

# CLAS100

## LECTURE 14

October 19, 2015

### **Greek Theatre, Religion and Tragedy**

- The origin of Greek Tragedy
- Aristotle's Poetics:
- Choral hymns in honour of Dionysus
- Myths of the gods; hymns, songs and dance
- Hypokrites: interpreter
- Tragoidoi: goat-singers

### **Dramatic Festivals**

- Lenaia (Jan-Feb) in honour of Dionysos Lenaia
- Anthesteria (Feb-Mar) in honour of Dionysus
- The Dionysia was a large festival in honour of Dionysus

### **The Theatre of Athens**

- Established in 6th century BC
- Seated 14000-17000 people
- 499 BC: burned to the ground
- Dionysus Eleutherius theatre
- At the center of the row surrounding the orchestra there was a seat reserved for the priest or Dionysus

### **Theatre of Epidauros**

- Oldest and most preserved ancient theatre
- came about around 340 BC

- 13000 capacity

### **Sophocles**

- 495-406 BC
- Classical playwright: justice, democracy, civilization, control, beauty
- Hubris: excessive pride or self-confidence
- Peripeteia: change of circumstances
- Panhellenism following Persian wars
- Nemesis: the spirit of divine retribution against those who succumb to hubris
- Oedipus Tyrannus A tragedy written by Sophocles

### **Euripides**

- 480-406 BC
- Playwright of change and decline
- Peloponnesian War
- Challenge accepted religious, social, political values
- Mind vs. heart; control vs. freedom; tradition vs. change
- Bacchae; A tragedy set in Thebes