



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CLASSICS PROGRAMME CLAS 401: TOPIC IN LITERARY GENRE 30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 & 2 2014 (FULL-YEAR)

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

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

Seminars: Thursday, 10am–12pm midday, OK 526 (Classics Museum)

Names and contact details

Lecturer and course coordinator

Dr. Simon Perris

Old Kirk (OK) 512

(04) 4635478

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Office hours TBA

Communication of additional information

Any additional information will be provided via Blackboard and/or VUW student email addresses.

Prescription

An author or genre of ancient literature for presentation, discussion and contextual analysis.

In 2014, this course is on Euripides, perhaps the most influential, most 'modern', and most maligned ancient dramatist. By reading and discussing works by Euripides, Sophocles, Aristophanes, and Aristotle (in English translation), we will reconsider the place of Euripidean tragedy in the history of drama.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) demonstrate detailed knowledge of a number of ancient texts;
- 2) place individual texts within their historical, social, and cultural context;
- 3) gather, evaluate, and weigh up scholarly interpretations of ancient literature;
- 4) assess the importance and influence of ancient authors from the classical period to the present;
- 5) conduct independent, critical, analytical research on the topic and synthesize that research into a formal argument.

Teaching format

CLAS 401 is taught via weekly two-hour seminars. The first half of a given class consists of a ca. 45-minute presentation by the lecturer or one or more of the students on the set topic and readings for that week. The second half consists of guided discussion and/or other activities working through the material delivered in the presentation. Students will have the opportunity to lead two sessions throughout the year, with sessions to be apportioned in the first week.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Lead or co-lead two seminars
2. Submit two essays
3. Sit the final examination

Workload

Students should expect to spend, on average, twelve hours per week on this course: two hours in class, four hours reading, four hours preparing assignments, and two hours on revision.

Assessment

The assessment for CLAS 401 comprises **50% internal assessment** and **50% external assessment (final examination)**.

CLAS 401 assessment		%	CLO(s)	Due
1	Seminar leadership (x2)	10%	1–4	TBC
2	Essay 1 (2500–3000 words)	20%	2–5	3 Jun
3	Essay 2 (2500–3000 words)	20%	2–5	8 Sep
4	Examination (3 hours)	50%	ALL	TBC

Seminar leadership (two sessions, 5% each)

Students will lead or co-lead two seminars in the year, opening with a ca. 45-minute presentation on that week's topic and set readings. In the second half of the class, seminar leaders will facilitate group discussion and/or other group activities.

Essay 1 (2500–3000 words, 20%)

Due: Tuesday 3 June

Write an argumentative essay in response to the following question:

Do we need the concept of 'tragicomedy' to understand Euripides' <i>Alkestis</i> ?
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Essay 2 (2500–3000 words, 20%)

Due: Monday 8 September

Choose your own topic for a second argumentative essay on one or more specific ancient plays covered in this course. Most students will likely find that they wish to research material related to their own seminar presentation(s). Please confirm your topic with me before commencing writing.

Examination (three hours, closed book, 50%)

Date: TBC, in the university examination period

The final examination will test students' understanding of the entire course, and ability to synthesize material, through gobbets and essays.

Marking criteria

Formal written work will be assessed according to the mechanics of formal writing (presentation, referencing, style, paragraphs, etc); clarity of expression; appropriate and effective use of evidence (primary and secondary); and quality of analysis. Written work will also be assessed with respect to proper treatment of primary and secondary evidence, and proper understanding of the relative merits of primary and secondary evidence. Essays in particular will also be assessed according to use of essay form and clarity of argument. The final examination will assess knowledge of the entire course (across all CLOs). Seminar leadership will be assessed on clarity of presentation, coverage of relevant material, and quality of analysis and interpretation.

Set texts

Aristotle, *Poetics* (trans. Kenny, Oxford World's Classics)

Euripides II: Andromache, Hecuba, The Suppliant Women, Electra ((The Complete Greek Tragedies **third edition**, edited by Griffith, Most, Grene, and Lattimore)

Euripides III: Heracles, The Trojan Women, Iphigenia among the Taurians, Ion (The Complete Greek Tragedies **third edition**, edited by Griffith, Most, Grene, and Lattimore)

Euripides IV: Helen, The Phoenician Women, Orestes (The Complete Greek Tragedies **third edition**, edited by Griffith, Most, Grene, and Lattimore)

Greek Tragedies III: Aeschylus: Eumenides; Sophocles: Philoctetes, Oedipus at Colonus; Euripides: Bacchae, Alcestis (The Complete Greek Tragedies **third edition**, edited by Griffith, Most, Grene, and Lattimore)

You must also have access to Aristophanes, *Frogs* and *Women at the Thesmophoria* in a reputable translation such as Barrett and Dutta's Penguin Classics volume.

Submission and return of work

Submit written work in hard copy, with a Classics coversheet attached, to me in person. I will return written work, with comments, in person.

Extensions

In the event that you require an extension, you must apply to me **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 work will be penalised 5% per working day. Work that exceeds the set word limits may also receive a penalty, or may only be read and graded up to the set word limit.

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

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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz