

CLASSICAL WORLD DRAMA
THE 4213 3 credits Fall 2015
Professor Tom Atkins Office AL 185
T/Th 2:30-3:50 PM AH 112
Office hours: T, W. Th 12:00-1:50 PM
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PURPOSE: This course offers a critical examination of selected classical dramatic works, from the Greek era through the Elizabethan, French Neo-classical, Restoration and Spanish Golden Age, with emphasis on their original staging and contemporary interpretations. Other areas to be considered include the social and historical context of the plays, as well as dramaturgical matters such as story, character, structure, and language. Film examples of some of the plays will be shown.

TEXTS:

***ELECTRA* BY SOPHOCLES AND EURIPIDES**
GREEK TRAGEDIES, VOLUME 2
DAVID GRENE AND RICHARD LATTIMORE, EDITORS
(UNIV. OF CHICAGO EDITION, ISBN 0226307751)

EVERYMAN AND OTHER MIRACLE AND MORALITY PLAYS
(DOVER EDITION)

SHAKESPEARE'S ***THE WINTER'S TALE***
(PELICAN SHAKESPEARE EDITION)

***THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL* BY RICHARD SHERIDAN**
(NICK HERN BOOKS, ISBN 1854594206)

***TARTUFFE* BY MOLIÈRE (TRANSLATION BY RICHARD WILBUR)**
(HARCOURT BRACE PAPERBACK)

***FUENTE OVEJUNA* BY LOPE DE VEGA**
(NICK HERN BOOKS, ISBN 9781848420236)

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Attendance: see policy below. Participation and completed assignments (10%), three examinations (30% each). No extra credit opportunities will be offered.

"To make theatre all I need is a platform and a passion or two."—Lope de Vega

The professor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus.

SCHEDULE :

- Aug. 18 Introduction to Course objectives.
Q/A with students on nature of classical drama, how to interpret a classical script; consideration of the context of time, place, politics, social and cultural values expressed in the play. Plays in translation.
- 20-27 Read for discussion Sophocles and Euripides' ELECTRA.
The Festival of Dionysus and the choral structure of Greek drama.
Students: bring images of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon and the Greek gods and goddesses and heroes associated with the Trojan War and its aftermath. Michael Cacoyannis's adaptation of Euripides' ELECTRA.
- Sept. 1-15 Read the following Medieval Mystery plays: CREATION OF ADAM AND EVE, FALL OF MAN, CAIN AND ABEL, NOAH'S FLOOD, ABRAHAM AND ISAAC, and the Morality play EVERYMAN.
Discussion of the nature of Medieval drama and relation to Medieval society and religion. National Theatre production of *The Mysteries*.
- Sept. 17 EXAMINATION #1
- 22-Oct. 8 Read for discussion THE WINTER'S TALE.
"A sad tale's best for winter."
Shakespeare's life and times, stage production in Elizabethan England, modern productions, analysis of the play, mythic nature of the story, sources of the script. RSC production of *The Winter's Tale*.
- 13-22 Read & analyze for discussion THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.
Life and times of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, influence of Restoration comedy, nature of satirical comedy, modern revivals.
- Oct. 27 EXAMINATION #2
- 29-Nov. 10 Read & analyze for discussion TARTUFFE.
Moliere's life and background. Influence of Commedia dell'Arte on his plays. Stage production in his day, modern revivals. Who is Tartuffe?
- 12-24 Read & analyze for discussion FUENTE OVEJUNA.
The world of Lope de Vega, the Golden Age of Spanish drama, analysis of the play's political and social context, the notion of honor in Spanish society, the love debate within the play, the ensemble or group hero.
- Nov. 26 THANKSGIVING
- Dec. 8 FINAL EXAM

1. **Students with Disabilities (Suggested statement):** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures.
2. **Attendance Policy of the Department of Theatre & Dance:** Three absences will lower your final grade by one letter. Each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one letter. Five absences will result in automatic failure. Three tardies equals one absence. If you arrive to class after roll is taken, it is your responsibility to check in at the end of class to make sure your attendance is recorded. See University policies in the *FAU Student Handbook* <http://www.fau.edu/handbook/>
3. **University Policy on Absences and Incompletes:** Students will not be penalized for absences due to participation in University-approved activities, but proof of involvement must be provided. Reasonable accommodation will be made for student absences due to religious observance(s). Also, note that grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved only for students who are passing the course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances. Incompletes should be pre-arranged with the instructor before the end of the term.
4. **The FAU Code of Academic Integrity:** Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.