



**SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
CLASSICS PROGRAMME**

**GREE 216: GREEK LITERATURE**

**TRIMESTER 2 2010**

12 July to 13 November 2010

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 12 July to 15 October 2010

Mid-trimester break: 23 August to 5 September 2010

Study week: 18 – 22 October 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 22 October to 13 November 2010

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Lecturer and Course-Coordinator**

Dr Babette Puetz (course organiser, OK 513), ph. 463 7407, email [babette.puetz@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:babette.puetz@vuw.ac.nz).

Another lecturer (TBA) will teach this class and deal with any assessment in this time, including the final exam, when Babette goes on parental leave in September.

**Class times and locations**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1:10 – 2 pm, OK 524

**Course delivery**

The course will be taught in language classes, which will combine translation of the text with discussion of the issues raised by it, including social, literary, historical and other contextual matters as well as questions of grammar and style. Students will be expected to have translations prepared for class and occasionally to do further reading for class as well.

**Communication of additional information**

Any further information, such as announcements and unofficial final results, will be posted on noticeboards in Old Kirk, level 5.

**Class representative**

During the first weeks of the semester a class representative will be elected.

**Expected workload**

Students should expect to put an average of 14 hours work per week into this course. There is no requirement on attendance as such, but it is highly unlikely that any student will be able to manage satisfactorily with the 'seen' elements of the assessment without attending at least 85% of classes. It is recommended that students spend at least an average of 200 hours comprehensively over the twelve-week trimester, break, study week and the examination period of this course.

## Course content

The course examines literary texts for translation and study of subject matter, language and literary setting. We focus on Aristophanes' *Wasps*, Plato's *Ion* and some parts of his *Republic*. Reading literary authors shifts the focus away from simply learning grammar and vocabulary, and to some extent this means adopting different work habits. The following are points on which you will need to make policy decisions, and which you should remind yourself to think about repeatedly:

- **Use of cribs.** You should make a policy decision on whether or not to use a 'crib' (a published translation to aid you in deciphering the Greek text). On the one hand, your familiarity with the Greek language and with the style of the author will improve much more if you avoid using cribs; on the other hand, reading the Greek text without a crib can be more time-consuming. **Some lecturers may actively prohibit the use of cribs.** Of course, you should not use a crib in class, only, if at all, for your preparation at home.
- **Writing out a full translation.** This can be a little bit time-consuming, but it makes revising for the final exam enormously faster. If you do make a full translation, you should correct it while going through the text in class. (When translating in class you **must not** simply be reading from your translation.) If you do not make a full translation, you should still make very thorough notes in class, and organise your notes carefully.
- **Translation style.** When making a translation, should you try to write a literary, 'poetic' translation in good English, as though aiming for publication? Or should you make a very literal translation ('translationese')? Each to one's own, but you should decide one way or the other, and make sure that the translation is not too far away from the Greek text and is written in correct and legible English prose.
- **Look at the commentary.** This is not so much a do-it/don't-do-it question, but rather a reminder that there *is* a commentary in the back of the textbook. The commentary provides an enormous amount of assistance in understanding the text, as well as offering literary comment and pointing to secondary sources. The commentaries will probably be among your main secondary sources for the text analysis assignments. Ignoring the commentary is one of the most common mistakes made by students beginning GREE 216.

## Learning objectives

Students who have successfully passed the course will have improved their fluency in ancient Greek, and reinforced their knowledge of grammatical and morphological points learnt previously; improved their appreciation of niceties of classical Greek prose and verse style; and gained an appreciation of the historical contexts and literary genres of the texts studied.

## Readings

### Essential texts:

*Plato on Poetry*, ed. P. Murray, CUP 1997

Aristophanes' *Wasps*, ed. D.M. MacDowell, OUP 1971

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

### Recommended Reading:

Grammars for classical Greek may be obtained for free from <http://www.textkit.com>. The relevant books are

- Herbert Weir Smyth, *Greek Grammar* (15.67 MB)
- William W. Goodwin, *Greek Grammar* (8.52 MB)

### Select Secondary Literature:

#### *Wasps*

Bowie, A.M., (1993) *Aristophanes. Myth, ritual and comedy*. Cambridge, esp. pp. 78-101.

