

## Course details

### Course title

Literature: Ancient Greek tragedy: Sophocles' Theban plays

### Course code

Q00013754

### Course date

Start: 04/06/24

End: 09/07/24

### Number of classes

6 sessions

### Timetable

Tue 4th Jun, 15:00 to 17:00

Tue 11th Jun, 15:00 to 17:00

Tue 18th Jun, 15:00 to 17:00

Tue 25th Jun, 15:00 to 17:00

Tue 2nd Jul, 15:00 to 17:00

Tue 9th Jul, 15:00 to 17:00

### Tutor

Kim Shahabudin

### Fee range

Free to £44.40

### How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

**Venue**

Online

**Level of study**

Advanced

**Course overview**

Ancient Greek tragedies have held an enduring interest for audiences and readers since their first performances in Athens in the 5th century BCE. Performed with both ancient and modern settings, revised and adapted, they retain their relevance to human action and understanding. In this course we will study three linked plays by Sophocles that focus on the story of Oedipus, king of Thebes, and his efforts to avoid fate: Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus and Antigone. We will consider plots, themes, characters and their continuing popularity with audiences. All texts will be studied in English translations: no previous knowledge is assumed.

**Course description**

Ancient Greek tragedies have held an enduring interest for audiences and readers since their first performances in Athens in the 5th century BCE. Performed with both ancient and modern settings, revised and adapted, they retain their relevance to human action and understanding. In this course we will study three linked plays by Sophocles that focus on the story of Oedipus, king of Thebes, and his efforts to avoid fate: Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus and Antigone, together known as the Theban plays.

This course will take a close look at the three plays, considering themes, characters and how (or whether) the plays work together as a trilogy. Through friendly and accessible discussion of extracts from the texts, we will learn more about the plays and their key features. Students will develop a better understanding of their continued popularity and relevance to audiences and readers over the centuries since they were first performed.

While you will get the most from the course by reading the plays in their entirety, short extracts for discussion will be downloadable from Canvas, where links to further reading will also be provided for those who wish to extend their learning. All texts will be studied in English translation: no previous knowledge is assumed.

**What financial support is available?**

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

## **What other support is available?**

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

**Source URL:** *<https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/languages-culture/literature/4-june-literature-ancient-greek-tragedy-sophocles-theban-plays>*