

CLA391-2000: Ancient Laughter: Comic Tradition in Greece and Rome

Online Summer II 2021

Instructor: Rosemary C. Condella

Email: rcondella@uri.edu

REQUIRED READING LIST

- The books are listed here in the order in which we shall read them in the course.
 - Please make sure that you purchase the correct translation.
 - If you choose to purchase an alternate translation, I cannot guarantee that you will have the same set of readings/plays.
 - Beware of free online versions. These are almost always outdated translations – outdated by 100 years, sometimes.
 - ISBN numbers are included here to ensure that you acquire the correct text.
1. ***Aristophanes: The Complete Plays***, The New Translations by Paul Roche. New American Library. 2005.
 - ISBN: 978-0-451-21409-6
 2. ***Menander: The Plays and Fragments***, translated by Maurice Balme. Oxford World's Classics. 2008.
 - ISBN: 978-0-19-954073-0
 3. ***Plautus: Four Comedies***, translated by Erich Segal. Oxford's World's Classics. 2008.
 - ISBN: 978-0-19-954056-3
 4. ***Terence: The Comedies***, translated by Peter Brown. Oxford's World's Classics. 2009.
 - ISBN: 978-0-19-955603-8
 5. ***Petronius: Satyricon***, translated by Sarah Ruden. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. 2000.
 - ISBN: 978-0-87220-510-9

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course exams the nature and function of humor and comedy in the ancient world and today. We will cover ancient Greek and Roman dramatic comedies, the nature of humor and laughter in the ancient world, the ancient sources of modern comedy, and what is funny today and yesterday. In so doing, we will examine and learn to apply various theories of analysis. All readings will be in English translation.

GENERAL EDUCATION

General Education Category for students enrolled before the 2016-2017 Academic Year:

Fine Arts & Literature Integrated Skills: Read Complex Texts; Write Effectively; Use of Qualitative Data

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- You will be able to identify the main categories of ancient comedy.

- You will be able to analyze ancient comedies from various theoretical perspectives.
- You will be able to compare and contrast ancient comedies with those of other cultures, both ancient and modern.

OR

General Education Learning Outcomes for students enrolled first in the 2016-2017 Academic Year or later:

Humanities Knowledge Area (Outcome A3) Global Responsibilities (Outcome C2)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

A3 Humanities Knowledge Area 2

- You will be able to identify facts, vocabulary, definitions, terms, and concepts necessary for reading Ancient Greek and Roman comedies in translation.
- You will be able to recognize concepts and tools relevant to reading Ancient Greek and Roman comedies.
- You will be able to ask questions relevant to the analysis and comprehension of Ancient Greek and Roman comedies.
- You will be able to collect information relevant to the analysis and comprehension of Ancient Greek and Roman comedies – e.g. use of various translations, secondary scholarly works, literary dictionaries and other reference works.
- You will be able to apply the concepts and terminology relevant to interpreting the meaning and themes of Ancient Greek and Roman comedies.
- You will be able to evaluate support for claims and justify conclusions on the interpretation of Ancient Greek and Roman comedies.

C2 Global Responsibilities

- You will develop a sense of Global Identity and become aware of the dependence of modern culture(s) on ancient Greek and Roman culture by reading Ancient Greek and Roman comedies in translation.
- You will gain a sense of the importance of Global Communication and the importance of language as a conveyor of cultural values and especially of the importance of cultural sensitivity in translation through reading, comparison and discussion of various translations of Ancient Greek and Roman comedies.
- You will gain new perspectives on the development of Global cultures by examining the cultural values and norms revealed in Ancient Greek and Roman comedies.

COURSE GOALS

- To define “COMEDY” usefully & appropriately.
- To become familiar with the broad outlines of Greek and Roman comedy and a selection of specific comedic works.
- To recognize the influence & importance of ancient comedy today: literature, movies, television, theater, and art.

