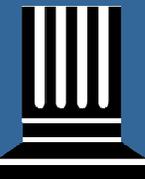
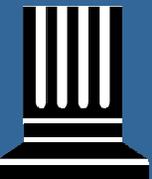




Euripides



- Euripides' Life and Career in the Theatre
- The Hippolytus Myth
- Hippolytus and Phaedra on Stage
 - Euripides' *Hippolytus Veiled*
 - Sophocles' *Phaedra*
- Euripides' *Hippolytus Garlanded*
- The Structure of Greek Tragedy



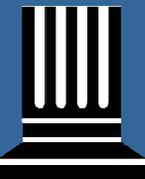
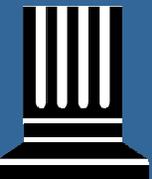


Euripides

Life and Career



- **Euripides** was born ca. 485 BCE and died in 406 BCE
- a younger contemporary of Sophocles
- from a reasonably well-off family
- no record of public service
- “surly and unconvivial,” i.e. uninterested in gaining popularity
- a fiercely independent thinker



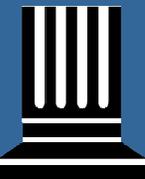
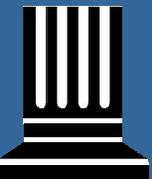


Euripides

Life and Career



- the earliest record of his producing a play is in 455 BCE
- but he did not win a first prize at the Dionysia until 441 BCE
- nineteen of his plays survive, which is more than the total extant from Aeschylus and Sophocles put together!
- Euripides was *very* popular after the Classical Age



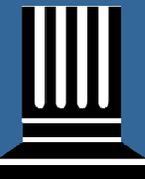


Euripides

Life and Career



- but he was not as popular as Sophocles during their lifetime
- won only five times total at the Dionysia
- and one victory was posthumous, which is an insult really
- all evidence points to a rocky and tempestuous love-hate relationship with the Athenian public



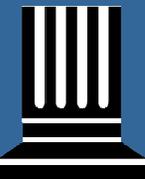
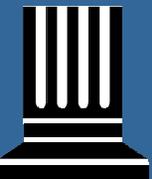


Euripides

Life and Career



- in the day, his plays were compelling but sometimes too controversial
- especially his portrayal of women, e.g.
 - Medea who murders her own children to spite her husband
- and the gods as vicious, arbitrary superbeings who worry less about their human devotees than their own personal standing in heaven



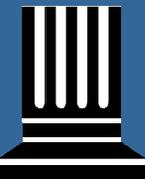
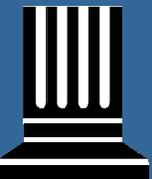


Euripides

Life and Career



- Euripides is the master of the *agon*
- every surviving play of his contains some sort of formal, legalistic debate
- in many ways, he is the “public defender” of Greek myth
- capable of arguing equally well any side of an issue
- cf. Pasiphae in *The Women of Crete*



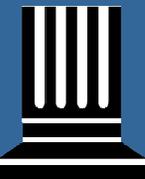
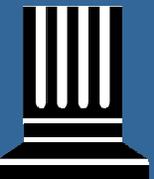


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- part of the cycle of myths about the pre-eminent Athenian hero **Theseus**
- set near the end of Theseus' life, after most of his daring adventures are past
- Theseus was the son of Aegeus and Aithra
- but his real father was Poseidon



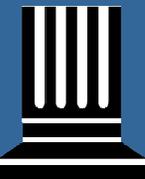


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- Poseidon impregnated Aethra at **Troezen**, a small city across the Saronic Gulf from Athens
- she abandoned her child there but left him a sword and sandals under a rock
- when Theseus grew up, he lifted up the rock and recovered these items



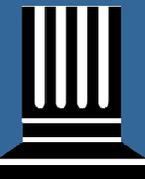
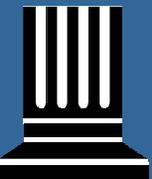


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- Theseus then made his way to Athens, performing “Herculean” labors along the way
- when he arrived in Athens, he was recognized as Aethra’s child by his sword and sandals
- Aegeus eventually accepted Theseus as his son and grew to love him very much



