



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CLASSICS PROGRAMME

CLAS 203/303: GREEK AND ROMAN DRAMA

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Study week: 20–24 October 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

This course is taught through a combination of lectures and tutorials. Students must sign up for a tutorial group using S-CUBED.

Lectures: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m., Hugh Mackenzie (HM) 002.

NOTE: There will be no Monday lecture in the weeks containing tutorials.

Names and contact details

Course coordinator and instructor: Dr. Simon Perris, Old Kirk (OK) 512, 04 463 5478

Office hours: by email appointment

Communication of additional information

Any additional information will be provided via announcements on Blackboard and, where necessary, notices on the entrance to the lecture theatre.

Prescription

A study of the Greek and Roman dramatists with special emphasis on the theatrical techniques of the authors and the means of production in the ancient theatre.

Course content

CLAS 203/303 covers the main ancient dramatic genres of Greek and Roman tragedy and comedy. We learn about how the ancient Greeks and Romans staged plays and investigate what these plays might mean for us thousands of years later.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass CLAS 203 should be able to:

1) describe the main formal elements of ancient drama;
2) discuss the development of the genres of Greek and Roman drama;
3) apply knowledge of ancient theatrical practices to specific examples from the set texts;
4) analyse theatrical, mythological, social, and other phenomena in the set texts.

Students who pass CLAS 303 should be able to:

1) describe, and identify examples of, the main formal elements of ancient drama;
2) discuss the development of the genres of Greek and Roman drama;
3) apply knowledge of ancient theatrical practices to specific examples from the set texts;
4) analyse theatrical, mythological, social, and other phenomena in the set texts;
5) synthesize readings in secondary scholarship with their own ideas about the set texts.

Teaching format

Teaching will take place in lectures and tutorials. The practical exercise will also take place during scheduled lectures.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. submit an essay;
2. attend ALL FOUR lectures for the the in-class practical exercise (unless a reasonable, documentable excuse for absence is communicated to the course coordinator) and submit an individual commentary on their own group's scene;
3. attend AT LEAST FOUR tutorials;
4. sit the final examination.

Workload

Students should expect to spend on average fourteen hours per week on this course: two hours preparing for each lecture (more preparing for tutorials), three hours a week attending lectures and tutorials, and five hours a week in general reading, revision, and preparing written assignments. The estimated total workload for the course, all inclusive, is 200 hours.

Assessment

Assessment for CLAS 203 and 303 comprises **50% internal assessment** and **50% external assessment (final examination)**. CLAS 203 students can earn up to 10% for tutorial assignments; CLAS 303 students will not submit tutorial assignments.

CLAS 203 assessment		%	CLO(s)	Due
1	Tutorial assignments (1–2pp): 2.5% ea, score for best 4/6	10%	ALL	
2	Individual commentary on group practical exercise (1000–1200 words)	20%	1, 3, 4	8 Sep
3	Research essay (1500–2000 words)	20%	2, 3, 4	10 Oct
4	Final examination (2hrs)	50%	ALL	TBA

CLAS 303 assessment		%	CLO(s)	Due
1	Individual commentary on group practical exercise (1200–1500 words)	20%	1, 3, 4	8 Sep
2	Annotated bibliography for research essay (2pp, 4–6 items)	10%	5	26 Sep
3	Research essay (2000–2250 words)	20%	2, 3, 4, 5	10 Oct
4	Final examination (3hrs)	50%	1, 2, 3, 4	TBA

Tutorial assignments (CLAS 203 only): weekly (10% total)

CLAS 203 students hand in a tutorial assignment to their tutor at the start of each tutorial. Each assignment is worth 2.5%, and you will receive points for your best four, for a total of 10%. For tutorials 1–3 and 5–6, choose ONE of the tutorial preparation questions and write a brief (1–2pp) response to that question, focusing on your interpretation of the play or plays. Although these are not formal essays, you must write in proper sentences and paragraphs, and you must make a sensible, intelligible point or points. To receive credit for the tutorial assignment, you must stay for the tutorial. Tutorial assignments will be graded on the following scale: unsatisfactory = 0/satisfactory = 1.5/good = 2.5. Marking criteria are as follows: clarity of written expression; demonstrated preparation for the tutorial; evidence of independent thought about the question.

