

The Madness of the Greeks!

LIT 130A
Winter, 2017
MWF 2:40-3:45 PM
Stevenson 152

Instructor:
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Office Hours: MW 4:00-5:00 PM (or by appointment)

When people talk about what we've inherited from the Ancient Greeks, they usually talk in terms of reason and rationality. The Greeks themselves, however, were just as fixated on the experience of madness. Could reason master it? Could it replace or rival reason? Was madness the inevitable shadow of ordered civic life? And was any feeling of pleasure inextricably bound up with it?

In this course, we'll follow the literary traces of Greek madness in order to get a sense of what it was like and how it differed from our own notion of mental illness. We'll discuss a range of methodological approaches to understanding madness beyond modern medicalized psychiatry. Finally, you'll conduct a series of in-class presentations that extend these methodologies to other premodern cultures. We'll end with something approaching a universal map of premodern madness.

Each week, we'll be reading one or more primary texts as well as one or two shorter secondary texts; you should budget 4-5 hours a week for this, depending on the length of each week's primary text. Plan to attend all lectures and discussion sections (3 hours a week) as well as to spend about 3 hours a week working on your independent research projects. Your total time expenditure for this course, including attending class, should not exceed 12 hours per week; if you find yourself needing more time than this to complete the coursework, please bring it up with me.

Required Texts:

Plato. *Two Comic Dialogues*.
Sophocles. *Aias*.
Euripides. *Bacchae*.
Freud. *Civilization and its Discontents*.

All textbooks are available from the Literary Guillotine, except where otherwise noted. Other required readings will be published via canvas and in a reader available at the Literary Guillotine.

Grading and Policies

Since this is a seminar course, your attendance and your participation in classroom discussion are required. You may miss **two** class sessions without providing an excuse (although I'd like to know in advance if you're planning on missing class). For each absence beyond these, your attendance grade will drop by 10%. Participation and attendance will count for 1/5 (20%) of your total grade for the course.

A major aim of the class is to give you methodological ideas for an independent research project on madness in literature and society, which will count for the remaining 80% of your grade. This project breaks down into several parts, for each of which you'll receive more detailed guidelines later in the term:

1. By the end of the third week of class, you will have formed a group of 2-4 students and developed a proposal indicating what work of literature and/or cultural milieu you'd like to make the subject of your project. Completed and handed in in a timely fashion, this will count for 5% of your overall grade.
2. By the end of the sixth week of class, you will (again as a group) have completed an annotated bibliography, containing no fewer than four primary and six secondary sources, which will form the basis for your remaining work on the project. Completed and handed in in a timely fashion, this will count for 10% of your overall grade.
3. During weeks eight through ten, each group will choose a day to present the results of its research and (with my assistance) lead class discussion regarding these results. This will count for 30% of your overall grade. I'll be evaluating your in-class presentations on the following three criteria: a. depth and accuracy of research, b. complexity and fit of methodology, and c. preparation of stimulating discussion questions.
4. By the end of week nine, each of you will have submitted to me a term-paper proposal outlining:
a. the argument you plan to make in your term paper, b. the texts you plan to use to make this argument, and c. at least two possible objections that might be raised against the argument you plan to make. Completed and handed in in a timely fashion, this will count for 5% of your overall grade.
5. Each of you will then complete a term paper, 6-10 pages in length, on a topic related to your group's research project. These will be due by March 24, and will count for 30% of your overall grade.

Academic integrity:

All work submitted for this course must be your own. Any evidence of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with in accordance with university policy. For more information, please see the University policy on academic integrity for undergraduate students at http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity.

Accessibility accommodation:

UCSC's Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides resources and support for students with documented disabilities. Any student who thinks s/he is in need of accommodation, based on the impact of a disability, should contact me privately to submit their Accommodation Authorization and discuss specific needs, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 831-459-2089 in room 125 Hahn Student Services or by e-mail at drc@ucsc.edu to coordinate those accommodations.

Mental health resources:

UCSC Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides a wide range of short-term and long-term mental health services. Counseling services are confidential and free of charge to all UCSC students. For more information, contact CAPS at 831-459-2628 or visit <http://caps.ucsc.edu/>.

Course Schedule**Week 1:**

Monday, 1/9: Introductory discussion. Hysteria.

Wednesday, 1/11: Frank Bures, "A Mind Dismembered"

Friday, 1/13: DSM diagnoses for fugue. Ian Hacking, *Mad Travelers* pp. 51-79.

Week 2: Diagnoses?

Monday, 1/16: no class

Wednesday, 1/18: *On the Sacred Disease. Diseases of Young Women.*

Friday, 1/20: *Dissoi Logoi* 4-5. Hippocrates, *Letters* 14, 17.

Week 3: Case Histories

Monday, 1/23: *Epidemics* (selections). Chiara Thumiger, "Mental Insanity in the Hippocratic Texts."

Wednesday, 1/25: Herodotus, *Histories* 6.73-84. James Davidson, *Courtesans and Fishcakes* (selections)

Friday, 1/27: Herodotus, *Histories* 3.28-66.

Week 4:

Monday, 1/30: Plato, *Ion*

Wednesday, 2/1: Plato, *Ion*

Friday, 2/3: Greek Lyric Poetry (selections). Lysias, *Against Simon*.

Week 5:

Monday, 2/6: Sophocles, *Ajax*. Antisthenes, *Contest of Arms*.

Wednesday, 2/8: *Ajax*. Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* (selections)

Friday, 2/10: *Ajax*. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*.

Week 6:

Monday, 2/13: Euripides, *Bacchae*. *Civilization and its Discontents*.

Wednesday, 2/15: *Bacchae*. *Civilization and its Discontents*.

Friday, 2/17: *Bacchae*. Pierre Clastres, "The Bow and the Basket"

Week 7: The Political Horizon

Monday, 2/20: no class.

Wednesday, 2/22: Solon (selections). Laure Murat, *The Man Who Thought he was Napoleon* pp. 24-70.

Friday, 2/24: Diogenes Laertius, *Life of Diogenes*.

Week 8:

Monday, 2/27: in-class presentations

Wednesday, 3/1: in-class presentations

Friday, 3/3: in-class presentations

Week 9:

Monday, 3/6: in-class presentations

Wednesday, 3/8: in-class presentations

Friday, 3/10: in-class presentations

Week 10:

Monday, 3/13: in-class presentations

Wednesday, 3/15: in-class presentations

Friday, 3/17: in-class presentations

Term papers due Friday, 3/24.