THE NATURE OF AN ONLINE COURSE

- This course will run exclusively online via the Brightspace Learning Management System (LMS). The course is asynchronous – this means that we shall never meet in person, but you shall complete your work within a specified timeframe. In this course, assignments open and close on a weekly basis. While some people enjoy this type of course, others find it extremely challenging. Please check the Weekly Course Schedule for all due dates. Feel free to access and utilize the materials and various components of the Brightspace course whenever you like. Brightspace is open for business 24/7.
- This online course contains the same amount of content and coursework as a normal semester-long course. I have taken no short-cuts in that respect, although I have made some adjustments in the types of assignments and graded materials which I have incorporated into the course. In other words, just because this is a shorter, online course, do not expect to do less work. In fact, you may feel that you are doing more work. This is the nature of an intensive online summer course. We have approximately 1/3 the time to complete the work of a full semester.
- You have chosen to take this online course of your own free will. GE/Core courses are offered in person on a regular basis during the semesters. You specifically chose this particular course. This means that you accept responsibility for the technology which we shall be using. The main internet platform which we shall use this semester is the Learning Management System (LMS) Brightspace. Please acquaint yourselves with Brightspace and this particular course design. You are also responsible for checking your URI email account on a regular basis throughout the course. Make sure that your Brightspace notifications are active – course communication is primarily via Brightspace notices.
- It is strongly recommended that you install the Brightspace app called Pulse on your smartphone. You can read files, take quizzes, post discussion board comments, and receive important course notifications with this app.
- N.B. If you are taking this course long distance and are not in the same time zone as URI (Eastern Time), please note that all due dates correspond with Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

GRADING

- All grades will be calculated and posted using the Gradebook on Brightspace.
- The following scale will be used:

A	93.5-100
A-	89.5-93.49
B+	86.5-89.49
B	83.5-86.49
B-	79.5-83.49
C+	76.5-79.49
C	73.5-76.49
C-	69.5-73.49
D+	66.5-69.49
D	59.5-66.49
F	0-59.49

Assignments

- Reading Quizzes 40%
- Forum/Discussion Posts 35%
- Final Paper 25%

Reading Quizzes (40%)

- 3 multiple choice, true/false quizzes per week based on the readings and PPT lectures on Brightspace.
 - 10 questions per quiz.
 - 15 quizzes total, the lowest grade will be dropped.
 - Quizzes open on Mondays at 8am and are due at the end of the week on Friday, midnight (11:59pm) with a make-up grace period until Sunday at midnight (11:59pm).
 - 2 attempts, 30-minute time limit.
 - During the first week of the course all materials are due on Sunday, midnight (11:59pm) so that students who register late during the drop/add period may participate in the first week's assignments without penalty. First week's extension available until Tuesday in Week 2.
 - No personal make-ups or extensions are allowed for the reading quizzes.
 - The quizzes will test the following criteria
 - **Mastery** of facts (including characters and plots), vocabulary, definitions, terms, and concepts necessary for understanding and interpreting Ancient Comedy & Satire in translation.

Forum Posts (35%)

- Students will post 1 initial post and 2 response posts per week across three discussion boards, according to their assigned discussion group.
- Students will be divided into three (3) discussion groups with up to 8-9 students in each group, depending on the final size of the class roster.
- Due to the heavy roster fluctuation that occurs during the open add/drop period in Week 1 of the course, students will receive their group assignment on Wednesday evening in Week 1.
 - If new students register after Wednesday, they will receive a group assignment within 24 hours.
- For each due date, two groups will be active, and one group will be passive. The groups will rotate through the week so that two groups will always be active and participating on the forums, and the third group will be passive. The groups responsible for posting will be indicated in each Forum/Discussion.
- For example, this is the Monday schedule:
 - Group A – active – posts the initial post using the provided prompt. Minimum 200 words. Graded on a 10-point scale.
 - Group B – active – responds to at least two (2) of Group A's initial posts. Minimum 100 words. Graded on a 10-point scale.
 - Group C – passive – responsible for reading all the forum posts (this information is available to the instructor in Brightspace – so I know if you have read the posts or not). No grade.
- Weekly Forums/Discussions will be open from Monday at 8:00am until Friday at 11:59pm (midnight).

➤ N.B. This course is five (5) weeks long with three (3) posts per week, therefore there are a total of fifteen (15) weekly posts. Each group will post first five (5) times, respond five (5) times, and read five (5) times as we rotate through the schedule.

- The weekly forum posts will assess the following criteria
 - **Knowledge** of the assigned readings, relevant terms and concepts necessary for understanding and interpreting Ancient Comedy and Satire.
 - **Recognition** of concepts and tools relevant for appropriate analysis of Ancient Comedy and Satire.
 - **Discussion** of issues of **Global Identity, Global Language, and Global Impact**, as they relate to Ancient Comedy and Satire.

Final Paper (25%)

- 4-7 page paper (1200-2000 words)
- Due on Sunday, midnight (11:59pm), at the end of Week 5
- Papers will be submitted to the Final Paper assignment on the Assignments tab on Brightspace.
- Word documents or PDF files only.
- Late submissions will incur penalty.
- A grading rubric is attached to the Paper Assignment on Brightspace.

