~Apollon~~ Apollo slaughtering thousands.

There is a delicate balance between the gods & humans

The Brutality, & disgust in the way that Achilles treats Hector's body.

His moral limits are shattered after seeing Patroclus dead.
→ he ignores the gods' rules of burial

Robbed Hector of his honor.

War is Achilles' entire life. It's all he knows. He was always irrational - this is not new behavior. Therefore -
NOT P.T.S.
(post traumatic stress)

When you think about how long they have been away from home then it makes sense (seemingly) that these warriors could ~~lose~~ lose their identity.

Does Achilles' relationship w Patroclus humanize Achilles?

→ he rejects the rest of society

Achilles' willingness to step back & watch people die does not apply to the death of Patroclus

Warriors, soldiers in arms together, "brothers". Can we understand this sort of bond?

Whether or not they were sexually involved is irrelevant.

3/15

Q: Did Achilles Change
in the course of the epic?

A: Certainly in the beginning of the epic, Achilles seems more level headed. He does not blame Agamemnon's messenger for coming to take away his war prize - he knows the fight is not with him. Toward the end of the epic, he seems more full of vengeance. This could be, however, because his pride was not insulted, but his heart was torn by the death of his best friend. Whether or not this change is reasonable or justifiable - it is certainly apparent.

A2: he becomes more passionate

Is it Achilles that changes or do
the Gods change him? ~~do~~

He shows his compassion
by fighting for Hector's
burial period -

maybe he's not such
an animal.

Also - he was ordered by
Gads to return Hector
Prisoner -

Maybe he changed in
to reflect the circumstances
which surround him

In Greek Literature, prophecies
are never fulfilled the way
we expect them to.

Achilles - 2 possible fates

1. Live Long - be obscure

→ 2. Die Young & Achieve Glory
Battle.
(his name will live forever)

Body is sacred - how the body is treated is very important.

When the people see Hector being dragged around, they know they will die too

ms

Write 1 sentence on why you agree or disagree

1. Achilles rage shows that the qualities that made one a great warrior in Greek society also made one less fit to deal with conflicts that arise in society.

Disagree. Achilles qualities which make him a great warrior are useful in the warrior society in which he lives. Though they would not be useful in civilian society, he doesn't live there.

2. Agamemnon's theft of Achilles' prize caused Achilles to distrust not only Agamemnon himself but the entire social order of the Greek warriors. This distrust of authority & in power is the primary cause of Achilles' sense of alienation & therefore of the tragic events in the Iliad.

Disagree. Achilles' behavior is not the cause of all the tragic events in the Iliad. The events are triggered by other important characters such as the Gods, Hector, or Patroclus.

3. By portraying the Greeks constantly arguing & jockeying for power, the Iliad suggests that the Greek love of freedom - in other words, the decentralized organization of power - is admirable but comes, at times, with too great a cost.

Disagree - It shows the consequences & conflict which can arise, but does not suggest it is too great a cost. If ^{se to} ^{by that} it were to portray a hierarchy there would not be worse destruction.

4. The portrayal of the gods, especially their parallel conflicts to the human war, indicates that the Iliad portrays strife as the natural condition of all thinking beings.

Literary Arguments:

- A. strong argument (non-banal)
- B. subject to evidence (through literary analysis)
- C. about the text

The connection between the evidence & the claim is the "warrant"
Are you warranted?

→ Agree - strife must be natural if even the gods cannot escape it.

What is heroic about the
deaths in the Head
& Antigone?

Take Home Quiz 2/17
Due Fri 2/26 at 5pm

Write a short essay
1 1/2 - 2 pages

Choose a short passage
 ≤ 1 page

& discuss specific literary
choices to overall themes
* thesis - support argument about
passage. Submit to ELMS

By March 3 \rightarrow 5pm
respond to 4 of your
peers take home quiz
1 paragraph \rightarrow did the
make a good argument

look at word choice, imagery,
& how it effects the theme.

Include argument

Does Antigone want to die?

- She doesn't want to - but she's accepting of her fate.

She knows that by attempting to bury her brother she will be sentenced to death

Since her brothers were dead & her parents - her fate was death as well. She feels she has nothing left. She accepts her fate to die - She wants the glory of dying in this way (protecting the family)

Why the conflict between Creon & Antigone?

