

C & T Notes: 9/17/08

-Thoughts on movie:

- Pretty good, wouldn't watch again
- Didn't get the plot, no real story

-Wend Kuune was accepted to the lineage and seemed to have more respect than the girl.

-Did his mother plan on running away?

- She left everything when they ran away

-Being mute

- Must have been from being traumatized

-The flute

- He must have been experienced in making the flute
- The flute scene lasted too long
- Everyone thought he was making a dart gun

-His name meaning "a gift from God"

- The lineage quickly adopted him
- He was immediately respected more than the girl

-Shells were used for currency

- They differed from usual currency
- They eliminated use of the barter system

-When did the movie take place?

- Pre-colonial
- Better before the "white man" came
- It could have been recent with an African tribe that hasn't progressed in technology much.

-Did the man of the couple fighting kill his wife?

- There was a quick scene
- Not too certain whether it was the wife or mother

-Everything was hand made

- The machine for making cloth
- The children making better and delivering it
- Why did the mother sweep the ground?
- They got water from the river often

-The court scene was short

- It consisted of an older leader with other adult man

-The girl talked about spirits changing sexes

-Wend Kuuni said that he wished to be a girl, why?

- Possibly to impress the girl
- They would be allowed to be together more

-Is there any type of sexual discrimination?

- They always yell at the girl
- The fighting couple; the woman yells at the man
- Women seem to have equal power

-Why didn't anyone enter Wend Kuuni's mother's home?

- They may have believed it was cursed
- They burned it, possibly to kill the spirits

-They did search for Wend Kuuni's family lineage for longer than expected.

-What about the lone traveler?

- Is he a father figure?
- Could be father starting new life
- May have been his father but he didn't know it

-Do you think they had good lives?

- According to their past and present, they are familiar with their current culture and lifestyle, so they might be living a good life
- We would probably not enjoy living at their standards

-The elder man was the leader and the big boss of the lineage

Sundiata p. 1-47 (9/19)

- Compared to “The Lion King” and “Hamlet”
- Griots
 - Educate kings of their history, avoid history repeating itself
 - Important role in society because of the importance of oral tradition
- Oral tradition not as accurate-does it make the stories richer?
 - For historians no, for society yes
- Sundiata begins to walk
 - He just decides to walk
 - Similar to wend Kunni when he talks again
 - Mother wants him to get the tree-somehow she knew he could do great things
 - Story shifts from about Sogolon to about Sundiata
- Left-handedness
 - There must be a reason-most respected prophets were left-handed
 - Could be evil or great
- Why does the king want to sacrifice Sogolon?
 - Scare her into letting him sleep with her
 - He really wanted to sacrifice her
 - If she can't give him a child (prophesy), what good is she?
- Could the king kill her? “If you manage to possess her, she will become an extraordinary woman”
 - How does such an ugly woman have powers?
 - After he possesses her, the blood of her powers leave her and she becomes an ordinary woman and mother
- King's first wife Sassouma (antagonist)
 - Afraid that her son won't be king
 - Jealousy over Sogolon taking precedence over her
 - Hires the witches-backfires because he is nice to them and now they are on Sundiata's side
 - Why does she assume Sundiata will kill the hags for stealing?
- Importance of fate- no divine intervention
- Why do they need fate?
 - Can't have randomness
 - Shift blame on something else
 - Sense of purpose
 - Scare tactics
- Sorcerer king
 - Wants Sundiata's griot
 - Griots are very important in their society
- Why does Sundiata want his mother to die?
 - She is old, end her suffering

Richard Dent
C&T Class Notes
September 22, 2008

- **Mike Scheitlin** – “fight” on page 60, different creatures and objects named to provoke war between Sundiata and the sorcerer.
- **Rick Dent** – symbolism behind the fight between the two people if there is any present
- **Samer Kawak** – “death vs. slavery” speech, in a modern context, why make yourself a clear target when people know how to defeat you?
- **Kevin Steagall** – perhaps its taunting instead of a simple statement
- **Filip Lempa** – I think fate is very important throughout the novel, quote at top of page 38
- **Samer** – Sundiata not a true hero, like the odyssey he has help from divine intervention and fate
- **Seth Young** – destruction of Soumaoro’s property, symbolic of complete removal of him as a threat or a power, cleansing his filth from the world
- Death of Soumaoro is anticlimactic
- Disappointed by ending of book, want more action, felt as though there were too many loose ends not connected by the end of the book
- **Kevin** – morose from a lack of a capture of Soumaoro
- **General** – sacrifice on the mountain seemed excessive, pointless
- **Andrew Forrester** – Eternal Mali, ideas presented are just that, ideas, rather than physical attributes or characteristics
- **Josh Manker** – eliminating traces and lineages of enemies in Mali through the cleansing of anything that is reminiscent of your enemies
- Ancestors bless the living if they are pleased, act as the “gods” of Mali
- **Nick Poole** – Sacrificing to one’s Jinn, Jinn’s can help control your fate depending on how appeased they are
- “Do not seek to know what is not to be known” – quote from book, seeks to deter those from possibly uncovering the “whole truth” regarding the story of Sundiata
- Also protected the image of the heroes in a society that transmits history orally, and prevented the people from possibly altering history for themselves
- Griots almost seem as though they are above kings in society in Mali, act as the voice of the king, keep the history of the kings within their minds, could potentially alter history at their whim
- “Knowledge is power” more griots = more knowledge = more power
- The notion that one’s nation should come before an individual, Sundiata frees and unites Mali but does not return for a woman

Title: The River Between (9/24)

Pg. 3 –Strangers

Pg. 7-Respected of Tribe- Other elders feared and respected the father. Fathers are the baseline of vision and knowledge.

Pg. 9- In this society, men were expected to show little or no emotion as demonstrated by the ritual circumcision, Men could flinch or flail during this process.

Pg. 12-Rebirth

Pg. 15- Woman overthrown in a typical patriarchal society. The story may be a mythological point to prove a social point. Because of their harshness, men resented their hard hand and took over.

Pg. 20- Why white people came to convert the tribe's people to Christianity?

Pg. 21- Impression of white missionaries

Pg. 25-Mythonia wanting circumcision even without the blessing and consent of her father, a converted Christian.

Pg. 26-Mythonia justifies circumcision. She wanted to be a woman and justifies a circumcision as a rite of passage in the traditions of the tribe in a final step from childhood to womanhood. A circumcision demonstrates a higher level in society as well as wisdom.

Pg. 29-Joshua talks about Christianity. He was devoted to faith and was an extremist. He would punish for committing sin even if it meant beating his own wife. He submits that his daughter is on her own and away from his reign. (Perhaps a reference to Prodigal Son)

Pg. 31-Joshua's new Christianity

Pg. 31-32-Joshua wants people to be more like the white man. Also brings evidence that he is hypocritical in his doctrine and beliefs.

Pg. 33- Joshua leaving early from Church

Pg. 38- Belief that circumcision brings wisdom

Pg. 40-43- Dancing Ritual, a festivity that brings the tribe together before the circumcision. Other people in the tribe see his lack of dancing skills negated by the fact that he holds silent and strong as the operation happens. Livingston could not stand watching the pagan ritual. The book describes that he has changed from energetic to tired after 20 years and little progress made.

Pg. 46-47- Concern of sex

Pg. 53- Identity crisis

Pg. 77- Waikiki having feelings for her and the effect of their relationship.

Concepts:

Father and child relationships: Childs learning came more from the father than anybody else in the family. Children learn about past from father as well as fear him.

C & T Notes

9/26/08

Page: 102-103 – Waiyaki's needs

127- elders accusing waiyaki

107- N. denies Waiy.

116- N. prays to god taking her

119- Waiy. Plans to build schools and unite

100- meeting from hut

86- Waiy. Goes to church

92- Waiy. Shows school to everybody

123- elders get W. for meeting

109- W. travels to ridge

144- initiation day is the same day as x-mas

152- lack of concrete ending

Ending- Not satisfied- ending did not bring book together..

Is it clear what is going to happen to them?

Author lets us be creative with the ending.

- Author shows us his life and lets us imagine the ending.

- vague ending

- book was very detailed except the ending.

River will always be between the two parts.

- livingstone said the war was on after Muthoni's death.