The term paper will be graded according to the following criteria:

- **Spelling & Grammar** – There is no excuse for poor spelling and grammar. All Word programs highlight spelling and grammar mistakes. Also try www.paperrater.com and www.grammarly.com for spelling and grammar assistance. One website which is exceptionally helpful for paper writing is The Owl at Purdue (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). Make sure you proofread!
- **Thesis statement** – Provide a clear thesis statement in your introductory paragraph. I should know in the first paragraph exactly what you intend to discuss in your paper. I should not have to search for it.
- **Structure** – Every essay, even the shortest, should have a clear introduction, body and conclusion.
- **Clarity** – Do you make your points clearly? I should not be confused. Eschew obfuscation!
- **Support** – Any claim you make in an essay should be well grounded with direct quotes from the text.
- **Citations** – Cite everything. Everything. Every essay you turn in should have an attached works cited page. This includes the movies. MLA format preferred.

Additional Writing Assignment Expectations

- Make your essays are no longer than the specified length. If you exceed the word count, I will return the paper to you unread and ungraded and require you to edit it to the appropriate word count.
- Do not make up your own writing assignment. I will not accept an off-topic paper.
- Turn in your essays on time. There will be a penalty for late papers. This will allow me time to read and grade your essay and return it to you in time for you to write your next essay. I intend to make many comments on your papers and I want to make sure that you have enough time to review my comments and prepare your next essay.
- Use a consistent writing format – MLA.

Plagiarism

I do not take plagiarism lightly. Below is my basic policy for instances of plagiarism.

- **First instance** – receive a grade of 0% for the assignment. Receive a written warning via email, outlining the plagiarism/cheating offense.
- **Second instance** – failure of the course and full report to the appropriate academic officers, including: department chair, advisor, class dean, dean of students, dean of arts and sciences.

If you are uncertain what qualifies as plagiarism, please see the Plagiarism module on Brightspace for my Plagiarism PowerPoint, ID flowchart, and Plagiarism checkers.

Disabilities Notice

URI is committed to providing equal access for students with disabilities to all of its programs and services in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability that entitles you to instructional or other accommodations, you need to register with Disability Services for Students, Office of Student Life, 330 Memorial Union, 401-874-2108. Disability Services for Students will provide you with letters of accommodation for your professors as appropriate. You should speak with or email your professor as soon as possible (ideally within the first week of class) to discuss arrangements for implementing your accommodations. Your accommodations letter can be submitted via email.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's name on any written work, quiz or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own independent thought and study. Work should be stated in the student's own words, properly attributed to its source. Students have an obligation to know how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite and reference the work of others with integrity. The following are examples of academic dishonesty.

- Using material, directly or paraphrasing, from published sources (print or electronic) without appropriate citation
- Claiming disproportionate credit for work not done independently
- Unauthorized possession or access to exams
- Unauthorized communication during exams
- Unauthorized use of another's work or preparing work for another student
- Taking an exam for another student
- Altering or attempting to alter grades
- The use of notes or electronic devices to gain an unauthorized advantage during exams
- Fabricating or falsifying facts, data or references
- Facilitating or aiding another's academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same paper for more than one course without prior approval from the instructors.

CLA391 Ancient Comedy Course Schedule Online Summer II 2021

(The Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule is the recommended reading and work pace for this course.)

Week	Day	Reading	Assignment
WEEK 1	Monday	Aristophanes, <i>Clouds</i>	Quiz #1 Discussion Post #1
	Wednesday	Aristophanes, <i>Birds</i>	Quiz #2 Discussion Post #2
	Friday	Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i>	Quiz #3 Discussion Post #3
WEEK 2	Monday	Aristophanes, <i>Women at the Thesmophoria</i>	Quiz #4 Discussion Post #4
	Wednesday	Aristophanes, <i>Frogs</i>	Quiz #5 Discussion Post #5
	Friday	Menander, <i>Dyskolos (The Grouch)</i>	Quiz #6 Discussion Post #6
WEEK 3	Monday	Menander, <i>The Girl from Samos (Samia)</i>	Quiz #7 Discussion Post #7
	Wednesday	Plautus, <i>The Braggart Soldier (Miles Gloriosus)</i>	Quiz #8 Discussion Post #8
	Friday	Plautus, <i>The Brothers Menaechmus (Menaechmi)</i>	Quiz #9 Discussion Post #9
WEEK 4	Monday	Plautus, TBA	Quiz #10 Discussion Post #10
	Wednesday	Terence, <i>The Girl from Andros (Andria)</i>	Quiz #11 Discussion Post #11
	Friday	Terence, <i>The Brothers (Adelphoe)</i>	Quiz #12 Discussion Post #12
WEEK 5	Monday	Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i>	Quiz #13 Discussion Post #13
	Wednesday	Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i>	Quiz #14 Discussion Post #14
	Friday	Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i>	Quiz #15 Discussion Post #15
	Sunday		FINAL PAPER DUE