1. to protect her
2. doesn't want to share the glory with her sister
3. sibling rivalry deep rooted.

[Civil Disobedience]

Would the Greeks have had sympathy for Antigone?
- NOT as a woman

Creon tries to be a voice of reason to Oedipus but Oedipus ignores him. When Haemon tries to reason with Creon, he doesn't listen to his son.

→ He did not learn from others' mistakes.

2 VIEWS OF CREON

1. Compassionate - he wants to find a way to save her w/o damaging his image
2. Tyrant - only cares about his power of & over the ~~Creon~~ community

What was heroic about the
deaths of

Hector

- dies fighting
- dies bravely in the pursuit of glory
- faces the fate of himself & that of the city

The writing makes them
"godlike" - they are
"forces of nature"
they are above & beyond
normal human behavior

Is Antigone fooling herself?
Does she die a heroic
death?

- was it brave? She quit & took her own life.

Where in the play do you think Antigone most struggle with her decision?

→ Deciding to bury her brother. Most everything comes as a consequence of this act & so by deciding to do it, she accepts the consequences of it.

What modern situation might parallel Antigone's situation?

→ Gov't conspiracy
Not exactly parallel but similar - do something the gov't doesn't want you to do then you will be killed.

Stories of self sacrifice
familial love vs. law

civil disobedience
→ good for self & for the city
(Thoreau)

human rights → dictators

Ismene?

usually portrayed as guilty since she allows the wrong doing to go on.

Agamemnon

- House of Atreus
- family + nobility
- fate
- characters of excessive positive & negative traits
- tragic flaw

What makes Agamemnon

a typical Greek Tragedy -

1. prophecy
2. powerful (high & low)
3. hamartia - tragic flaw
4. revenge
5. religious sacrifice
6. reference to Gods (respect/disrespect

His flaws)

Agamemnon - willing to do anything for victory

Hubris ← - pride

ignorant ←
to his enemies

- ignorance/naivety
doesn't recognize threat
- stubbornness

Clytaemnestra - avenges the "old laws"

Aeschylus - Western Drama
added 2nd actor
- dialogue
- conflict

Clytemnestra
(tragic flaws)

- lust
- greed
- jealousy
- ambitious
- obsession
- lack of faith

Notes 2/24

Tragedy (one definition):

a protagonist's tragic fate starts a series of events that must lead to his/her destruction in order for there to be ~~be~~ restoration of order & resolution.

Orestes ~~ia~~ - the trilogy of Orestes

1. Agamemnon
2. The Libation Bearer
3. Furies

LOSS
old values
Furies old roles

end / order
values of the new
gods

→ The Blessed Ones

pollution - unclean
"you have been polluted"

- doing wrong
- offend the Gods
(kill your family) *
member

pollution extends to those
around you - the
~~polluted~~ polluted
are outlawed

Agamemnon offends the Gods
& Apollo punishes the entire
Greek Army.

how to repent?
→ public act of
atonement

response to murder -
understand relatives
relationships

Kinship & ties
were extremely
important.

If society punished the
criminal then the
gods will not intervene
if you don't pursue
vengeance you have
brought dishonor to
yourself.

→ gradual change/
shift to court system

familial vengeance shifts
to civil justice

vengeance is not justice
court system is well under
way by the time of
Aeschelus.

Definition of women is
very important. ~~scribble~~
→ misogyny
→ virginity

Old Greeks vs. New Greeks
(world/social order)

Chthonic G-ds
(of earth)
part beast & part human

Olympians
(of the sky)
"human" G-ds.

Women seem only to be significant in terms of their relationship to men.

Notes 2/26

1. What is the role of the G-ds in the plays of Aeschylus?

- Agamemnon
- Eumenides

2. Based on this, why do you suppose Greek culture developed drama as a genre.

The G-ds establish the court system for the Greeks. Athena acts as the defense for Orestes and Apollo stands up against the Furies in his honor. Without their interferences, Orestes would have faced much more difficulty. Greek culture developed

as a middle ground between
the old vengeance system & the
new justice system

drama as a genre
naturally, as a storytelling
method for the conflict
of both humans & of
gods

and maintain

The gods establish order
and mediate the conflict
between humans

There is always a cent.
conflict → sometimes
solution to the conflict
will cause another
conflict

↓
Causality (could drama
upon events)

trying not to offend
one god would most
likely offend another.