For tutorial 4, write a brief (< 2pp) essay plan for your research essay, including (i) a list of at least three important passages from the primary text(s) accompanied by a few sentences for each passage explaining why each passage is important, (ii) a list of at least three relevant secondary sources dating from no earlier than 1975, accompanied by a few sentences for each source summarising the source and explaining its relevance, and an outline of your argument (research question, paragraphs, and conclusions/hypotheses).

Practical & commentary: 8 Sep (203: 20%, 1000–1200 words; 303: 20%, 1200–1500 words)

This assessment comprises a group exercise and an individual written commentary. In a prearranged group you will devise and stage a 5-minute performance of any scene from any Greek play covered in this course. The performances will take place during regular scheduled lectures (in weeks 4–5), as will an introductory session and a workshop session. You will then write a reflective commentary on the scene and your group's staging of it. You can modify or adapt a scene if you wish, but your commentary must address the rationale behind your changes.

Attendance at all four relevant classes, and participation in the group performance activity, are mandatory course requirements; the mark is awarded for the commentary itself.

Marking criteria for the commentary are as follows: clarity of written expression; evidence of deep reflection on the group exercise and its significance for understanding ancient drama; clear analysis of the source material; and demonstrated understanding of relevant ancient theatre practices. In addition, CLAS 310 students are expected to incorporate evidence from scholarship about their chosen play and/or scene (at least three items) into their commentary. Students with a legitimate excuse for missing the group exercise can negotiate with the course coordinator to submit, instead, an extended scenic commentary on one of the plays in the course.

Annotated bibliography for essay (303 only): 26 September (10%, 2 pages = 5 items)

CLAS 303 students will submit a 2-page annotated bibliography of secondary sources read in preparation of the research essay. Once you have chosen an essay topic, independently find 4–6 secondary readings pertinent to your essay question, dating from no later than 1975. At least one of these must be a single-author book and at least one must be a journal article or book chapter. Read these items carefully. For each item on your annotated bibliography, list the item with a full bibliographical reference, briefly summarise its main findings, and discuss its bearing on your essay question and/or hypotheses. Do you agree with its findings? What does it contribute to your answer?

Research essay: 10 October (203: 20%, 1500–2000 words, 303: 20%, 2000–2250)

This assessment tests your ability to synthesize readings and lectures about ancient drama into an argumentative essay which follows the main conventions of academic writing. Essay topics will be distributed via Blackboard.

Final examination: date TBC (50%; 203: 2hrs; 303: 3hrs)

The final examination will assess knowledge of the entire course, combining elements of the tutorials, practical exercise and commentary, and in-term essay.

Submission and return of work

Submit written work in hard copy, with a Classics coversheet attached; these are available from outside the Classics office, OK 508. Submit text analyses and essays via the assignment box outside OK 508. Tutors will collect CLAS 203 tutorial assignments at the start of the relevant tutorial and return them in the following class. Other work can be collected from the Classics office. We aim for a two-week turnaround, although the university standard is three.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

In the event that you require an extension, you must apply to your tutor **in advance**. All reasonable consideration will be taken; you may be required to provide a medical certificate or other documentation. In particular, please tick the box denoting the granting of an extension on the Classics coversheet.

Penalties

In the absence of a formal extension, late written work will be penalised 2% per working day (that is, 2 marks of the overall grade out of 100 for that particular piece of work). Work that exceeds the set word limit may also receive a penalty, or may only be read and graded up to the set word limit.

Set texts

Aristophanes, *Aristophanes: Birds and Other Plays*, trans. Stephen Halliwell (Oxford 1998): contains *Birds*, *Lysistrata*, *Assembly-Women*, *Wealth*

Menander, *Plays and Fragments*, trans. N. Miller. (Penguin 1987)

Plautus, *Four Comedies*, trans. E. Segal (Oxford 1996): contains *Braggart Soldier*, *Brothers Menaechmus*, *Haunted House*, *The Pot of Gold*

Aeschylus, *Aeschylus I: Oresteia* (Chicago)

Sophocles, *Sophocles II* (Chicago): contains *Ajax*, *Women of Trachis*, *Electra*, and *Philoctetes*

Euripides, *Heracles and Other Plays* (Penguin 2002): contains *Heracles*, *Ion*, *Helen*, *Cyclops*

Recommended reading

A reading list will be posted on Blackboard.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz