



KIIS Greece, Summer 2018

ENG 290 Topics: Classical Greek Comedy

Professor: Dr. Paul Ranieri

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Syllabus subject to change

TITLE: ENG 290 Topics: Classical Greek Comedy (3 credit hours)

DESCRIPTION: After discussing Comedy as defined by Aristotle's *Poetics*, students compare and contrast the bawdy, satirical, chorus-based Old Comedy of 5th century BC Greece with the realistic, moralistic, character-based New Comedy of the 4th century BC. While studying Aristophanes and Menander, students become acquainted with the evolution of style and content as connected to the writers' social and political environment, as well as their influence on contemporary comedy. Such themes as education, politics, war, families, mistaken identity, and love gained/lost/gained again are examined.

PURPOSE: Students will be introduced to the environment, both natural and cultural, of the ancient Greeks and visit sites or view artifacts that impact the action of the plays, thus making the writings themselves more vivid.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be expected to read carefully the ancient texts we study (in English translations), to participate fully in class discussions, to observe the art and architecture of Greek sites they visit, to synthesize and express ideas in both a written midterm exam and final essay, to complete a series of integrative worksheets, and to write short responses to place-as-text assignments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will develop an appreciation of Greek dramatic literature and historical writings; gain an awareness of ancient theatre conventions and social context (and contemporary examples of their influences); and develop communication skills in writing and discussion.

COURSE OUTLINE: We will study first the plays of Aristophanes, exploring the themes of Old Comedy and the use of the chorus. Plays to be studied for Aristophanes are the following: *The Acharnians*, *The Clouds*, *The Thesmophoriazusae*, *Lysistrata*, and *The Frogs*. Then we will move to the New Comedy of Menander and read the following: *Dyskolos* (or, *The Grouch*), and the almost complete text of *The Girl from Samos*.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Students will be graded on a series of worksheets which will integrate reactions to the literary texts, sites visited, and other aspects of the Greek experience. A mid-term essay exam and final essay will account for the remainder of the graded work. All three elements—worksheets, mid-term exam, and final essay—will be averaged together for the final grade.

FIELD EXPERIENCES: Visits to more than 30 sites and museums throughout the trip will illuminate the context of the ancient Greek world. All program excursions are required unless specifically designated as optional.

Please be aware that some of the material in this class may trigger disturbing thoughts or memories. Many of the works of art are explicit or nudes. Please feel free to step out of class if you feel uncomfortable or threatened.

TEXTS: All of the plays we study by Aristophanes and Menander's *Dyskolos* may be downloaded from online sources. Dr. Ranieri will provide students with those links. Dr. Ranieri will bring to Greece a copy of *The Girl from Samos* which will be shared among class members. Dr. Ranieri will also provide the necessary information for those students who would like to purchase inexpensive paperback or Kindle editions best suited for this class.

GRADING: Students' grades will be calculated as follows:

Worksheets	33%
Mid-term Examination	33%
Final Essay (5-7pp)	33%

Letter grades are equivalent to the following percentages:

100--90 = A	69--60 = D
89--80 = B	59--below = F
79--70 = C	

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to attend every class and to participate in out-of-class activities as directed by the instructor. KIS requires that any unexcused absence result in grade reduction, and multiple unexcused absences may result in expulsion from the program.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Any form of cheating, plagiarism, or other academic dishonesty will result in a penalty, ranging from a zero on the assignment in question, to a failing grade for the course, or expulsion from the program. Basically, it will not be tolerated.

PREREQUISITES: None.