Joshua does not change although the book foreshadows him too.

Everyone in the book had interconflicts

Title- Meaning?

-Geographical- actually is a river between Christians and tribe.

-metaphorically- river between customs of tribe and Christians.

103-Ny. Saved by Waiy.

-Ny thinks different from sister

-she can only be saved by waiy.

-sister could only be saved by circumcision

-Ny.'s religion was faithful to Christ, unlike her sister's

113- initiation on same day as x-mas

-waiy. Does not participate as much now

-his work was becoming more than he could manage

-busy setting up schools

-elders did not appreciate what he did although the crowd appreciated him and his work.

Prophecy-

-his father told him about it

-bookends too early

-fulfilled?

-opinion 1- not fully fulfilled

-he set up schools

-opinion 2- he did fulfill it, we did not see all the affects of his work

-vague ending- you don't know

-parts fulfilled but not what was expected

-only accomplished unity in part of tribe

-educated them with "magic of white man"

Waiy.'s plan was not to drive the white man out

-it was to bridge the relationship between the tribe and Christians

116- Na. wants god to kill her

-her life was made miserable by her father

-it shows that they did not have a good sense of Christianity

-maybe she is just severely depressed

-she seems to be lost

-does not want to go with her father

-she couldn't go to see Waiy. After school

-father is furious because he thought she was meeting Waiy. At the spot she prays at.

-she has to hold all of her emotions inside

-sister died

-can't have Waiy.

Waiy. Has doubts about himself.

-it is very realistic that he doubts himself

-Is he right?

-he is trying to bridge the gap between the two cultures

-he can't be over confident or careless

Livingstone- view on this whole thing?

-he saw it coming- "the war is on"

-people will be confused

-he predicted the conflict

-seems retired in 2nd part of the book

Was the white man right to come in and spread beliefs?

-opinions

-whiteman- yes the tribe is savage

-tribe- no the white man is an invader

-it is good to bring the white man's ideas, but not to force it on the tribe.

Notes Over Negritude Poetry (September 29th)

Reading Pages come from the C and T Binder Section N.

Important Passages, themes, or topics

“When black men’s tongues speak out” (N3)

“Introduction” (N1)

“Tourism” (N10)

“Vulture” (N7)

“Sculpture” (N5)

“To My husband” (N4-5)

“Portrait” (N11)

“He who lost everything” (N6)

“Black Beauty” (theme throughout)

Leopold Senghor

-Thought Africa was better than everywhere else

-Tried to catch the eyes of the world with his poems

Notes on Specific Poems

Girl of the full firm bosom... N-3

-Very direct poem

-Islamic influence on this poem

-Islam is favored over Christianity

-Islam has been in Africa longer than Christianity

O Earth N-3

-End passage talks about protecting their land

-brotherhood is a constant theme

-How they describe beauty

When black men’s teeth speak out N3-4

-Judgment of black Africans

-talks about the African race as a whole

-could be a poem about how the African culture is dying out

-What do the teeth symbolize?

-What if the teeth symbolize Africa as a whole?

To my husband N4-5

-Like the river between in style

-she wanted to stay with her traditional ways

-she is changed, but it is not for the better

Silhouette N5

-describes the beauty of the black women

-could be a child in her arms

-parallels

Africa N6

-repetition

-Talks about the white man coming to Africa

-Sheds negative light on the White men

Tourism N10

-They hate tourist

-makes fun of the ignorant tourist

-discusses what people think Africa is like.

Portrait N11

-could be a picture of a European women

-talks about how we see women

The Renegade N6-7

-Talks about being alone

-he is not accepted by his people or the White people

-He is giving up his reason to live

-he feels trapped and not worth anything.

- Passage Selections
 - p. 9, paragraph 3, “her chi, her personal god...”
 - p. 13, killing the elephant
 - p. 32, no time to spread “seed”
 - p. 22, killing slave at funeral
 - p. 10, paragraph 1, physical process = role in life
 - p. 36, men’s thoughts on relationships
 - p. 20, sex scene
 - p. 60, society
 - p. 107, saving money for education
 - p. 26, names with meaning
 - p. 22, 1st wife dies
 - P. 51, paragraph 4, manhood lost
 - P. 106, suit
- First Chapter Thoughts
 - Book started in the future, and then returned to the present
 - Exciting to realize what was happening in the following chapters
- Chi
 - Personal god
 - Spirit over them that rules their lives
 - Malevolent or benevolent
 - Slave girl ruled over Nnu Ego
 - Similar to Sundiata where two spirits existed
 - Nnu Ego’s chi was working against her
- Nwokocho Agbadi (p. 10)
 - Wealthy local chief
 - Arrogant, dominant, handsome
 - Wanted a mate who was as arrogant as him for a challenge
 - Christian women were seen as quiet and timid (p. 10)
- Women in general
 - The African tribes wanted a powerful, self-reliant women
 - Christian spread the concept of a submissive woman
- Lost of Manhood (p. 51)
 - Nnu Ego new husband Nnaife was washing women’s underwear
 - Nnu Ego thought it was embarrassing, but Nnaife thought it was an honest living
- Soldier
 - To be a soldier was looked down upon because they were men who would pillage towns and rape women
- Societal Values of Nigeria (p. 60)

- “everyone is responsible for the other person”
- Nnu Ego was trying to commit suicide, but they stopped her because in Nigeria everyone belongs to the community.
- Suicide is condemned in Nigeria
 - Everyone has a job in the community
 - It is unnatural
 - Does it have to do with the introduction of Christianity?
 - Community before self
- Nations of Busy Bodies
 - A busy body is someone who is interested in other people’s business
 - Is it a bad thing to interfere?
 - They saved Nnu Ego
 - They probably don’t see themselves as busy bodies, but rather a communal family
 - Similar to celebrity status today
 - Keeps them close as a nation
 - Even though they saved Nnu Ego, they still agree that she is a failed woman
- Nnaife’s reaction to the dead son
 - He seemed to handle it well at first
 - He told Nnu Ego, “Remember God giveth and God taketh away...”
 - The influences of
- Lost Manhood II
 - Greed for money
 - Nnaife, however, was trying to provide for his family
 - Nnaife was washing a woman’s underwear
 - Nnu Ego believes the men were like slaves
 - The men were working and serving the white man
 - Nnu Ego was coming from a culture and status with powerful, strong men
- Men vs. Women
 - Nnaife tells Nnu Ego that without him she would not be able to be pregnant (p. 51)
 - The importance of pregnancy to a women in this society
 - A women’s worth to the community is the number of children she has
- The Joys of Motherhood
 - It did not seem Nnu Ego has many joys, but more suffering
 - The joy of getting pregnant
 - The joy of saving money to educate the child
 - The joy in the desire to make the men happy

10/06/2008 Notes, Filip Lempa

Important Passages identified by the students:

p. 141: Africans working for the white men

p.111: Humans being the same regardless of the race

p.117: Slaves

p.124: Naife sleeps with the other woman in front of Nun Ego

p.148: Joining army

p.122: Mother's joy

p.148: 'British own us'

p.190: Oshia goes to school

p.176: boys & girls

p.162: Christians

P.169: Standards

p.200: Fight

p.224: Joys of motherhood

Notes:

No real joys of motherhood presented in the book.

The children were not the problem.

Why wouldn't she go back to live with her father if the family was so poor? – Great cultural difference.

What's the plain feminist message?:

Don't rely on men – her husband lazy and unreliable.

The British own them.

Black people slaves of whites, but women slaves of men.

Urban or rural? What's really better?: She didn't really consider what's better, just left because of the husband.

Why Christianity?

How much cultural relativism can we afford?

Why some people become Christians and some don't ?

