This class will study 9-10 selected plays of the Athenian playwrights Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides (in translation).

**Students will be able to:**

• discuss and interpret the plays with reference to the historical, cultural and literary contexts of their original performances, the circumstances of production, and the possible functions (real and intended) of dramatic performances in fifth century Athens.

• be familiar with and able to apply some essential techniques of literary criticism, where they are useful to interpretation of the plays.