



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
GCIV-540	Ancient Greek Theatre: Drama and Performance	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Languages and Literature	Fall/Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Required	Greek Civilization	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
2 nd Cycle	Dr Avra Xepapadakou	1 st or 2 nd
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Co-requisites
Distance Learning	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Illustrate the history, evolution, creation and reception of Ancient Greek Theatre.
- Discuss the way theatre was connected to religion and rituality as well as to the function of polis and democracy in Ancient Greece.
- Examine Ancient Greek theatre through the prism of contextualization of artistic creation and performance.
- Present the uniqueness of Ancient Greek theatre which lies in its ecumenical and timeless nature.
- Evaluate and interpret new artistic approaches to the reception and staging of Ancient Greek drama.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Identify the genres and forms of theatre in Ancient Greece.
2. Discuss the main landmarks in the evolution of theatre from its first, primitive phase as a *dromenon* to its full evolution and completion.
3. Recognize the most important Greek dramatists and their plays and evaluate the most significant modern and contemporary stage directors and their most representative works of art.
4. Appreciate the social and political dimension of theatre in Ancient Greece and associate it

with major events that have marked the Greek history.

5. Link the Greek reception approaches to the corresponding European ones (artistic currents, schools, trends and habits).
6. Appraise the basic typology of modern and contemporary stage approaches to Greek drama.
7. Evaluate the reception of ancient Greek drama in other art forms, such as opera, dance and cinema.
8. Critically analyze current artistic production and evaluate the experimental presence of Ancient Greek theatre on contemporary performance.

Course Content:

1. The Birth of Drama | The evolutionary phases of Tragedy | Aeschylus, *The Persians*
2. Dionysus and the Dionysian element | Euripides, *The Bacchae*
3. The evolutionary phases of Satyr Play | Euripides, *Cyclops* & *Alcesteis*
4. The evolutionary phases of Comedy | Aristophanes, *Acharnians* & *The Birds*
5. Tragedy and its characteristic features | Sophocles' *Electra* & *Oedipus Rex*
6. Comedy and its characteristic features | Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*
7. The dramatic festivals | The theatrical space | Theatre, *Polis*, society and democracy | Aeschylus', *Oresteia* & Euripides', *Medea*
8. The New Comedy | Menander, *Dyskolos* | The popular mime theatre; The legacy of Greek Theatre
9. Contemporary Stage Approaches 1: The first attempts of revival of Ancient Greek Drama. Modern and contemporary Stagings of the Text
10. Contemporary Stage Approaches 2: Return to the primal and corporal *Logos*
11. Contemporary Stage Approaches 3: Interculturality
12. Contemporary Stage Approaches 4: Personal mythologies

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Webex Sessions; Forum Discussions; Wiki exercises; Quizzes

Assessment Methods:

Quizzes / research assignments: 30%

Participation (on the basis of participation in forum discussions): 10%

Final Examination: 60%

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>A Guide to Ancient Greek Drama</i>	Storey, Ian C. & Allan, Arlene	Malden: Blackwell	2005	9781118455128
<i>Greek Theatre Performance. An Introduction</i>	Wiles, David	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press	2000	9780521648578
<i>Greek Tragic Theatre</i>	Rehm, Rush	London & New York: Routledge	2005	9780415118941
<i>The Great European Stage Directors, vol. 8</i>	Van den Dries, Luk & De Laet, Timmy (eds)	London: Bloomsbury-Methuen Drama	2018	9781474254168

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>Greek tragedy on the move: the birth of a Panhellenic art form c. 500-300 BC</i>	Stewart, Edmund	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2017	9780198747260
<i>Dionysus since 69. Greek Tragedy at the Dawn of the Third Millennium</i>	Hall, E.; Macintosh, F & Wrigley, A. (eds)	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2004	9780199281312
<i>Menander, New Comedy and the Visual</i>	Petrides, Antonis K.	Cambridge: Cambridge University	2014	9781107645813

		Press.		
<i>Re-Imagining the Past. Antiquity and Modern Greek Culture</i>	Tziovas, D. (ed.)	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2014	9780199672752
<i>Contemporary Adaptations of Greek Tragedy. Auteurship and Directorial Visions</i>	Rodosthenous, G. (ed.)	London: Bloomsbury	2017	9781472591524
<i>La tragédie grecque sur la scène contemporaine</i>	Papalexiou Eleni	Lille: ANRT, Université de Lille	2005	9782729564446
<i>Dionysus Resurrected. Performances of Euripides' The Bacchae in a Globalizing World</i>	Fischer-Lichte, Erika	Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.	2014	9781405175784
<i>Aristophanes and his Tragic Muse. Comedy, Tragedy and the Polis in 5th Century Athens</i>	Nelson, Stephanie	Mnemosyne Supplements, 390, Leiden & Boston: Brill	2016	9789004310902
<i>Greek Tragedy. Suffering under the Sun</i>	Hall, Edith	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2010	9780199232512
<i>Aristotle, Poetics</i>	Sachs, Joe (ed.)	Newburyport MA: Focus	2006	9781585101870
<i>Aristophanes. Myth, Ritual and Comedy</i>	Bowie, A. M.	Cambridge: Cambridge University	1993	9780521575751

		Press		
<i>Masterpieces of Classic Greek Drama</i>	Smith, Helaine L.	Westport, Connecticut & London: Greenwood Press	2006	9780313332685