Oshia to North America - disconnected

C&T Discussion Notes for 10/8/08

I. Recommended scenes for consideration at beginning of class

- a) The Ending (Food Aid)
- b) Funeral (The body is missing)
- c) Muslim Wives
- d) Gelewaar's Speech
- e) Body Collector
- f) Mayor
- g) Sophie's occupation as a prostitute
- h) Begging (as a theme)
- i) Languages (French, Arabic, local dialect)
- j) Religions (Islam, Christianity, local tribal)
- k) Tension between locals and the "white/black man"
- l) Mor Ciss and his mistress

II. Discussions

A. Begging/Sophie's Job

1. Begging was worse than having a prostitute daughter to Gelewaar. It was actually better to die than to beg.
2. Sophie is a registered prostitute (the class took this in and of itself to be an odd concept). Despite its legality and Gelewaar's approval, prostitution seems to still carry an extremely powerful element of shame.
3. The question was posed: "Is Sophie's prostitution justified because it provides for her family?"
 - Gelewaar says yes, while his wife says absolutely not.
 - The class came to no real consensus, and the question was ultimately left unanswered.

B. The "White/Black Man"

1. The son who permanently moved to France never once spoke his native language throughout the entire film. He would only speak French.
 - The class hypothesized that this may be because he forgot his own language or that he thought it sounded inferior or represented an inferior way of life.
2. Parents do not want their children to emigrate to European nations, but this is an increasingly common occurrence.
 - Why don't the parents want their children to emigrate?
 - The class proposed a few hypotheses: (a) the parents expected the children to aid the family, and that would be complicated with the children in a foreign

nation (b) the parents wanted the children to be saturated in the local culture in order to preserve it

C. Mor Ciss and his Mistress

1. As the wrong body had been buried in the Muslim cemetery, the mistress could not even mourn her husband.
2. The mistress plans to leave her children behind with Mor Ciss, and shows absolutely no interest in their fate.
 - It was noted that she possessed a multitude of European magazines which she referred to as "her things".
 - The mistress was seen by the class as the foil of Nnu Ego of "The Joys of Motherhood", as Nnu Ego held a vast interest in her children's fate and sacrificed her own happiness for their future. The suggestion was inferred that the magazines the mistress had served as a symbol of her alteration by European culture into a cold individualist.

D. Misplacement of the Body

1. The class was particularly interested in exactly how it was that a human body could be mistakenly removed from a morgue and buried in the improper cemetery.
 - It was proposed that either (a) gross negligence or (b) a language barrier created the problem. It was also given as a suggestion that the error was intentional, motivated by corrupt politicians and carried out by citizens subservient to them in order to humiliate a political enemy (Gelewaar).
2. Professor Helman stated that an attempt should be made to tie the misplacement of the corpse of Gelewaar to the disappearance of the Sorcerer King portrayed in "Sundiata".

E. Mor Ciss's Stubbornness

1. It was proposed that Mor Ciss may have simply been looking to begin a conflict between the Muslims and the Christians.
2. It was also proposed that Mor Ciss may have been stubborn about exhuming Gelewaar's corpse in order to cover his compatriots, whether to hide their involvement in a government conspiracy (see item 1 of section D) or to help them evade trouble for negligence while tending to a corpse. No consensus was reached.

F. The Funeral

1. For a brief period, the distinctly European nature of the funeral was discussed. A particularly noteworthy feature appeared to be the drinking of European beers rather than local alcoholic brews (traditional tribal wines, presumably.)
2. Though it was not actually mentioned in the class, I figured I may as well point out another distinct feature about the deceased I noted as I could not speak during class. I am uncertain about Muslim codes for a proper burial, but it stood out to me that Gelewaar was buried by the Muslims not in a coffin, but in a burlap wrapping tied with rope. If there is nothing in Islamic Law regarding this practice, such a feature is distinctly suggestive of foul play with regard to the misplacement of Gelewaar (see item 1 section D.) If this is a part of Islamic Law, then it is simply a stark contrast between the Christian and Muslim ways of life, and is noteworthy if for nothing else then for interest.

G. Languages

1. It was noted that language was firmly grounded in who was speaking and in what situation.
 - Both Muslims and Christians spoke the local tribal dialect
 - Muslims also spoke Arabic
 - Police, government officials, and the “white/black man” spoke French, though the police and government officials also spoke the local dialect

H. Corruption in the Government

1. The people decry corrupt officials, but still obey them and allow them to hold positions of power. It was proposed that food aid was used as leverage over the people, such that they really had no power to defend themselves against corruption’s effects.
2. A power struggle between Gelewaar and the government officials was noted:
 - Officials are using aid to forward their own personal agendas
 - Gelewaar sought to obtain national self-sufficiency for Senegal and denounced food aid as “begging”. It was his view that acceptance of aid lowered Senegal, and that aid should be harshly rejected.
3. The ultimate result of the struggle was that the officials are still able to use food aid as leverage over the people successfully, though Gelewaar managed to reach the hearts and minds of others (more on this later).
4. The corrupt, single-party government is receiving European backing. This was mentioned, but not explored. It is included here for consideration purposes.

5. The portrayal of the military in this film is a stark contrast to its portrayal in "The Joys of Motherhood".

-In "Joys", the military was a distant force fighting some unknown and often decidedly irrelevant enemy (it seemed to serve no purpose)

-In the film, we note a closer relationship to the military's actions, giving it a utilitarian sense of purpose

-In "Joys", soldiers were described as conquerors and rapists, and generally received absolutely no respect or reverence

-In the film, soldiers were portrayed more as neutral peacekeepers, residing within the area for the common good

I. Analysis of the Film's Ending

1. Gelewaar's speech has motivated the children to defy the leverage of the corrupted officials by dumping rice and grain sent as aid on the ground and driving Gelewaar's coffin over it.

2. Was Gelewaar right about foreign aid?

-Accepting aid on a constant basis was suggested to lead to a loss of one's own ability to function and results in reliance upon others for all one's needs

-Aid appears to do more harm than good to the societies it was meant to heal

3. The question was asked: "What was Gelewaar doing about the situation aside from simply ranting about the evils of foreign aid?"

J. General Response to the Film

1. Commentary on the extraordinarily poor filmography and shoddy acting (the class consensus, just reporting as it was said Professor Helman!) led to complaints that the film's overall effectiveness was negatively affected.

III. General Information Disclaimer

I as a note-taker have attempted to report the class discussion in the most accurate and easily understandable manner possible. If I have misrepresented the overall class views or your own personal views in any way, I apologize forthrightly and admit my capacity for error. If I have been unclear in my representation of any particular subject's discussion, I would ask that queries be posed to me during any class period. The express purpose of these notes is to enable the class to readily review discussion topics and results in a simple and efficient manner, and I am prepared to live up to that duty.

Oedipus Tyrannus Notes

What lead to the sleeping with the mom?

- Too inquisitive?
- No prophecies, it wouldn't have happened/they freaked out about it/don't screw with fate

- Mindset is a self-fulfilling prophecy
- Asking a soothsayer forms a path for you to follow/don't piss off the soothsayer

Oedipus

- Strong sense of duty
- Cares for his people-"his children"
- Enforces how important it is to find the murderer
- Not as God-like as Odysseus/he rushes into things
- The chorus serves as a "theatre" from above
- Overtaken with pride, leads to him feeling unstoppable
- What caused his anger?
 - The pride?
 - More likely
 - The prophecy?
- Wishful thinking on the prophecy?
 - He had no idea that he had done it
 - Was told that a band of people had done it
- Feels forced into power
 - Wants to be the hero
 - Went about it all wrong?
 - Wanted to be the guy who found the killer for the fame of it
- Went crazy upon realization
- Does he view this as punishment?
 - Does it fit the crime?
 - Either banishment or death seem like decent punishments
 - Does lose everything (power, daughters, sight)
 - Afraid for his daughters, and their lives
- Overwhelmingly rushed, led to a bit of crazy

Is there a sense of pity?

- It is an unfortunate situation
- He didn't do anything that horrendous on purpose
- Outside sources affect his life
- The parents threw him out to die;
- Left for the good of the nation

Irony

- The blind guy can see the future
- We know what's going to happen, but it's still widely read
- The ending is a climax
- Would it be more effective if the ending was unknown?
 - There's way too much foreshadowing to not know

Reaction

- A little excessive?
- Mom wanted to just drop it, so the truth wouldn't be official
- Thebes would still be bad
- Should've told everyone; would have had more respect for him

How old is Jocasta?