Public Sphere

Athens - public debate
democracy
freedom - loving
command of rhetoric



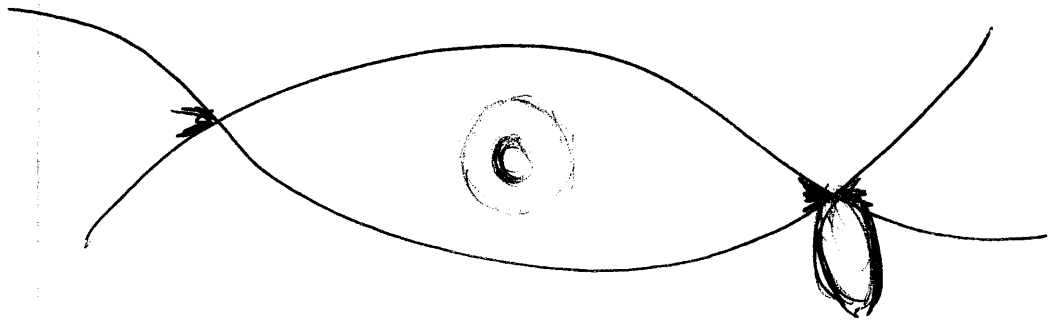
3/1/10

In ancient Greece -
Women have less reason
reason is what allows
people to control their
appetites (all)
→ not only sex
but all appetites

women are more animalistic
in nature
they're the ones who need
sex.

Why is she a comic hero?

1. Determination
 2. Self Control
- ↳ excessive traits



Aristophanes makes several
suggestions about Greekness

Themes

1. Reason vs Animality
2. Greekness
3. male vs. female
(gender roles)
women upset social order
4. social order
5. peace vs. war

tragedy vs. comedy

- | | |
|---|---|
| - human affairs | - human affairs |
| - serious | - sexuality |
| - death | - "funny" |
| - language: poetic & formal | - life / sex / love? → comes later w/ Renaissance |
| - kings & princes (royalty)
"great men" | - vulgarity, cleverness, witiness |
| - intervention of gods / religion
devotion | - different kind of poetry |
| - fate | - non-deterministic |
| - ancient / mythic past | - contemporary life |

6. simple absurdity of men
7. male capabilities - leadership
8. politicians
9. hypocrisy
10. death vs. sex

Scene w/ Fire & Water

This scene at the Acropolis where the men & women fight with fire & water embodies the comedic element of Greek literature because there is complete role reversal of men & women at the time. Women were believed to have the stronger sex drive. However the men are the ones with the "fire" which the women put out. Also, the women threaten the men with physical violence which would have been extremely absurd at the time since men were strong & warriors.

3/3/2010

Lysistrata is a manipulative woman & she uses her body to sway the men to adhere to her ideals. Reconciliation.

Reconciliation signifies society returning to order and therefore women return to being objectified.

Reconciliation ~~is~~ serves as one of the strategies to hasten the end of the war. She's a distraction that makes the men come to terms with Lysistrata's conditions.

In the final scene of Lysistrata is brought in & divided up throughout Greece. This division of the women's body symbolizes how Greek men see women as a conquest.

8

3/5

write about 1-2 pages
per question
(4 questions)

Poems by Sappho

Lyric Poem

- performed
- social event
- personal confession or expression
- religious hymn
- entertainment
- attack poems satirical
- love poems
- more metaphors
- more imagery
- much less narrative
- more focused on emotion
- a "short" poem
- written to be accompanied by music
 - ↳ "lyre" - singe
- meter
- individual story highlight the individual experience the everyday experience
- can concern modern or past subjects
- religious or secular
 - varied

The Experience of
the Individual



develops throughout
Western culture

- poems about love & everyday things
- mourning songs
- weddings / celebrations
- praise → to ruler / person
any kind of praise

Sappho - earlier than our
Athenian culture

"Lesbos" → name of island
where Sappho is from

Sappho wrote as a woman
talking other woman.

She was the Greek lyrical poet
influential in Greece & Rome.

Very little is known
about her life

p. 497

Sappho pleads to Aphrodite
to not "break your
heart"

Aphrodite is often portrayed as
meddling with matters of
love - here she is
benevolent

p. 498

She's looking at a couple
assessing their relationship
ambiguity - she wants the
man or woman?