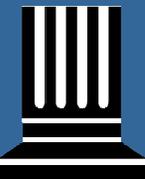
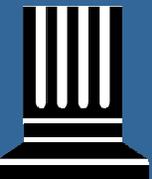


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- in this day, Athens was part of a great naval empire based in Crete
- the King of Crete, **Minos**, ruled this empire and imposed on the Athenians a fine levied in children who were sent to Crete and fed to the monstrous **Minotaur**
- the Minotaur was the half-bull half-human offspring of Minos' wife **Pasiphae**



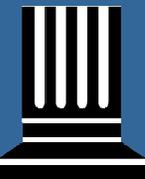
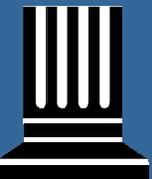


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- to keep the Minotaur from ravaging the Cretan public, a Greek engineer named **Daedalus** who was at the time living in Crete constructed a maze-like building called the **Labyrinth**
- Daedalus also invented wax wings which he used to fly away off of Crete and away from Minos' tyrannical control



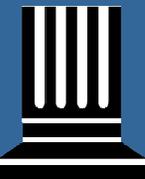
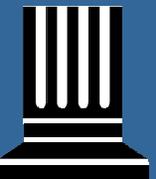


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- Daedalus also made wax wings for his son **Icarus**
- but being young and over-eager, Icarus flew too high and the sun melted the wax in his wings
- as his father watched, he fell to his death in the “Icarian” sea off the coast of Italy
- Daedalus built a temple to Apollo there in Icarus’ memory



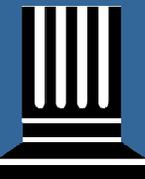
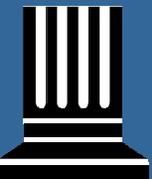


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- meanwhile back in Greece, Theseus volunteered to go as one of the child-hostages to Crete
- upon his arrival, **Ariadne**, the older daughter of Minos, saw the handsome Theseus and fell in love with him
- she gave him a dagger with which to kill the Minotaur and a spool of thread to find his way out of the Labyrinth



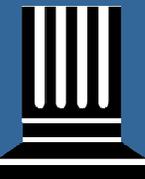


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- Theseus killed the Minotaur and escaped Crete by stealing a ship, again with Ariadne's help
- the pair ran off together but Theseus abandoned her on the island of Naxos
- Ariadne either died on Naxos or became the bride of the god Dionysus



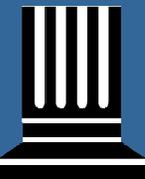
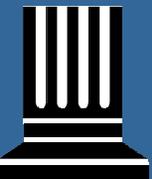


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- Theseus proceeded on to Athens but forgot to change the color of his sails to indicate that he had survived
- when Aegeus saw the wrong color of sail, he believed Theseus was dead and threw himself into the sea off Athens
- this sea is still called the “Aegean Sea”



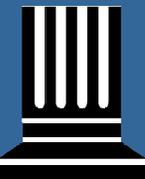
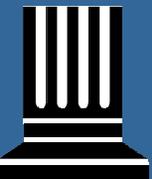


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- now the undisputed King of Athens, Theseus was attacked by a tribe of warrior-maidens called **Amazons**
- he defeated them in battle and took as his “spear-prize” their Queen **Hippolyta** and impregnated her
- she died soon thereafter in childbirth to a baby boy who was named **Hippolytus**



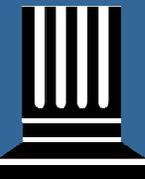
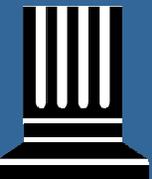


Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- Theseus then returned to Crete (!) and married Ariadne's little sister **Phaedra**
- he brought Phaedra back to Athens where they lived together happily
- they had two sons
- thus, Theseus ended up having two young legitimate sons and one older illegitimate child (Hippolytus) by his Amazon spear-prize





Euripides

The Hippolytus Myth



- as an adult, Hippolytus renounced all claim to the throne of Athens and became a priest of the goddess Artemis
- Artemis' priests are chaste and spend most of their time out in the woods hunting
- this choice reflects an odd predilection in the young man: love of his mother over his father