Creon believes Oedipus is impure/disease ridden

- But, then again, Creon's kind of a dick
- Tends to throw things into Oedipus' face

Not much Divine intervention

- No Athena coming to alter the course of life or anything
- Different method of storytelling

The Choruses

- The Songs are an added narration
- Simplify some of the more convoluted things in the play

Notes Antigone

- P.1 line 10= enemies
- P.8 line 175-180= Creon's policy
- P. 47 line 1901= chorus talks about prophecy
- P.46-47= Prophecy itself
- P.10 line 228= ass kicked
- P.12 line 295-300= money is a weed
- P.52 line 1206= deadly marriage bed
- P.56= Queen commits suicide
- P.53 line 1242= bad judgment
- P.43-45 line 995-1050= nobody listens to the prophet
- P.57 line 1318= parallelism
- Line 712-717= foreshadowing
- Line 1305= child killer
- P.55 line 1285-1290= Creon yells at the messenger
- Line 904-907= Antigone contradicts herself
- Line 690= common man
- P.58= old age
- Line 551= Antigone hurts when she mocks

Discussion

- Who is the hero of the work?
- Doesn't know if Antigone is a hero but definitely a martyr, acts of Creon proves it, a tragic hero
- Is there an underlying meaning to the play?
- Last line sums it up, old age= wisdom
- It could be that Creon is defeated because of his confidence, but towards the end this pride leaves him
- Creon always thought he was honorable
- Maybe he was trying to do right by the city by punishing the wrong brother, and bestow honor on the defending brother
- Question about line 551
- Line 569 Creon tells his son there are other women to have kicks with
- P.38 line 869 Antigone recounts messed up Oedipus story, calls her dad her brother, really awkward
- How old was she when she found out about her father
- Grew up with the history of Oedipus
- Calls dad her brother to enact sympathy
- Disregard the footnote concerning her comment about Oedipus
- Oedipus prophecy is wrong about Antigone
- Creon takes power, contradicts himself
- Creon accuses everyone, close in actions to Oedipus, he figuratively shoots the messenger
- Absolute power corrupts absolutely, moral of the story

- Does this translation seem modern? Watchman would be comic relief, very wordy with Creon, his lines are modern
- Someone comments that the Shepard's in Oedipus would be comical, maybe watchmen fulfills that role
- Not an entertainment play, but a philosophical play
- Thoughts on the chorus, they sum up what happens and what will happen in the play
- Talks about human race
- Is Antigone in love-respect with death, marriage of death?
- Picture on front is of a girl that was a French religious philosopher who decided that she was going to eat only what her fellow country men could eat during the German occupation during WWII. She died because of lack of nutrition
- Maybe she did it in honor of the dead
- Interesting speech about laws of man v. the laws of God, Antigone seems very educated for a woman of the time period
- She uses this argument as a justification
- Contradicts herself on page 39, she only did it for her brother
- Since she hasn't been tamed by man she hasn't the knowledge- been broken down
- Her argument is that laws must be followed
- Author uses Antigone as his voice, she has too much power-intelligence
- Page 25 line 572 we don't know who is speaking the lines
- Helps to demonstrate this is an interpretation
- Page 15 and page 12 footnotes support subservient women
- No involvement by the Gods, not even an oracle
- Watchman has cool quotes
- Do you end up sympathetic to Antigone, Creon, and Oedipus? Is Creon the same as Oedipus?
- No Oedipus had fate against him Creon is just headstrong, everybody tells him he is making an error
- Oedipus tried to avoid that fate, Creon rushed into it
- Can't escape fate, now watch out for confidence
- Antigone has no prophecy, Creon has control not fate, not prophecy, bid warnings
- Big difference between the 2 stories
- You didn't know the ending, no big surprise with Antigone
- Did everyone feel sorry for Antigone; did she do the right thing in burying her brother?
- No, she got what she wanted. No she didn't want to die, you can't pity someone who is willing to die.
- What about soldiers?
- No pity, but honor
- Maybe Antigone is trying reverse psychology, maybe she is a glory hog
- She wanted to live, but got caught and gave up
-

Notes on “On the Murder of Eratosthenes: Defense” 10-20-08

Passages of Interests

- House divided between Males & Females - U-4
- Kills Pimp – U-5
- Wife has child – U-3
- Wife talks about maid – U-3
- City laws – U-5
- Calls witnesses – U-6
- Encouraging thieves – U-6

Discussion

Was this murder justified?

Instead of taking money, he killed him, but was the murder predetermined?

See this in our justice system today. Harder on pre-meditated murder than a crime of passion.

The family believed that he told the maid to fetch the adulterer and him and his friend planned it. However he pleads this is not the case.

He was more upset that the man was in his house, not the fact his wife was cheating on him.

He felt he was doing a favor to society by killing him.

Since law says you can kill him, it is not taking the law into your own hands, but following the laws already set forth.

Could have taken money, but instead killed the man.

Why would he kill instead of taking the money?

- Take it to the next extreme.
- Felt like a bribe. The man could just do it more. If you kill him, end of problem.

He kept a close watch on his wife until she had a child. It seemed like he needed to assert control and show everyone that she was his wife, until he had a kid, then the child is a proof.

Why two different punishments? Leaves room for interpretation.

Not many people know what the laws of the land are because they have so much trouble finding information on this.

The maid really had no choice. She had to obey her master.

Crazy that he had so much power over the maid. It's like she is a slave. She was told to either tell the truth or be beaten.

Seems he's putting all the blame on the adulterer. None goes to the wife. She will probably never be blamed because women are "easily corrupted".

He's appearing to be as specific as he can as to prove that he had not actually pre-meditated the murder.

Now that he knows his wife has slept with another man, possibility that they are not his. Also, there is a possibility that she will neglect the children more.

At the end, he justifies it by saying that it was "for the city". Brought up valued points.

Excellent testimony. Eloquent. Would declare innocent.

Judicial systems now and then were similar, yet far apart. Orated and witnesses called.

Was there anything else to describing the home? What are we supposed to take from this?

- Shows where they are located. Shows why it was so easy to sneak in.

Justifies killing by saying it wasn't him who was going to punish him, but instead, the city was going to punish the adulterer.

If you walk into a room and catch your wife committing adultery, do you go into a long Shakespearean soliloquy, or do you just kill him?

- Most likely the second

No for a fact he is guilty, what about the speech is made up?

- Pre-meditation. He went around and pulled people out of the bed.
- Covered up about his friend. They had indeed planned to kill him.

If women don't have an opportunity to meet new guys, is adultery really a problem?

- No, not really.
- That is why blame is put more on man. He had to actively pursue her.

Thucydides I (10/22)

Discussion Topics-

Page 13- reports

Page 1- war

Page 1- footnote about 3rd person

Page 41 preparing for war

Page 1- taking sides

Page 12- accurate history

Page 12- search for truth

Page 43- allies

Page 37- signs from nature (earthquakes)

Page 13- No myth, just truth

Page 48- the plague

Page 49- great lawlessness

Page 37- not being honorable

Page 50- worship or not

Page 46- states support families of soldiers

Page 41- comparing to neighbors

Page 37- fear Athens

Page 41- Athens being open society

Book subject-Could be seen as more beneficial to not be open to outsiders, but instead they were very open.

Question- What did you think about the reading? What did you think about funeral speech?

Discussion: Thought it was good, enjoyed the attempted "neutrality" of it.

-Was it really neutral?

-Not in some areas because he has a high opinion of himself and what his own opinion was.

-For example- His views on the war (page 12).

-“Greatest” doesn’t necessarily make it the absolute worst war.

Connection- Would griots be an example of first story telling?

Question- Do you think they were superstitious as a nation because they thought there was a prophecy about the war and the plague? (page 50)

-Kevin says “One man’s superstition is another mans religion.”

-Book was trying to say that mythology was important.

-pg 12 Thucydides was trying to tell people that his account was not a myth

-people seem to be moving away from religion, so he tries not to bring myth into the book.

-“no myth, just truth” from page 13

Question- What about the war itself? How was it initiated, etc?

-Plautea’s leadership wanted to betray Athens and the people wanted to stay loyal.

-Seems like war was inevitable- Athens was a power, but there was another one coming.

-When Thebian soldiers go into Athens, you know there will be some sort of conflict.

Question- What did you think about the beginning of the funeral speech being all about Athens?

-He didn't want to just focus on one person...he wanted to honor all the dead by talking about what they had died for.

Book subject- On page 49, it describes "great lawlessness."

