

## ENG-2205 Assignment 3

### Ancient Athenian Drama

Summarize the main characteristics of ancient Athenian theatrical life in a passage of about 50 words.

#### Aeschylus

What were the main characteristics of the political life of Athens during Aeschylus' time? What is the term used to call a ruler of city-state in Athens before changing to a democratic state? From the time of democracy onward, in what way was Athens governed? What were the most important wars in the Mediterranean world Athens got engaged during Aeschylus' time? Who won? What is the tragedy of Aeschylus about one battle of the wars? From whose standpoint is that tragedy told? What is the name of the Athenian dramatic festival in which the tragedians such as Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides competed and won prizes? Who is Agamemnon's daughter? Why was she killed by his father?

#### Sophocles

What name was the middle decades of the fifth century BC in Athens called? Who was the most important politician of Athens in this period? What was his attitude towards arts?

What year did Sophocles win first prize of tragedy competition for the first time? How many times did he win first prize?

How many tragedies of Sophocles survive now? Write the title of those tragedies?

#### *Antigone*

In Sophocles' *Antigone*, what is the relationship between the king, the state, and the law according to Kreon and Antigone in their dialogues with each other and with his son Haemon? Quote exactly the sentences (with the number of pages from the textbook) of their opinion about this relationship. What kind of law does him want to pursue and protect? What kind of law Antigone want to follow and protect? Kreon and Antigone articulate different views of the authority that they invoke to justify their positions. One of these concerns allegiance, another human nature, a third the nature of the gods. What is Kreon's view of these things? What is Antigone's? Does the outcome of the play reinforce one of these views or the other, or does it suggest that both parties to the quarrel are wrong?

#### Euripides

What characteristics of Euripides's dramatic style makes him controversial? What are his dramatic skills that make him different from his other contemporaries Aeschylus and Sophocles?

#### Writing

Read quickly the article attached here ("Creon and the 'Ode to Man' in Sophocles' *Antigone*" by Gregory Crane) (you may focus mainly on its introduction), and point out its argument.