

SONG CULTURE of ATHENIAN DRAMA

A Seminar for Faculty Members

Directed by

Gregory Nagy

Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University

Kenneth Scott Morrell

Associate Professor and Chair of Greek and Roman Studies, Rhodes College

July 23–29, 2012 • The Center for Hellenic Studies • Washington, DC



THE COUNCIL OF
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



CENTER FOR
HELLENIC
STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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and

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The seminar, designed for non-specialists, addresses the challenge of keeping alive in undergraduate education classical texts such as the *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, the Homeric Hymns, the poetry of Hesiod, and the *Histories* of Herodotus that a generation ago were read and understood by every college graduate. Full-time faculty members at CIC member colleges and universities in all disciplines who might have occasion to use classical texts in their courses are encouraged to apply.

Athenian drama was a unique form of a much broader and multifaceted song culture in ancient Greece. In particular, it presented choral lyric in the more expansive setting of the Athenian polis and reflected not just the social and religious concerns that had always animated choral performances in communities large and small throughout the Hellenic world but also the place of Athens in the larger constellation of city-states within the evolving sphere of Athenian influence and control. This seminar will explore examples of the work from the Athenian playwrights whose plays have survived by focusing on the performative aspects of the plays and the ways they drew upon and adapted a range of lyric traditions. For example, participants will study not only the choral songmaking of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes but also the parallel forms of songmaking that survive from 6th century Lesbos and elsewhere. Because song, dance, and instrumental music were essential elements of Athenian state theatre, this seminar will be of interest to those who teach the performing arts and drama as well as literature.

Materials for the workshop will be available in electronic and printed formats in advance of the seminar. Participants will be asked to read a core subset of the texts before arriving in Washington and then, once the seminar is underway, to contribute their ideas, energy, experience, and skills to creating modules for use in different academic settings.



Gregory Nagy

Gregory Nagy is the Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. He has served as chair of Harvard's Literature Concentration, chair of the Department of the Classics, president of the American Philological Association, and, since 2000, director of the Center for Hellenic Studies. His publications include *The Best of the Achaeans: Concepts of the Hero in Archaic Greek Poetry*, which won the APA's Goodwin Award of Merit; *Greek Mythology and Poetics*; *Pindar's Homer: The Lyric Possession of an Epic Past*; *Poetry as Performance: Homer and Beyond*; *Homeric Questions*; *Plato's Rhapsody and Homer's Music: The Poetics of the Panathenaic Festival in Classical Athens*; and *Homeric Responses*. In the spring of 2002, he delivered the Sather Lectures at the University of California, Berkeley, on "Homer the Classic."



Kenneth Scott
Morrell

Kenneth Scott Morrell is associate professor and chair of Greek and Roman Studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee and is currently the director of outreach at the Center for Hellenic Studies. In addition to publishing and teaching on ancient Greek and Latin literature, he has participated in an archaeological survey in southwestern Turkey and been active in a variety of initiatives related to the use of information technology. He was an original member of the Perseus Project and has more recently been involved with Sunoikisis (sunoikisis.nitle.org) and the Collaboratory for GIS and Mediterranean Archaeology (CGMA) Project (cgma.depauw.edu).

PARTICIPANTS

Up to 18 individuals will be selected by competitive nomination. Participants must be full-time faculty members at CIC member institutions and can be in any field or department.

LOCATION

The seminar will take place at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC. Housing will be provided at the Center.

EXPENSES

Rooms, most meals, books, and other expenses will be covered by CIC, the Center for Hellenic Studies, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The only expense to participants or their institutions will be transportation to and from Washington, DC, although CIC will offer reimbursements of up to \$200 for travel expenses.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The chief academic officers of the nominee's institution must nominate the faculty member who wishes to participate. Each institution may nominate more than one individual, and faculty members of all academic ranks are eligible to participate. The seminar is open to individuals who have participated in previous CIC/CHS seminars but preference will be given to first-time participants. The nomination form is available online at www.cic.edu/AncientGreece and may be submitted by mail or online. Each nomination package should consist of the following:

1. Nomination letter from the chief academic officer;
2. Completed nomination form;
3. Nominee's curriculum vitae; and
4. Nominee's statement of reasons for wishing to participate in the seminar and of anticipated outcomes (no more than one page).

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Please send the completed nomination in a single package to CIC by **Friday, March 9, 2012**.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED

Friday, March 30, 2012

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS MATERIALS TO:

Stephen Gibson

Director of Programs

Council of Independent Colleges

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Washington, DC 20036-1142

Phone: (202) 466-7230

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The seminar is held at the Center for Hellenic Studies' campus in Washington, DC.