Question- What is this "great lawlessness" described?

-Looting came because of the plague

-When leaders die, people see opportunity.

-When cloak of civility is taken away, you begin to see "real" people.

-Law becomes meaningless.

Connection- How was this trying to portray law?

-It was his critique of human nature.

-He is more trying to set a scene of the collapse of the "ultimate" lawful society into complete and total anarchy.

Topic- He described the disease that plagued the people very, very well.

-We got a good understanding of what was happening through his description.

-He talked more about what it was rather than where it came from.

-He gave first-hand report of the symptoms of the disease.

-It was helped by the fact that he had it...he could give better descriptions of it.

-Could that give his opinion much more of a bias?

-Probably did.

Question- Do you think that arrogance was another reason they lost the war?

-Could be due to the fact that they were outnumbered.

-Used plague as a big reason.

-He still makes no mention of the gods' plaguing them.

-Goes back to what we talked about earlier- separation of myth and truth.

Question/Connection- Doesn't it seem like he is trying to falsify the gods? Like they don't control anything?

-He is trying to make it historical, so he is trying to keep his own opinions out of things.

-Also trying to say that "myths" have become very much embellished, and so his is a story that is truth without any embellishment.

Connection- If you think about what Pericles says about Athens, is this is the same city after it has been plunged into anarchy?

-Maybe this shows the "true colors" of Athens.

-Shows how bad circumstances can change everything (page 46).

Question- Could any city have handled the plague better than Athens?

-Yes, but no. they did a poor job of handling the plague. Some of it was controllable, some of it was not.

-But there would be no city that would be completely impervious to the plague.

Connection- would a different type of government be able to handle this type of thing in a better way?

-Maybe, maybe not. Most likely, knowledge just probably wasn't there to be able to care for people.

-Page 47 shows that they are trying to learn from mistakes.

-Partially through what he writes in his book for future generations.

Notes: Thucydides II

Passages

67-democracy

102-9-dialogue

71-haste and anger

104-cruelty

72-3-death penalty

74-argument against Cleon

69-rebellion, good fortune

69-Mytilenians having privileges

72-corruption, best advice

106-no gods

71-Diodotus's speech

107-allies for power

67-intellectual people

Mytillean Debate

- Who had the more convincing speech, Cleon or Diodotus?
- "A city with inferior laws is better if they are never relaxed than a city with good laws that have no force."-67
- What is an inferior law?-one that has no benefit to society
- Best leaders or moral leaders-Would you rather have a moral leader or an unethical one but the State thrives under him?
- Death penalty for rebellion hasn't necessarily deterred the crime.
- Is it immoral to make an example of someone for doing wrong?
- Hope and desire-invisible and the most dangerous of evils
- "Is it easier to keep misfortune away than to preserve great happiness?"
 - Indifference (middle ground) is easy to get to

The Melian Dialogue

- Athenians speak very well but Melians are clever in their responses
- Melians think the Athenians are unjust
- Who wins? Draw-Athenians wanted to capture Melians without fighting but they failed. Melians fail because the Athenians don't go away.

- Passage Selections
 - p. 11, 270-275 → Formation of new religion
 - p. 28-30 → girls gone wild
 - p. 44-46 → description of killing
 - p. 8, 184-190 → old age
 - p. 12, 294-304, powers of new God
 - p. 19, 484 → Greek culture
 - p. 30, 758-774 → women over men
 - p. 50, 1233-1244 → she has the head
 - p. 15, 396-402 → wisdom
 - p. 52 → Agave realizes it's her son she has killed
 - p. 9 → religion
 - p. 55, 1230-1344 → fate of Cadmus
 - p. 2, 28-31 → blame of Zeus
- First Thoughts
 - Action-packed
 - Climax was missing because scrolls were so old
 - Women overpowered men, not a theme of Greek literature
 - Ending was not fulfilling
 - Ended too quickly
 - Keep in mind missing manuscripts
- p. 19
 - Pentheus says foreigners are less superior to Greeks.
- p. 15, 396-402
 - Looking for greatness is unnecessary
 - Life is short
 - Other Greek literature proves this point like Odysseus.
 - However, another interpretation of this passage is that to keep goals realistic.
- p. 56
 - Agave was punished because she did not recognize Dionysus as a god long ago.
 - Cadmus was also punished for the same reason.
 - To be foreigners of their land and to lead an army against their own country.
 - Was the punishment just?
- p. 43-46

- Pentheus was killed by the Bacchant women.
 - The Greeks seem to present “mess-up” family relationships (i.e. Oedipus).
 - They kill Pentheus by a blood-lust rage caused by the god himself
 - She thought it was a lion’s head.
 - It would not be surprising if Cadmus commits suicide
- Why would Dionysus get mad even though intoxication is his message?
 - They killed the king (Pentheus).
 - Dionysus was mad at the city of Thebes for not believing his authority, so he had a directive from the beginning.
- p. 12
- Was Dionysus initial objective to convert people?
- p. 19
 - Proverbs
 - speak wisdom to a fool and he thinks you have no sense at all
 - darkness is a trap for women
 - people can dig up dirty in the daytime
- Women are respected more in this play.
 - But in order for women to beat men, god must make it happen (p. 30, 764)
- p. 31
 - It made no sense by Pentheus why he would ask Dionysus if he wants to go back to prison after getting out.
- Comedy OR tragedy?
 - Definitely a tragedy, but some funny parts too
- Dionysus shows foolish traits by trying to get power and respect
- p. 58
 - The final lines by the chorus about gods summed up Greek mythology.
 - The concept was definitely a personification of the gods.
 - The gods had tragic flaws.
- Zeus hides Dionysus in his thigh from Hera.
- p. 8, 184-190
 - The old are joining the drinking and dancing.

Richard Dent
C&T Class Notes
October 29th, 2008

- **Important Passages:**
- 2D – corrupting the youth
- 3B – reason for corrupting the youth
- 4A – prosecuting E’s father
- 9B – Zeus vs. father
- Preface – definition of piety
- 10C- defendant’s point of view
- 12C – carry vs. carrying
- 18C – E teaching Socrates about piety
- 3C – the view of the gods
- 19B – back to square one
- 15B – fear and shame
- 14E – cleverness
- 13E – gods’ use of man
- 10C – Socrates talking...?
- **Discussion:**
- Boring, not a lot of action. Dialogue was good but circular methods and reasoning was confusing
- Important that there was no uniform standard of piety -> reason for circular reasoning
- 10C means impious people do not see themselves as having done something wrong (relativity)
- 3C shift in attitude regarding gods, no unity in opinions from gods
- Athenians would get mad at philosophers who shared wisdom with others
- Socrates challenges students to get smarter by reasoning and showing how dumb they are
- Method Socrates uses doesn’t lead to a black and white definition
- No unified definition of piety and morals (important), all relative to person trying to view it
- Since the gods are constantly at war there can be no definition of piety
- Polytheism is the problem in their religion, monotheism can have agreement
- 10A quote still applies to monotheistic religions
- “If prosecuting your own father, you should know what pious is.” Socrates (20)
- Socrates admits to not knowing everything
- Socrates cannot be appeased by the definitions used and found
- Socrates searching for the definition is just to see if one can indeed be found
- “Knows enough to know that he doesn’t know everything” – Socrates
- 13E gods’ use of man is shown and demonstrated
- If he was a man of such wisdom, can’t understand Socrates’s surprise
- Socrates says he wants to learn in order to avoid getting prosecuted
- He baits the other person to deduce those conclusions

Clouds Notes

Josh Manker

Pg. 20 Line 25 Translation

Pg 21 Line 58 Slave Talking Back

Pg 68 Line 961 Argument

Pg 94 Line 1459 Blaming Clouds

“64 ‘887 Socrates

“39 ‘380 Replacing Zeus

“36 & 37 Explaining Clouds

“31 ‘249 How do you swear?

“57 ‘740 Logic Chopping

The Translation: Many like how it was translated yet they wondered how accurate the translation is to the actual story. The story is a big satire. It adds to the entertainment to have modern contexts in these books.

The better argument for the worst argument: Philosophy vs Self History

They talked about sophists as writers who can bend their argument to their own diction and rhetoric.

