

## GREEK COMEDY

Greek 4250/7250 – Fall 2016  
Strickland 208  
MWF 2-2:50pm

Prof. Farmer (farmermc@missouri.edu)  
Strickland 420B  
MW 1-2pm or by apt.

### Description

In this course we will develop our fluency in reading Greek by working through Euripides' "tragedy" *Helen* and Aristophanes' comedy *Thesmophoriazusae*.

### Requirements

#### Undergraduate Students

- Participation (50%): I expect everyone to come to class having prepared the day's assignment, ready to participate in discussion. If you have a legitimate reason to miss class, *let me know in advance*.
  - Greek assignments will be announced in class; it is your responsibility to get the assignment if you are absent
- Quizzes (10%): Every Friday, class will begin with a short quiz covering the material we have read since the previous quiz.
- Exams (20%): Two exams (worth 10% each) will take place during the semester. They will cover the reading up to that point, with translations, grammar and content questions, and possibly some sight reading. Exam dates will be announced in class; the first exam will be during week 7 or 8, the second during the last week of class.
- Final Project (20%): At the end of the semester you will produce a project examining in depth a passage from our reading that you are particularly interested in.

#### Graduate Students

- Exams: Graduate student exams will require a larger number of passages, and will be held to a higher standard.
- Final Project: Graduate students will produce an expanded version of the undergraduate final project.

### Books

The following two books have been assigned for this class and are available in the Mizzou Store or online. You are welcome to use other commentaries on these plays (and some will be provided on Blackboard), but you **must purchase these specific texts**:

- 1) Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae*, ed. Joseph F. Gannon, Bryn Mawr. ISBN: 978-0929524047.
- 2) Euripides' *Helen*, ed. William Allan, Cambridge. ISBN: 978-0521545419.

## **Important Notes**

1. *Academic Dishonesty*: Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

2. *ADA – Students with Disabilities*: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

3. *Intellectual Pluralism*: The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

4. *Intellectual Property Notice*: All course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack) are property of the instructor and University and may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright violation. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.

## Major in Classics?

- A Classics major at MU provides students with the small classes, close faculty involvement, and intellectual challenge of a liberal arts college curriculum with all the resources, diversity—and reasonable tuition!—of a major state university. Classics students have opportunities to travel in Greece, Italy, and other countries as part of their degree programs.

- Classics makes an excellent **double-major** with a number of fields in the liberal arts, natural sciences, and social sciences: Art History and Archaeology, Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Philosophy, History, Psychology, and Journalism are all solid double- and dual-majors with Classics, and a good way to integrate one's related areas of interest. Students looking ahead to a career in medicine, the sciences, or law will find that a Classics double-major provides a thorough (and attractive) background in the humanities to complement their pre-professional studies.

- Don't believe us? Here's what The Princeton Review has to say:

"We can't overestimate the value of a Classics major. Check this out: according to Association of American Medical Colleges, students who major or double-major in Classics have a better success rate getting into medical school than do students who concentrate solely in biology, microbiology, and other branches of science. Crazy, huh? Furthermore, according to *Harvard Magazine*, Classics majors (and math majors) have the highest success rates of any majors in law school. Believe it or not: political science, economics, and pre-law majors lag fairly far behind. Even furthermore, Classics majors consistently have some of the highest scores on GREs of all undergraduates. Shocked? Don't be. One reason Classics majors are so successful is that they completely master grammar. Medical terminology, legal terminology, and all those seemingly impossible vocabulary words on the GRE (and the SAT) have their roots in Greek and Latin. Ultimately, though, Classics majors get on well in life because they develop intellectual rigor, communications skills, analytical skills, the ability to handle complex information, and, above all, a breadth of view which few other disciplines can provide."

- Classics majors, in other words, learn *transferable* skills: abstract thinking, knowledge of the elements of language, writing and reading skills, vocabulary building, and experience with the foundational texts of the Western literary tradition. Authors such as Thucydides, Homer, Vergil, and Tacitus are just as vital to understanding the political and ethical intricacies of the world as they were thousands of years ago. Classics majors go on to successful careers not just in teaching but in a diverse array of fields. Consider these famous Classics majors:

- David Packard, co-founder of Hewlett-Packard
- J. K. Rowling, author
- Tim O'Reilly, founder of O'Reilly Media
- Tom Hiddleston, actor and director ("Loki" in Marvel's *Thor* and *The Avengers*)
- W.E.B. DuBois, sociologist, co-founder of NAACP, and author
- Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay
- Lynn Sherr, correspondent, ABC News' *20/20*
- Jeffrey Brown, senior correspondent on PBS' *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*
- Toni Morrison, author and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature
- Porter Goss, former head of the C.I.A.
- Willa Cather, teacher, journalist, critic, and author
- Chuck Geschke, former CEO and co-founder of Adobe Systems
- Betty Friedan, founder of NOW and author
- C.S. Lewis, author of the *Chronicles of Narnia*
- William Cohen, former Secretary of Defense
- Friedrich Nietzsche, philosopher
- James Baker, former Secretary of State
- Jane Addams, social worker, founder of Hull House, winner of Nobel Peace Prize
- Jerry Brown, governor of California
- Teller of Penn and Teller, magician

**Here's how (it's easy):**

1. To complete a CLASSICAL HUMANITIES major you need:

8 Classical Humanities courses (at least 5 of them at the 3000-level or above); you do not need to take Latin or Greek to complete a Classical Humanities major.

2. To complete a LATIN or GREEK major—and thus get a more comprehensive classical education—you need:

7 Latin or Greek courses (or four courses beyond the Gen. Ed. language requirement)

3 Classical Humanities courses (2000-level or above)

3. Double-majors (and dual majors) in Classics are also an excellent idea.

**To learn more about any or all of this, contact or come visit:** Prof. Michael Barnes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, 420 Strickland Hall (BarnesMH@missouri.edu), 573-882-1254