

CLASSICS 3100E
Greek and Roman Drama
2014-15
Aara Suksi



The flight of Medea. Lucanian, ca 400BC, Cleveland Museum of Art.

Time and place: Tuesday 12:30-1:30 and Thursday 12:30-2:30, **Location TBA**

Instructor:

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3pm
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Description: We will study and discuss a selection of Greek and Roman tragic and comic drama, from Aeschylus to Seneca. Through a close reading of the texts of the plays, along with a consideration of the contemporary evidence available to us from Greece and Rome, we will explore how the plays respond to the problems and debates of their contemporary cultural contexts, to generic conventions, and to Greek and Latin literary traditions. We will consider the evidence for how the plays were performed, who their audiences were, and what were the occasions of performance. We will also see how Greek and Roman drama has made its mark on Western culture through history up to our own time.

Objectives: Students who complete this course successfully will have read closely in translation a representative survey of Greek and Roman dramatic texts. They will have gained some familiarity with the cultural contexts from which these plays originated. They will know what the evidence tells us about performance conditions and audiences of the plays, and they will be able to evaluate the limitations of that evidence. They will be able to compare the different forms of drama created by different authors at different times. They will have some understanding of the intertextual relationships among the assigned plays. They will be able to recognize some of the ways in which these plays have influenced many aspects of western culture.

Learning Outcomes: Successful students will develop expertise in closely reading literary texts and in analyzing evidence for the purpose of interpreting ancient texts. They will gain experience in developing a research project and an appropriate method for carrying it out. They will learn how to locate relevant scholarly resources, to evaluate them and to incorporate them into their research. They will communicate the results of their research in written form, observing the standards and format of the academic community. They will work in group discussions with peers to address critically questions and issues arising from the readings and they will communicate the results of this collaborative work orally and in other forms to the larger class group.

Texts:

- Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Aeschylus*: vol I. Oxford. 2011.
Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Aeschylus*: vol II. Oxford. 2009.
Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Sophocles*: vol I. Oxford. 2010.
Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Sophocles*: vol II. Oxford. 2009.
Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Euripides*: vol I. Oxford. 2010.
Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Euripides*: vol II. Oxford. 2010.
Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Euripides*: vol. IV. Oxford. 2009
Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, eds. *The Complete Euripides*: vol V. Oxford. 2011.
David Barrett, Shomit Dutta, trs. *Aristophanes: Frogs and Other Plays*. Penguin. 2007.
Maurice Balme, tr. *Menander: the Plays and Fragments*. Oxford. 2008.
Erich Segal, tr. *Plautus: Four Comedies*. Oxford, 2008.
Peter Brown, tr. *Terence: the Comedies*. Oxford. 2010.
Emily Wilson, tr. *Seneca: Six Tragedies*. Oxford. 2010.

All of the above have been ordered at the UWO Bookstore, and most are also available as Kindle Editions.

Evaluation

Essay Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due Tuesday October 14 **5%**
Students will produce an essay proposal and annotated bibliography. This assignment will provide a foundation for the research leading to the essay due in November (below).

Term Test Thursday October 23 **10%**
The term test will consist of a list of selected key terms for brief identification and a choice of short passages selected from the readings for commentary. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of both the assigned texts and key concepts learned in the classroom.

Research Essay due Thursday Nov. 27 **15%**
A research paper of about 2500 words. More information to come.

Term Test Thursday February 26 **10%**
Same format as fall term test (above).

Quizzes **10%**
Weekly five minute quizzes on the week's assigned readings. These quizzes will take place at the very beginning of every Tuesday class, and will consist of a simple question designed to test whether you have read the assigned text.

Research/Performance Project due Tuesday March 31 **15%**
In the winter term, students will propose and complete a research project that could be a second essay but could take other forms. More information to come.

Preparation and Participation **10%**
Students are expected to be present in class and prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Questions for group discussion will be pre-circulated on the course web-site. Students should be ready to share informed responses to these questions.

Final Exam **25%**
The final exam will consist of a list of selected key terms for brief identification and a choice of short passages selected from the readings for full commentary. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of both the assigned texts and key concepts learned in the course. There will also be a choice of essay questions, all of which will require a focused comparative analysis of the texts we have studied.

Important: Absence from a test or exam will result in a grade of zero. If extreme and unforeseeable circumstances prevent you from completing any of the above, you must let us know **as soon as possible** and also contact your Faculty Academic Counselor to request accommodation (see information box, below).

Please do not ask to do extra work to make up for a disappointing grade.

Tentative Schedule

Week of	Topic	Reading Assignment
Sept. 4 (Thurs only)	Course Introduction	
Sept. 9	Where did tragedy come from?	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>
Sept. 16	The City Dionysia	Aeschylus, <i>Libation Bearers</i>
Sept. 23	Ritual Sacrifice and Tragedy	Aeschylus, <i>Eumenides</i>
Sept. 30	History and Tragedy	Aeschylus, <i>Persians</i>
Oct. 7	Cosmic Tragedy	<i>Prometheus Bound</i>
Oct. 14	Electra revisited	Sophocles, <i>Electra</i>
Oct. 21	Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i> on Tragedy	Term Test Thursday October 23
Oct. 28 (Tues only)	<i>Polis</i> and <i>oikos</i>	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i>
Nov. 4	Gender and Greek Tragedy	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>
Nov. 11	Eros and Tragedy	Sophocles, <i>Women of Trachis</i>
Nov. 19	Tragedy and Homeric Epic	Sophocles, <i>Philoctetes</i>
Nov. 25	The evolution of Electra	Euripides, <i>Electra</i> Essay due Thurs. Nov. 27
Dec. 2 (Tues only)	Tragic Reciprocity	Euripides, <i>Alcestis</i>
Jan. 6	Troy in Euripidean Tragedy	Euripides, <i>Hecuba</i>
Jan. 13	"The New Music"	Euripides, <i>Iphigeneia at Aulis</i>
Jan. 20	Escape Tragedies	Euripides, <i>Helen</i>
Jan. 27	Redefining the heroic	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
Feb. 3	Dionysus on stage	Euripides, <i>Bacchae</i>
Feb. 10	Satyr Play	Euripides, <i>Cyclops</i>
Feb. 17	Reading Week	
Feb. 24	Aristophanes and Old Comedy	Aristophanes, <i>Thesmophoriazusae</i> Term Test Thursday February 26
Mar. 3	Performance of Old Comedy	Aristophanes, <i>Frogs</i>
Mar. 10	Greek New Comedy	Menander, <i>The Bad-tempered Man</i>
Mar. 17	Roman Comedy	Plautus, <i>The Braggart Soldier</i>
Mar. 24	Terence	Terence, <i>Brothers</i>
Mar. 31	Senecan tragedy	Seneca, <i>Thyestes</i>
Apr. 7 (Tues only)	Pre-exam review	

Policies and Processes

NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

PLAGIARISM: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>
[under the Medical Documentation heading]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.

WESTERN ACCESSIBILITY POLICY. Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services:

<http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

WESTERN SUPPORT SERVICES: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.