Slave Comedy vs. Slave Tragedy: There has to be some truth to it to make it funny and realistic. The comedy stems from a great perception, these actors think they're serious yet the content is funny.

Contrasting the differences between Greek comedy and tragedy: Comedy may have more of an effect on the reader. Tragedy leave the brain taxed.

Humor is more effective.

Plato : Five Dialogues

Apology

11-3-08

Pages of Interest

-
- Outcome
- 18 b. – accusations
- p. 37 line b – others
- p. 21, Paragraph 1 – Accuracy
- 18 e – accusers
- p. 32 line b – no shame
- p. 24 19c – clouds
- Line 31e – avoiding politics
- Old page 25 e – back to old ways
- Old page 27 d – justification
- Old page 32 c – democracy
- Old page 30 d,e – god’s gift
- Old page 22 a – wise people
- Old page 18 c – weak vs stronger
- Old page 39 c – threat
- Old page 37 b – short trial
- Old page 23 b,c – prove oracle
- Old page 36 e – chosen sentence
- Old page 38 a – famous line
- Old page 39 (all)

Notes

- Surprise by ending?
 - Not really.
 - On 37b “a trial of life should not last one day, but many days.”
Saying if he had more days, he could have convinced them more.
 - Close vote. Even he was surprised

- Why don't you just fine me? He was giving them suggestions.
- He thinks he is a good person of the society and teaches the people. He believes that society would not be better off without him.
- Death was a point he was trying to make. He was the wisest man around and they are going to put him to death.
 - He believed he was right, so if he took it back, everything he stood for would go away.
 - *Apology* way to leave his message.
 - Benefit for the people.
 - He doesn't want to live his life any other way. He wouldn't be allowed to speak anymore.
 - There was strategy to this also. Socrates was holding people back.
- Socrates knows he is wise.
 - He is wise in the fact that he knows he is not wise. Only god has the knowledge. Other people think that they are wise. It is his life mission to prove that they aren't.
- Socrates had a higher agenda?
 - Probably. Don't think that he was only doing this for the gods.
 - He seems arrogant.
 - By going around saying that they are wrong, he is proving that they are not wise.
- Contradicting himself?
 - He is saying that he is wise because he isn't wise. But he is saying that others are not wise because he is wise.
- Was it right giving them the sentence that he was given?
 - He did break the law, but was the sentence right?
 - Very often, when the *Apology* is discussed. They point out the similarities between him and Jesus Christ. The punishment was ridiculous. He was just a guy who was trying to make people smarter. He was the genius who has a lot of knowledge but has no social skills. He had all the w
 - If they're not going to kill him, he is going to continue doing the same thing.

- Not a lot of good things happen from dissenting opinions.
- Would he have gotten a different outcome if he had just apologized and not tried to justify?
 - No. It would have been worse. People were impressed by his argument.
 - The verdict would have been the same, but the punishment would have been different. They would have let him live out the rest of his life
- Famous quote – Old page 38a
 - If you just coast through life and not thinking about what you're doing in a philosophical sense, your life was worthless.
 - Many people are not used to examining their lives like this, so they may look down on Socrates.
 - Is it true?
 - Examined life is not necessary. If you examine your life and realize you're unhappy, it's not worth living.
 - Looking back on your life, you realize the good things, and bad things. Lots of people don't want to examine their life because they don't want to remember the bad things.
 - It's worth a lot. It helps us live life and try not to repeat mistakes.
 - If you don't examine your life, and you believe you are happy, you're being ignorant.

Cultures and Traditions China Module: "The Book of Songs" and Li Bo

I. Recommendations at the beginning of class

- 247: King Wen
- CC-10: Waking up Drunk on a Spring Day
- Theme: Wine
- 243: God on high
- CC-11: The Moon
- CC-3-242-249: Mandate of Heaven
- CC-5-194: Brothers
- CC9: Slip of the Tongue
- 241: Live good life
- CC7-276: Big rat
- CC8-9-271: Theme of biblical similarity to the book of songs, and also the theme of awakening
- CC-10: Mountain conversation
- 271: no topic description given
- CC11: Still night thoughts

II. Discussion Notes

- Li Bo seems to demonstrate a very laid back attitude (Taoism?)
- The poetry of China in general seems significantly more positive than Negritude Poetry
- Praise of nature and admiration of its beauty are very common things in Chinese poetry
- Wine and drunkenness are also very commonly occurring things
- "The Big Rat": What is it? A representation of an oppressor, a symbol taken from the Chinese Zodiac? Is it just a rat?
- Fighting South of the Ramparts: Similar to the sentiments about the Iraq War of 2004? (Soldiers have grayed, generals know less than before). Why would generals know less? Is it the increasing separation from the battle by acting as commanding officers rather than field generals?
- Brothers: Rings strongly of the Wabash attitude. Brothers are above friends, as they forge deeper bonds than friends regardless of the situation. What is the deeper meaning here? To expand upon the biological definition of brother? To display that persons who are closer than friends are brothers? It is difficult to say, as China seems to avoid black/white dichotomy.
- CC-9: Emphasizes respect and propriety. Contains a good amount of tidbits on culture.
- Religion in China: "God on High". God is oft interchangeable with the word "heaven" (recall the lecturer's description of the mandate of heaven). Ancestors appear to give blessings and receive praise from the living. Also, note that heaven's nature is displayed as unpredictable.

- Fair Girls: There is described a scene wherein a man is handed a red flute by a beautiful girl. What is the meaning of the flute? Is it just a flute? Is it the girl's blushing?
- Waking up Drunk on a Spring Day: The meaning of this poem seems to be "Don't worry about a thing." What is the man upset about? Is there even a reason to ask, considering the nature of the poem? This poem appears very Taoist in nature, after all.

Notes for discussion Mon. 11/10 (Confucius)

Passages:

2.1-virtue

4.1-enemies

3.7-never compete

4.3-humane man

9.22-respect for the young

12.2-definition of being humane

13.2-pride

12.7-government

8.14-also government

4.25-virtue

12.16-12.24-gentleman

15.38-education

8.2-virtue

4.2-humanity

13.3-names

14.31-criticism

8.9-common people made to follow it

7.21-constant desire to learn

7.7-treating everybody equally

5.12-worry about good stuff here, that will take you to heaven

13.23-long term solutions

17.2-we can all try, but some of us will excel.

The books have overall meaning.

Cultivation of culture through humanity.

Importance of humanity: respect and self-control.

Confucius' concept of gentleman: no grieve, no fear.

Competition for gentleman? No professional sports, rather leisure

Confucius' definition of a leader.

Do and not only talk about it-many instances in the reading.

Did C's disciples make stuff up about him?

Selections from the Mencius

EE1-EE2

Notes 11/12/08

Interest passages from Class

1A.7-Respect

1A.1-Prophet

1B.5-Weakness

4B4-How to govern

3A.4-Social interactions

6A6-Human Nature

6A8- Ox

6A7- Young people

7B14-Government

7A29-Pointless action

6A11-Humanity

2A8-Well and poor beginning

Interesting topics talked about in Class

-Similar to Confucius

-Confucius tried to avoid the topic of human nature

-Mencius talks about human nature

-Mencius added to the ideas of Confucius

-Recurring themes: Humanity, gentlemen, Behavior.

-He could be inspired by Confucius

-6A8- Ox mountain illustrated as a human heart, it was once beautiful but over time it became destroyed, but it can recover

-Why talk about this softer side?

Answer: could be giving them comfort at the time.

-Man is inherently good- people are good but it is there circumstances that cause them to do bad things

7B14-People are the most important

7B13

-Without a leader there is not one to lead

-ruler is top and bottom

2A6-a man without a feeling of right and wrong is not a man

-value human life

-Chinese believe good is having respect for society

-Chinese

5B8

-Fire beginnings

-Filip's ringtone went off in class at this point

-Right and Wrong is it wrong to steal food if you are starving?

-What is right and wrong?

-Humans have free will

-A human must have a goal

FF-2 Stump Watchers

-2 can't rule with old beliefs

-4 wealth

-10 names

-2 loving people as ruler

-5 enlightened ruler

-3 righteous ruler

-6 control of ministers

-4 increase in private interest

-7 rewarding people

-7 law makes people equal

2-5 Vermin

2-12 legalism

2- human nature

11- how to listen to words of others

What is the legalist way?

