

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies
Classics Programme

CLAS 401

Topic in Literary Genre: Aristophanes and Old Comedy

FULL YEAR 2013

4 March – 16 November 2013



Trimester dates

Trimester dates: 4 March to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 4 March to 18 October 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break 1/3: 22–28 April 2013

Mid-year break: 4–14 July 2013

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Aegrotat period begins: 30 September, so at least 30% assessment due on or before Friday 27

September (or preferably by $\frac{3}{4}$ -point of course, i.e. 23 August)

Study week: 21–25 October 2013

Examination/Assessment Period: 25 October to 16 November 2013

NB: Students who enroll in this course must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Names and contact details

Lecturer: Babette Puetz, OK 513, phone: 463-7407, e-mail: babette.puetz@vuw.ac.nz
Office hour: TBA.

Class times and locations

The class will meet each week on a Friday at 10 a.m -12pm in OK526 (Classics Museum).

Class Representative

A class rep will be elected in the first class. This student's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class rep provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of the students.

Communication of additional information

Any important information involving the Classics Programme will be posted on the notice boards situated opposite OK 504 and 505.

Teaching/learning summary

The course runs F/Y. After an introductory session, one class session will be devoted to each of Aristophanes' plays. Then we will look at fragments of Aristophanes' comedies and those of colleagues/rivals Cratinus and Eupolis. We will also study the ways in which Aristophanic comedy influenced later comedy (i.e. Greek Middle and New Comedy and Roman Comedy – and modern Comedy) and the problematic question of the origins of comedy. We will explore aspects such as humour, comic fantasy and the plays' comments on current events, known personalities and social issues of the time. Each student will have the opportunity to introduce and chair two of the sessions.

Course prescription

In this class we will study Aristophanes' plays and some comic fragments. We will explore aspects such as humour, comic fantasy, the plays' comments on current events and social issues of the time, influences on later comedy and the problematic question of the origins of comedy.

Learning objectives

To develop, through a detailed study of selected plays, a deeper understanding of Old Comedy, especially Aristophanes' plays, and of its contribution to contemporary Athenian cultural life.

Students who pass this course should:

- have a detailed knowledge of Aristophanic theatre, poetry and drama;

- be able to locate Aristophanes' dramas within the contexts of the traditions from which they emerged and the society for which they were performed;
- have a command of the major scholarship and recent interpretations of Aristophanes' comedies and his entire works;
- be able to present clearly and to evaluate critically scholarly interpretations of individual Euripidean plays and the arguments which support them;
- be capable of conducting independent research on Aristophanes' plays.

Expected workload

In order to complete the course successfully, and 'average' student should expect to spend about 18 hours a week on it. Some might have to put in more time, others less.

Readings

Set texts:

Aristophanes vol. 1-4, ed., transl. J. Henderson, Loeb Classical Library, Cambridge, MA, 1998-2002

Copies of some of secondary literature which will be discussed will be distributed in class. Should you miss a class, please make sure that you pick up any relevant secondary reading from Babette's office before the next class.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield 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 picked up 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.

Assessment

Reference to Learning objectives with marking criteria:

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in exams and other assessment procedures. Students with disabilities should contact the course convenor and Student Support Services to let them know in case there are any special arrangements that should be made.

The course will be assessed 60% internally and 40% by 3-hour exam.

The goal of the assessment is to establish the extent to which a student can demonstrate his/her understanding of the development and context of Aristophanic comedy. The presentations and essays are intended to allow students to research an aspect of Aristophanic comedy through critical examination of primary and secondary sources. The exam tests the depth of students' knowledge of the subject gained from seminars and readings.

Examination/Assessment Period: 25 October to 16 November 2013

- (A) Two seminar presentations/leadership AND an essay on each of the two presentations, i.e. TWO essays of approx 2000 words**

20% each essay

10% each seminar leadership

For your seminar presentations will be your job to give an introduction to the play or topic, speak about important themes, scholarship and interpretations and staging. This part should take approx. 45 minutes. After this, please have two or three questions for class discussion ready. Seminar leadership will be assessed on (1) clarity, (2) thoroughness, (3) quality of analysis and interpretation.

The essays should expand ideas presented during your seminar leadership sessions. If you would like to write on another topic, you need to discuss the topic with me no fewer than two weeks before the due date. It is a good idea to formulate the question in writing and prepare a very rough outline on how you will address this question to show me at this meeting.

It is in your own interest to write the essay in the two or three weeks after your seminar leadership, so the topic is still fresh in your mind. Please hand your essays in to me whenever you have finished them, but latest on these due dates: **Mon 10 June and Fri 23 August 2013.**

Notes

Extensions (on genuine medical grounds supported by a doctor's certificate, or for some other necessary and demonstrable reason) must be applied for from Babette Puetz in advance of the due date for acceptance. Late essays, for which an extension has not been granted, will be accepted. However, little or no comment will be written on them. It is absolutely essential that, if you have not completed your essay by the final date for acceptance and have not already been granted an extension, you contact Babette Puetz immediately. **Penalties:** An assignment submitted after the due date will incur a penalty of 5 marks out of 100 per workday.

(ii) Handing in assignments. Exercises and essays must be placed in the locked assignment box outside the Programme Administrator's Office (OK 508) or personally handed to Babette Puetz or to the Programme Administrator. No responsibility will be taken for essays placed in open staff pigeon-holes, pushed under doors etc. You should never throw out notes or rough drafts of an essay until you receive back your marked essay.

(iii) Plagiarism. SEE IMPORTANT NOTE BELOW

(C) 3 hour examination - end of year

40%

This examination will contain 5 gobbets from a choice of 8 and 2 essays from a choice of 4.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to be eligible for a passing grade in this course, students must submit both essays, lead or co-lead two seminars, sit the final examination and achieve a score of at least 50% from the combination of assessed in-term work and the final examination, and a mark of at least 40% on the final examination itself.

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>

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 www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. 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 (See Section C).

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

TIMETABLE

NB: Changes are possible!

8.3. Introduction – Ancient Theatre and Comedy, Aristophanes' Life and Works (Overview)

15.3. Aristophanes' *Acharnians*

22.3. Aristophanes' *Knights*

29.3. *Good Friday – no class*

5.5. Aristophanes' *Clouds*

12. 4. Aristophanes' *Wasps*

19.4. Aristophanes' *Peace*

break

3.4. Aristophanes' *Birds*

10..5. Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*

17.5. Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae*

24.5. Aristophanes' *Frogs*

31. 5. Aristophanes' *Assembly Women*

7. 6. Aristophanes' *Wealth*

(exam period and break – perhaps schedule a comedy reading?)

19.7. The Fragments of Aristophanes

26.7. The Fragments of Eupolis

2.8.. The Fragments of Cratinus

9.8. The Topics and Humour of Old Comedy

16.8. The Origins of Comedy

23.8. Influences on later Comedy

(NB: The class time may need to change in the second trimester.)