UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

School of English

Sophister Examinations
English Studies &
Two Subject Moderatorship

Trinity Term 2011

Tragic Patterns in Ancient Drama

Wednesday 11th May        Exam Hall        09.30-12.30

Dr Andrew Power

Visiting students must answer two questions.
(2 hour exam)

Junior Sophister students must answer two questions.
(2 hour exam)

Senior Sophister students must answer three questions.
(3 hour exam)

Be careful not substantially to repeat material.
All questions carry equal weight.
Please use separate answer books for each question.
1. Write about *dike* (justice) in any play or plays about the house of Atreus.

2. Discuss the portrayal or treatment of the foreigner (*xenos*) / or of hospitality (*xenia*) in any play that you have studied for this course.

3. Write about the dramatic use of the *skene* building in any two Greek tragedies.

4. In what ways does Greek tragedy connect the mythical and/or heroic past to the contemporary world of its audience?

5. “Silence is an ornament for women.” (*Ajax*, 293.) Discuss this in relation to any play or plays on the course.

6. What is meant by the term “tragic hero”? Write about how useful the term is in relation to two or more plays on the course.

7. Compare the presentation of the relationship between individual, family, and community in any two Greek tragedies.

8. Consider the presentation of the status and significance of kingship in Greek tragedy, with reference to at least two plays.

9. Write about curses, prophecies, and omens in any plays that you have studied for this course.

10. Write about the opposition of speech and action in any two tragedies on the course.

11. Write about the destructive force of love/passion in any play(s) on the course.
12. "Tragedy is itself a transgressive discourse." (Charles Segal) Write about transgression in any play or plays that you have studied for this course.