-besides strict punishments, they respect the law

Is the doctrine effective?

He would have fought Confucius

-talks of humanity, will lead to destruction and confusion

-past and present have different customs

Legalism is an ideal, maybe even darker

Page 8- Blanket story

-punish of person who didn't do their job

-punished person who did help for doing more than they are suppose to

Legalism is too strict and tells people to act a certain way

Do you think humans are born naturally good?

FF-2- saying, "depends on circumstances"

Han-fei gives Confucius credit but his ideas could not govern people

FF-4 Vermin

-Scholars, speechmakers, sword makers, merchants

-he is saying we should learn from ancient rules

-all of these people could bring outside influence

-he wanted to restrict people from escaping

-seems like he is trying to form dictatorship

-he gives advice to rules so they can rule their state

FF-10 Direction of ruler

-ruler should not be seen

-not show one's self it makes people respect him more

- You don't need ruler for legalism government
 - people think there is a powerful leader

Where do the laws come from?

- He seems to emphasize status quo
- draft law then send to minister who implements it
- Where did he form them?
 - Warring states period
 - trying to keep from conflict

First person to follow what he wrote became emperor of China

Does he care if ruler is good?

- doesn't have to be good natured
- has to be good enough at ruling where he doesn't abuse power

Han was raised in noble court while Confuc. Was raised in poor family.

- How was this influencing on both?
 - big effect on both
 - Han doesn't care about lower class
 - Confuc. Was 'down' with people

Topics:

GG3 lack of props

GG6- murder

GG13- song to father

GG13- rat faces audience

GG4- joke

GG8- destination

GG12- magistrate

GG35- rat's confession

GG11- law

GG29- fortune tellers

GG28- rat in temple

GG19- gov't worker

GG11- Tough punishment

What did you think of it because it was a play with themes from past readings?

-It was a political satire, ragging on legalism.

What did you think the moral was?

-You must fight against the system

-Purely legalist gov't is ineffective & harsh and must be combined with Confucianism also.

Discussion of pronunciation of Chinese words.

-Kuong Zhong pg 22 & 19 describes effects of legalism.

-Focus on duties before truth.

Wouldn't it be important to apply justice to right people?

-Far from utopia that the author indicated.

They did not give much change to prove innocence.

-Leader became arrogant

-Had right to suspect him though

-Just a bad string of events?

What do you guys think about using imagination in this play? Like on page GG3, the description on page.

-Yes but it is the same today

In intro, is the play optimistic?

-Yes, because justice will prevail but we must fight for it.

-Both points out good and bad.

-Too optimistic. Everything works out

-So he would have been killed?

-Maybe

What does the play say about women in society?

-Seems like they have a bigger role in this society than in others that we read.

-This society seems kinda like our society- on pg G8, neighbor says he was destined to be poor.

On page 18, Yo Lan mentioned being by Daoist temple. Does the quote "Be this way" have meaning to story?

-No, otherwise it would have meant "don't do anything."

Where is Confucianism in this story?

-GG23 "Humanity & justice worth more than 1000 pieces of gold."

-Leaders shown as inept.

How is Lou the Rat funny?

-Has aspect of comedy not only due to dialogue but by physical appearance.

-Lou shows cleverness and provides a sense of light-heartedness.

Are the people (characters and fortune tellers) doing what Confucious would do in their situation?

-Yes, I think so because it was complicated.

The method of interrogation was effective, but was it morally correct?

-Yes, it was just clever.

-For Lou the rat, it was perfect.

The audience knows what happens all throughout the play (as seen on GG13)

-Shows that that "murder" was not the main theme because we as the audience knew all along that he did it. But the main character did not know, so that was what made the story.

What about gambling and drinking in this story?

-Yes it shows the consequences of choices. For example, the lie started with a lie that came about because of drinking.

Could a lot of this story have been avoided?

-Yes, it was a series of unfortunate events that all added up.

Let's call it a day.

-Agreed.

Notes C&T 11-19-08

- P. hh2 #5= balance
- P. hh10 #61= female
- P. hh3 #3= moderation
- P. hh3 #8= competition is bad
- P. hh5 #25= Dao is great
- P. hh3 #10= profound and secret virtue (DE)
- P. hh10 #42= Ying and Yang
- P. hh10 # 48= pursuit of Dao
- P. hh4 #18= Confucianism
- P. hh9 #57= government
- P. hh4 # 17= legalism
- P. hh17= great rulers
- P. hh4 #15= no overflowing
- P. hh6 #30= good generals
- P. hh5 #25= what is Dao?
- P. hh2 #4= contradictions
- P. hh4 #18= Confucianism

1. Philip thought that the reading was lame and didn't like how the reading was so repetitive.
2. The view was expressed that the reading wasn't that bad and it relaxes one before doing other homework
3. Phil thought that the doctrine that states you should not take action is wrong and used the current bail out for the American economy as a point to support his argument
4. Some claimed that in terms of the auto industry bail out that why should you support a company that is going to die if they are just going to die a little later
5. We then moved to how the author thinks that one should just let things follow their course because if you try to change it, or mold it into your vision, the thing would just change back
6. The Dao is an interesting philosophy because you can't really see it, it also calls for you to give up your possessions and not be competitive which some think is against our human nature
7. Maybe people weren't naturally competitive, hh5 #25, argues against the claim that the Dao is unnatural
8. Competition has been around for such a long time that it might be just a creation of man, because if you look at everything they all competed to be the biggest and best in the world
9. Some think that competition is a good thing, if you have the proper rules set out then it is a good thing

10. People don't always follow the rules, OPEC is a prime example with a false price increase caused by a lack of production, which causes some countries to break OPEC and start producing
11. Competition causes production, it also creates an individual identity
12. Some think that Dao is a utopia, there is no conflict
13. Philip thought that the reading wants the reader to focus too much on reflection and not on actually living life
14. On page 2 he explains it more than action through non-action, some think the author just wants people to do an action and just let it be
15. Page 3 #14, felt that this section was different than a lot of other sections, which makes some think that there were multiple authors
16. The authors claims that if you just exist, then you exist forever, but if you have a reason for existence then you will fade out of existence
17. A common theme is that weapons and competition is bad, put in a feudal context this theory make a lot of sense, the culmination of the philosophy is that people should just live their life and try not to fight against others and cause problems
18. In a sense could Dao be critiquing other philosophers that we have read, did these other philosopher do their deeds out of selfishness or out of a desire to do good to the world
19. What do you think about his shots against legalism and Confucianism?
20. The reading claims that rulers should not have weapons, but rulers should shouldn't have a large public image
21. The points about rulers seem different, or to be driven a different point
22. The author doesn't like Confucius, calls him arrogant
23. Even legalism seemed to have some respect for Confucius
24. Dao seems to be arrogant in itself, it almost seems to be an elite thing
25. Page 9 #56, reminds some people of Socrates, because he claims that he knows nothing, if someone doesn't do anything then you can't attack them
26. he who speaks knows nothing, he who doesn't speak is knowledgeable
27. page 8 #48, the pursuit of learning is to learn everyday, the Dao states that for the Dao you decrease everyday, which means that the more you learn the less you are in contact with the Dao
28. there was a big discussion on what it means for one to learn and its relation to the Dao
29. page 8 #55, the authors talks about being an infant, a person being all virtuous
30. is an infant really all powerful?
31. It is a kind of maturity that causes the power, you know pride but you show humility
32. People are the most protective of infants

Notes for discussion Fri. 11/21 (Zhuang-zi)

Passages:

3e-respect all things

4h-what??

6c-transformation

2b-road becomes

6a-true man

7e-mocking Confucius

10c-fish

4g-no absolute truth

17c-fish

8a-tranquility

2c-the monkeys

7c-course of life

8h-six breaths

4,chapter 3-expertise in anything

10-18 happiness

9a-universe at peace

9b Confucius visits Laoza

Discussion:

Is it as good as Confucius and other previous texts?

This text is not as heavy, also funnier

Chapter 22, making fun of Dao

Universe wants to be in disorder, humans want order – they destroy the balance?

What exactly “taking no action” mean in Daoism?

