



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CLASSICS PROGRAMME
GREE 216
GREEK LITERATURE

TRIMESTER 2 2012
16 July to 17 November 2012

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012

Last piece of internal assessment due: Friday 28 September 2012

Study week: 22–26 October 2012

Examination/Assessment Period: 26 October to 17 November 2012

Please be aware that students who enrol in courses with examinations, such as GREE 216, must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

Name and contact details

Course Coordinator:

Dr Judy Deuling

Office:

OK 517

Telephone:

463 6783

E-mail:

judy.deuling@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours:

My door is generally open and I will be available when not teaching in class or attending seminars and lectures.

Class times and locations

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 noon– 12.50 pm, OK 524

Teaching Learning Summary

This course is taught via a seminar format in which the lecturer assists in translation and explaining Greek grammar, vocabulary and content as well as the scansion of Greek dramatic metres; students participate fully in all activities such as explanation and learning, as well as reading and translating passages.

Communication of additional information

Any further information, such as announcements and unofficial final results, will be posted on noticeboards in Old Kirk, Level 5. If urgent and necessary, such announcements will be made via email.

Class representative

During the first class of the trimester a class representative will be elected and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Course prescription

Literary and/or historical texts for translation, comment on subject matter, language and literary setting.

Course content

To expand on the basic prescription noted above: GREE 216 examines both prose and poetry texts for translation and study of subject matter, language and literary setting. We will focus firstly on selections from a range of prose texts of the Greek author Lucian, who was born in Samosata, a city in Commagene, located in the Roman province of Syria, perhaps born in 125 CE. The poetry text will be Euripides's tragicomedy *Alcestis*.

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 which might 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 may 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. Use commentaries, notes and vocabularies as provided.

Learning objectives

Students who have passed this course will/should have:

1. improved their fluency in ancient Greek.
2. reinforced their knowledge of grammatical and morphological points learnt previously.
3. improved their appreciation of niceties of Greek prose and verse style.
4. gained an appreciation of the historical contexts and literary genres of the texts studied.

Expected workload

For GREE 216, which is a 20-point course, students should expect to spend about 13 hours per week during teaching weeks of the 12-week trimester and during other periods 44 hours in total. While there is no requirement on attendance as such, 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.

Readings

Set and essential texts:

Lucian. *Selections*, edited with notes & vocabulary by Keith Sidwell. Bristol Classical Press, an imprint of Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd (1986, reprinted 1990, 2000).
Euripide's *Alcestis*, ed. Dale OUP (1971, reprinted by Bristol Classical Press, subsequently).

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be collected from nominated collection points at each campus. 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)

Lucian: Short Bibliography

- see *Selections*, p. 127-130 for texts and articles focussed on specific aspects of Lucian text.
Baldwin, Barry. *Studies in Lucian* (Toronto, 1973).
Hall, Jennifer. *Lucian's Satire* (New York, 1981).
Lucian: a Selection, ed. Neil Hopkinson, Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics, (Cambridge, 2008).
Lucian of Samosata, Greek Writer and Roman Citizen, ed. Francesca Mestre and Pilar Gomez (Barcelona, 2010).
Ogden, Daniel. *In Search of the Sorcerer's Apprentice: The Traditional Tales of Lucian's LOVER OF LIES* (Swansea, 2007).

Euripides *Alkestis*:

Short Bibliography:

