

UNIVERSITY of GUELPH
SCHOOL of LANGUAGES and LITERATURES
WINTER 2024
PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE

CLAS*3040: Greek Tragedy and Comedy

****Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.****

****Please see *WebAdvisor* for instructor information and classroom location.****

Course description:

This course will survey Greek (and Roman) tragedy and comedy, including the three canonical Athenian tragedians (Aeschylus, Euripides, and Sophocles), Aristophanes' comedies, and Seneca's brutal Neronian tragedies. It will combine close readings of a representative selection of plays with a broader examination of the genres' social and cultural functions.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Place Greco-Roman drama in its literary, cultural, social, political, and historical contexts, and develop the ability to read the plays for theme.
2. Develop a familiarity with the characteristics of tragedy and comedy as genres in antiquity.
3. Develop a broadened understanding of how to read and interpret Greek and Roman primary texts in translation, as well as how to produce a sophisticated research paper utilizing a range of quality secondary sources.

Course materials (required):

- Grene, David, and Richmond Lattimore (eds). 2013. *Aeschylus II: the Oresteia, Agamemnon, the Libation bearers, the Eumenides*. University of Chicago Press. 3rd Edition.
- Morwood, James (trans). 1998. *Medea; Hippolytus; Electra; Helen*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wilson, Emily (trans). 2010. *Seneca: Six tragedies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Assessment:

- 30% research paper
- 20% final exam
- 30% midterm paper
- 20% reading responses (x2)