Recent texts-different views on the feudal China

This text seems to emphasize the relativity of things

Death as just a new stage-CH 18

What’s natural for humans? Why, according to the followers of Dado are we here?

Would the philosophers of Dao want to build new highways? Probably not.

Can harmony ever be achieved?

The text tells us (again) no to try to learn from the ancient texts, experience is essential

Could you live the way of Dao and perhaps have a different religion (for example Christianity)?

Joel Bustamante

C&T Notes—Sun-zi (12/1)

Lempa Writes the Following:

JJ3 (8, 9)-5 Laws of Winning

JJ9(10)-False Info

JJ7(14)-Cost of War

JJ3(13)-Legalism

JJ2(3)-5 Factors

JJ9(13)-Secret Agent Usage

JJ8(5)-Secret Agents

JJ7(16)-Reverence

JJ6(3-5)-Long Wars

Class Begins:

- Allegedly Practical
- Warfare is based on Deception
- Warfare is Important to the Author
 - Lempa relates the reading to the War in Iraq
 - Gives a shallow argument/is dismissed quickly
- Price is high during war
 - Forrester draws comparisons
 - When the weapons are dull, one should attack
 - Also relates reading to Iraq
 - Provides a better argument than Lempa did
 - “The world wants to kill us”
- Enemy Spies
 - Can be bought/expendable
 - Spies are essential to warfare
 - Kevin makes a bad argument against James Bond being an unrealistic an impractical spy
 - Joel counters and wins the argument in a gracious manner
 - Dent aides Joel in his argument
 - The US has spies
 - Nobody really trusts double agents
 - Can they be trusted?
 - Apparently, only the wise can use double agents (Daoist train of thought?)
 - The captured soldiers are to be respected
 - So they can become double agents
 - Richard relates this to the Nazi's, and how the Russians shot their own guys this one time
 - Kevin
 - “[the theory]...assumes your enemy is an asshole”
 - JMoore
 - “They're all Chinese, so maybe the rules are different”
 - Kevin
 - “What're you trying to say?”
 - JMoore
 - “Genghis Kahn was able to unite the people by having them join the horde. He wasn't fighting Japanese Samurais; he was uniting the common people”

- Kevin
 - “Nobody cares about your opinion”
- Lempa brings up Iraq...again
- Is it possible to feed false info?
 - Forrester watches SpyTV
 - Correction: Forrester watches Foreign SpyTV/News
- Lempa
 - “Smoke a joint” (context was lost)
- Make sure you bribe the right people
- Get to know your spies
- Legalist and Confucian approaches to the readings
 - Dao is also mentioned
 - Presented as a “savior” religion
- Harmony is necessary
 - Lempa
 - “No, it’s not”
 - Being afraid of leaders is not harmony
 - Fear is respect
 - Tries to blend all 3 schools of thought
 - Leaders should be rigid and loveable
 - Shows principles of the Dao, not the Pure Dao
- Generally, make a General a good General
 - Vas is way too excited about the blood lust
- US doesn’t want war
 - We’re used to not having war
 - People complain a lot
 - The Rebuilding process is a pain, after war
 - Who’s to say who can conquer whom?
 - Change is rejected
 - Should we treat POW’s with respect?
 - Maybe
 - Lempa suggests giving them candy for secrets
 - Dent strongly suggests torture
 - JMoore agrees; torturing until you get the real secret spy stuff that you want to know

- Passage Selection
 - How to view it?
 - How was it made?
 - Slave trade?
 - African/primitive focus
 - Common items/bowls (p. 11)
 - Picture (p. 8)
 - First African art Ph.D. (p. 2)
 - How to exhibit this art (p. 10)
 - Coffins (p. 1)
- Do we have this problem with Western art in terms of context or environment?
 - The general work of art these days has no context, for example, abstract art
 - Art for art's sake
 - We don't have this problem because Western culture centers around written words and preservation
- How to view it?
 - The art has a meaning depending on how it is interpreted by the person
 - Art from a circumcision ceremony
 - Art from an execution
- What can we take in our culture and define it as art too?
 - Computer art
- We see more artistic qualities in different cultural points of view
- Losing touch with everyday art because people are accustomed to it
- **Art 1:** Man/horse on a stand
 - Spear is twisted
 - Man's head is curled back (hat)
 - Man is going to hunt rather than to fight in war
 - Art is from Mali (from the Sundiata area)
 - Most types of these sculptures are held on a spear instead of a stand
 - Hat on hunter from the art is on hunter or griot
 - Horse legs are straight
 - Hunter's legs are curled
 - Put in the entrance of family homes, in trees, grounds of funerals, and also appear during initiations
 - Different groups of people view these differently
 - Guard the tombs of ancestors
 - Made of iron
 - Blacksmiths were powerful people during Sundiata's age; therefore, the art is powerful
 - Iron from the Earth, art connected to Earth
- 1910 African Hall at the American Museum of Natural History

- Art with art makes art
 - It seems very symmetrical
 - Clustered
- Mask, Door lock, Heddle/Pulley, Figure, seated female holding bowl on head
 - Can everything be viewed as art?
 - Art is something that is not commonly seen by the people of the culture
- How do you define art?
 - Art is something that evokes feelings and communicates passion
 - Beauty
 - Creativity
 - But what about artists who take commonplace items and put them in different contextual situations
- Untitled, 1977. Ana Mendieta
- Respect to see art for art's sake
- False arch on campus last year
 - Played with people's emotions

Greek Art (12/10/08)

Important passages/ideas from class

- Pediments
- Athena Statue
- Power and Intelligence
- Battle of Sinter and Greeks
- MM2- Orders
- Frieze Horses
- The debate
- WXIV- Restraining a horse

Discussed in class

- It is interesting that one horse is going against the line in the Frieze
- Gold Athena is in Nashville
 - Clothes look really real
 - By the Gold it shows that she was really important
 - Athena was at the center
- Glorification of the god of wisdom, conquest of order over chaos
- More a symbol not a place of worship (the Frieze)
- The orders are different
- The pillars show the style of the city
- Doric order was associated with southern parts of Greece
- Ionic order was used more by the city states
- There is damage to the Frieze

- We have a drawing of what it once looked like
- The Frieze had such magnitude
- Pediments tell Stories
- Man in the center of the east pediment is Zeus
- East side was battle of gods and giants
- South side was centaurs and men
- Athena is a political statement
- Not many women
- Women were dressed, unlike the men
- Men's bodies were looked up upon
- Men have dramatic stances
- Women are just standing there

Chinese Art Notes (12/12/08)

Important passages/ideas from class

- Nature
- NN4-3b Formal Likeness
- Life Journey-Large branches of bamboo
- Significance of birds (Mtn birds)
- NN3- environment for paintings
- NN2- poems and paintings
- NN1-1A- Artist is extraordinary
- NN3-Tiger in the Cave
- Ancient iPod
- Ladies specialization
- Li Bo strolling (simple art)

What was Discussed

- “A large Branch of Bamboo”
 - Represented his life
 - Simple but Chaos
 - An artist can look at objects differently
 - Inspired by living among the Bamboo
- Lastly must have formal likeness
- First must be spiritual
- The birds are fighting (“Cassia, Chrysanthemums and Mountain Birds”)
- The Birds are personified
- “Monkeys in a loquat tree”
 - Personified the monkeys

“Fish Swimming amid Falling Flowers”

- Shows the Harmony
- Where is the top of the water?
- Playing with perspective
- The Fish are happy just swimming

“A solitary temple amid clearing peaks”

- details are so important
- people are a part of the world
- People are so much smaller than everyone else

“Fisherman Hermit at Locus Valley”

- Hermit is hard to find
- The men are not that significant as nature

“Mountain Market in Clearing Mist”

- Dark clearing the mist
- Does not use too much paint
- simply yet complex

“The emperor Tai-Zong”

- dressed as a confusion scholar (yellow dress)
- lots of colors

“Emperor Tai-Zi calling or Zhao Pu on a Snowy Night”

- propaganda of him being friends with normal citizens
- Snow paintings were traditionally peaceful
- Lady as a servant

“Ladies Preparing Newly Woven Silk”

- Shows women working

-Could show that they are the servants

“Li bo Strolling”

-People are not active unlike Greek and African

-Shown as wise

-Women were active