Crane, G. (1997) 'Oikos and Agora: Mapping the Polis in Aristophanes' *Wasps*' in: G.W. Dobrov, ed., *The City as Comedy*. Chapel Hill, pp. 198-229.

Dover, K.J. (1972) *Aristophanic Comedy*. Berkeley.

Ercolani, A. (2002) ed. *Spoudaiogeloion. Form und Funktion der Verspottung in der aristophanischen Komödie*. DRAMA 11. Stuttgart. (contains chapters in various languages)

Henderson, J. (1990) *The Maculate Muse*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York.

Konstan, D. (1985) 'The Politics of Aristophanes' *Wasps*' *TAPA* 115. 27-46.

MacCary, W.T. (1979) 'Philokleon *Ithyphallos*: Dance, Costume and Character in the *Wasps*', *TAPA* 109. 137-47.

McGlew, J. (2004) "'Speak on my behalf": Persuasion and Purification in Aristophanes' *Wasps*'. *Arethusa* 37. 11-36.

Puetz, B. (2007) *The Symposium and Komos in Aristophanes*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford.

Rothwell, K.S. Jr. (1995) 'Aristophanes *Wasps* and the Sociopolitics of Aesop's Fables', *CJ* 93 233-54.

Slater, N.W. (1996) 'Bringing up Father: *Paideia* and *Ephebeia* in the *Wasps*' in: A.H. Sommerstein and C. Atherton, edd. *Education in Greek Fiction*. Bari. 27-52, with 'Response by Alan H. Sommerstein'. 53-64.

-- (2002) *Spectator Politics*. Philadelphia, PA 2002.

Sommerstein, A. H. (1983) ed., tr., comm. *Aristophanes. Wasps*. Warminster.

Vaio, J. (1971) 'Aristophanes' *Wasps*: the Relevance of the Final Scenes'. *GRBS* 12. 335-51.

Whitman, C.H. (1964) *Aristophanes and the Comic Hero*. Cambridge, MA.

#### *Ion, Rep.*

See the bibliography on pp. 239-45 in *Plato on Poetry*, especially the articles / monographs by:

Asmis, Bloom, Delcourt, Ferrari, Flashar, Halliwell, Herrington, Janaway, Ladriere, Macgregor, Miller, Moore, Nehamas, Stanford, Verdenius.

Also:

Halliwell, F.S. (2002) *The Aesthetics of Mimesis: Ancient Texts and Modern Problems*. Princeton.

Weineck, S.-M. (1998) 'Talking About Homer: Poetic Madness, Philosophy, and the Birth of

Criticism in Plato's *Ion*. *Arethusa* 31.19-42.

Wilcox, J. (1987) "Cross-Metamorphosis in Plato's *Ion*". *Literature as Philosophy: Philosophy as Literature* (ed. D.G. Marshall). Iowa City. 155–74.

### **Assessment requirements**

Assessment is by internal assessment (40%) and a three-hour final exam (60%). Assessment is designed to determine students' ability to (1) translate classical Greek into English, (2) express coherent, informative, and insightful comments both on specific passages and in the context of the larger work.

#### **Internal assessment (40%)**

- **2x essays** (20% each), of ca. 1500 words each, the first on Aristophanes and the second on Plato. These hand-in assignments will take the form of an in-depth analysis of a passage of the set author, or a short essay about a passage. Further details on how to approach the assignment will be given in class.  
Due dates: Aristophanes: **Fri. 13 August** (week 5); Plato: **Fri 24 September** (week 9).

#### **Three-hour final exam (60%)**

The exam will feature questions on the following; full details on these questions and how much each is worth will be forthcoming in class near the end of the course. The study and exam period is from 18 October to 13 November 2010.

- gobbets on both Aristophanes and Plato (translate a seen passage into good English and then provide comments and analysis on the passage); a choice of passages will be offered
- unseen translation

The assessments will test students' knowledge of ancient Greek, especially as used by the authors studied (including points of grammar and morphology) and of the content, background, style and metre of the texts studied in class. There will be seen and unseen passages to translate in the final exam.

### **Penalties**

If the assignment is submitted late without an extension given *in advance*, it will be subject to a penalty of 5 marks out of 100 per workday.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

There are no mandatory requirements for this course.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own

idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **General university policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>