- Bassi, Karen. 'The Actor as Actress in Euripides' *Alkestis*.' In *Women in Theatre. Themes in Drama*, no. 11. (Cambridge, 1989).
Beye, Charles Rowan. 'Alkestis and her Critics.' *GRBS* 2 (1989) 109-127.
Burnett, A.P. 'The Virtues of Admetus,' *CP (Classical Philology)* 60 (1965) 240-255.
Castellani, V. 'Notes on the Structure of Euripides' *Alkestis*,' *AJP* 100 (1979) 487-496.
Drew, D.L. 'Euripides' "Alkestis"''. *AJP* 52 (1931) 295-319.
Dyson, M. 'Alkestis' Children and the Character of Admetus'. *JHS* 108 (1988) 13-23.
Gregory, J.W. 'Euripides' *Alkestis*,' *Hermes* 107 (1979) 259-270.
Halleran, Michael. 'Alkestis Redux.' *HSCP* 86 (1982) 51-53.
-----'. 'Text and Ceremony at the Close of Euripides' *Alkestis*.' *Eranos* 86 (1988) 123-129.
Jones, D.M. 'Euripides' *Alkestis*.' *CR* 62 (1948) 50-55.
Kott, Jan. 'The Veiled Alkestis.' In *The Eating of the Gods: An Interpretation of Greek Tragedy*, translated by B. Taborski and E.J. Czerwinski. (New York, 1973).
Luschnig, C.A.E. 'Euripides' *Alkestis* and the Athenian 'oikos', *Dioniso* 60 (1990) 9-39.
-----'. 'Interiors: Imaginary Spaces in *Alkestis* and *Medea*,' *Mnemosyne* 45 (1992) 19-44.
-----'. 'Playing the Others: The Mythological Confusions of Admetus', *Scholia* n.s. 1 (1992) 12-27.
Luschnig, C.A.E. and H.M. Roisman. *Euripides' Alkestis, edited with Notes and Commentary* (Norman, 2003).
Myres, J.L. 'The Plot of the *Alkestis*' *JHS* 37 (1917) 195-218.
Nielsen, Rosemary M. 'Alkestis: A Paradox in Dying', *Ramus* 5 (1976) 92-102.
Ogle, M.B. 'The House-Door in Greek and Roman Religion and Folklore,' *AJP* 32 (1911) 251-271.
O'Higgins, Dolores. 'Above Rubies: Admetus' Perfect Wife.' *Arethusa* 26 (1993) 77-98.
Padel, Ruth. "Making Space Speak'. In *Nothing to do with Dionysos?*, ed. by John J Winkler & Froma I Zeitlin. Princeton (1990).
Padilla, Mark. 'Gifts of Humiliation: *Charis* and the Tragic Experience in *Alkestis*.' *AJP* 121 (2000) 179-211.
Parker, L.P.E. *Euripides ALCESTIS, edited with Introduction and Commentary* (Oxford, 2007).
-----'. 'Alkestis: Euripides to Ted Hughes', *G & R* 50 (2003) 1-30.
Pearce, T. E. V., 'The Role of the Wife as 'custos' in ancient Rome', *Eranos*, 72 (1974), 16-33.
Rabinowitz, Nancy Sorkin. *Anxiety Veiled: Euripides and the Traffic with Women*. (Ithaca, 1993).
Schein, Seth L. 'The Cassandra Scene in Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*.' *G & R* 29 (1982) 11-16.
-----'. '(Filia) in Euripides' *Alkestis*' *Metis* 3 (1982) 179-206.
Scodel, Ruth. '(ADMETOY LOGOS) and the *Alkestis*.' *HSCP* 83 (1979) 51-62. Scully, S.E. 'Some Issues in the Second Episode of Euripides' *Alkestis*.' In *Greek Tragedy and Its Legacy: Essays Presented to D.J. Conacher*, ed. by Martin Cropp, E. Fantham, and S. Skully. (Calgary, 1986).
Segal, Charles P. 'Euripides' *Alkestis*: Female Death and Male Tears'. *CA* 11 (1992) 142-158.
Sifakis, G.M. 'Children in Greek Tragedy'. *BICS* 26 (1979) 67-80.
Smith, Wesley. 'The Ironic Structure in *Alkestis*,' *Phoenix* 14 (1960) 126-145.
Stanton, G.R. '(Filia) and (Xenia) in Euripides' "Alkestis"''. *Hermes* 118 (1990) 42-54.

Thury, Eva M. 'Euripides' *Alcestis* and the Athenian Generation Gap.'

Arethusa 21 (1988) 197-214.

Watson, P.A. *Stepmothers: Myth, Misogyny and Reality* (Mnemosyne Suppl. 143; Leiden, New York, and Cologne, 1995).

Wilson, J. R. *Twentieth-Century Interpretations of Euripides' 'Alcestis'* (Englewood Cliffs, 1968).

Zeitlin, Froma. 'Playing the Other: Theater, Theatricality and the Feminine in Greek Drama. In *Nothing to do with Dionysos?*, edited by John J Winkler and Froma I Zeitlin. (Princeton, 1990).

Assessment requirements

Assessment by internal assessment (40%) and a three-hour final examination (60%). All pieces of assessment are designed to determine students' ability to:

1. translate classical Greek into English
2. express coherent, informative, and insightful comments both on specific passages and within the context of the larger work.
3. scan short passages of Euripides' *Alcestis*.

Internal assessment (40%)

- **2x essays** (20% each), of ca. 1500 words each, with the first on Lucian, *Selections* in the form of a commentary, and the second on Euripides' *Alcestis* in the form of an essay. 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 each assignment will be given in class.
- Due dates: Lucian: **Fri. 17 August** (week 5); Euripides: **Fri 28 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 examination period is from 22 October to 17 November 2012, with Friday 26 October-Saturday 17 November 2012, focussed specifically on exams.

- gobbets on both Lucian and Euripides (translate a seen passage into good English and then provide comments and analysis on the passage); a choice of passages will be offered with discussion in class regarding what is expected regarding translation, grammar and comment
- unseen translation, for which practice passages will be given regularly in class for 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 with respect to each text (as appropriate) studied in class. There will be both seen and unseen passages to translate in the final exam.

Penalties

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

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory requirements for this course.

Statement on legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

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

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.



GREE 216

Greek Literature



VUW Classics 2008.4 Greek funerary stele likely from Asia Minor
The Central panel depicts a veiled and draped woman seated, clasping hands with the woman standing opposite and facing; a small boy stands frontally behind her.
Tateis and Menakon [commemorate] Laomeneos [son] of Theokritos.

Trimester 2 2012