



## KIIS Paris I, Summer 2018

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### THEA 375 Topics: The Comedy of Moliere

**Professor:** Dr. Deborah G. Martin

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*Syllabus subject to change*

#### **Course Description:**

Theatre in 17th century France was defined by rules. Rules of society, rules of structure, rules of language, character behavior and story. This course will examine the theatre of Moliere during this time - how he incorporated and pushed the boundaries of these rules. We will examine his plays: *Tartuffe*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *The School for Husbands*, and possibly others. We will discuss the lasting influence of his work and his life on Western Theatre. Where do we see his influences in today's contemporary theatre? We will not only read and discuss his plays and his life, but we will begin to see how the world of 17th century France and Europe helped shape this important playwright and theatre practitioner.

This course may be used to fulfill General Education Requirements, which vary depending upon home institutions. It may also be used to fulfill Honors and other major or minor elective requirements in areas such as English, Communication, Theatre, etc. Check with your home institution's study abroad offices.

Students may use their cameras during class, especially during excursions and/or their readers. No other electronic devices are necessary and may prove a distraction if used to excess.

#### **Required Text:**

*The Essential Moliere Collection* (available in paperback and Kindle) **ISBN-13:** 978-1460995167. This collection plays including the three we will be reading.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

This course will provide:

1. **Knowledge of 17<sup>th</sup> century France and Europe** as it is reflected in the plays of Moliere; an understanding of how past knowledge is revealed in contemporary Paris and French culture; and an exploration of social and political contexts of 17<sup>th</sup> century France and how they helped shape, and are revealed in, Moliere's creative body of work.
2. **Theatrical knowledge** of 17<sup>th</sup> century theatre practice in France, audience responses; critical essays, and influences on other playwrights.
3. **Intellectual skills** including creative and critical thinking; increased ability to interpret creative text; and speaking, writing, and reading.
4. **Personal skills** including a personal understanding and increased knowledge of Parisian culture and language; and the artistic expression of culture, language, and history.

**Assignments:**

Students will be required to submit reflection papers on the plays read and excursions that are applicable to the course. An initial reflection will be assigned before the trip begins, and will be due on the first day of class and will be based on an essay emailed to the class in advance. A final essay will require the Student to synthesize the content of all the plays read into a guided prompt that will be distributed. Students will also orally present their final essays. We will also have quizzes on each of the plays read. We may engage in some performance exercises based on the scripts.

The grading breakdown is as follows:

Attendance/ participation	15 per cent
Reflection essays	35 per cent
Quizzes	20 per cent
Final Essay	20 per cent
Final Oral presentation	10 per cent

**Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions, and attendance is required to be taken. For every three absences, the student's letter grade will be reduced by one half. Repeated tardiness will result in absence and will be brought to the attention of the Student. If illness or other accepted reasons prevent the Student from attending class, it is their responsibility to inform the Professor.

**Preparation:**

The text is available electronically and in paperback. It is essential that readings for the assigned dates be completed to contribute to a lively and informed discussion. Additional materials will be distributed in class by the Professor.

*Students with learning and/or physical disabilities should discuss limitations with the Professor in advance so that reasonable accommodations can be provided together.*

*It is assumed that all written submissions to be the original work of each Student. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and reported to the Student's home institution.*

*A final word – Theatre is a reflection of life and those living in it. This is as true today as it was in 17th century Paris. Some materials and language in this class may allude to bodily functions, sexual activity, and course language. We make no apologies; if you are easily offended, this course may not be appropriate for you.*

**Schedule of Classes and Excursions**

Will be forthcoming.