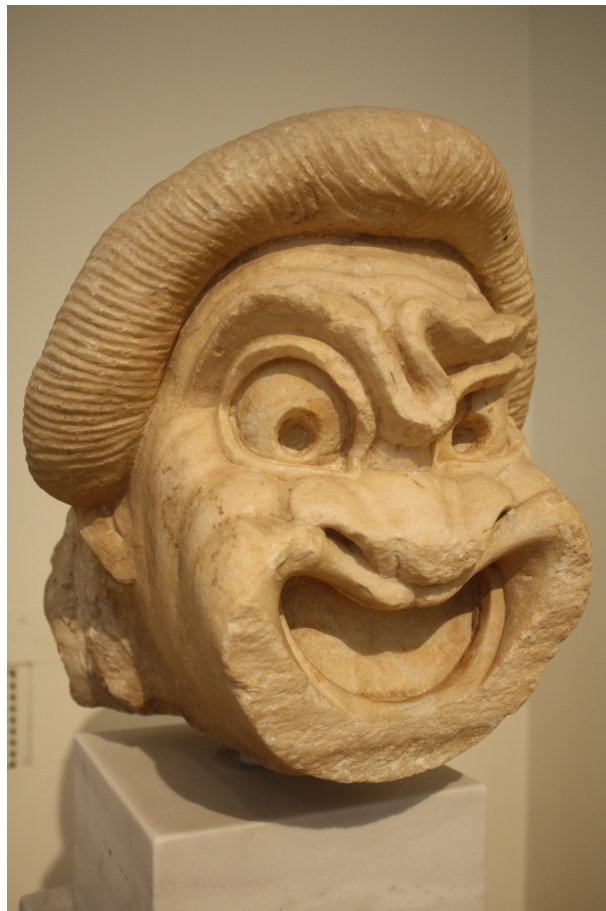


# CLAS 401

## Topic in Literary Genre: Aristophanes and Old Comedy

TRIMESTER 1 2016



SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## CLASSICS PROGRAMME

# CLAS 401

*Topic in Literary Genre*

30 POINTS

Full Year 2016

### Key dates

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 13 November 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 16 October 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break (Tri 1):** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Mid-year break:** 30 June to 8 July 2016

**Mid-trimester break (Tri 2):** 22 August to 4 September 2016

**Study period:** 17 to 20 October 2016

**Examination/Assessment period:** 21 October to 12 November 2016

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

### Class times and locations

*Term 1: Tuesday 12 – 1:50pm in OK526 (Classics Museum)*

*Term 2: Tuesday 10-11:50am in OK 526*

### Names and contact details

*Course Coordinator: Dr. Babette Puetz*

*Email: [babette.puetz@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:babette.puetz@vuw.ac.nz)*

*Phone: 463-7407*

*Office Hours: Thurs 11-12, Fri 11-12.*

*Classics Programme Administrator: Hannah Tokona ([hannah.tokona@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hannah.tokona@vuw.ac.nz), 463-5319)*

## Communication of additional information

*Any additional information will be posted on the Noticeboards in the Classics Programme Foyer (Level 5, Old Kirk Building) and on the courses Blackboard page.*

## Prescription

An author or genre of ancient literature for presentation, discussion and contextual analysis.

## Course content

Aristophanes and Old Comedy: This class will focus on Aristophanes' plays. 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 his colleagues and 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 one or two of the sessions.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should or will be able to:

- 1) demonstrate detailed knowledge of a number of ancient texts;
- 2) place individual texts within their historical, social, and cultural context;
- 3) gather, evaluate, and weigh up scholarly interpretations of ancient literature;
- 4) assess the importance and influence of ancient authors from the classical period to the present;
- 5) conduct independent, critical, analytical research on the topic and synthesize that research into a formal argument.

More specifically this means that students should develop, through a detailed study of the 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 Aristophanic plays and the arguments which support them
- Be capable of conducting independent research on Aristophanes' plays.

## Teaching format

The course will be taught in two-hour sessions, in which the first part will usually consist of a lecture given either by the lecturer or by a student and the second part will consist of class

discussion. Students are expected to read and ponder the set texts for each week, and to come prepared to discuss them in class.

## Workload

In order to complete the course successfully, an 'average' student should expect to spend somewhere in the neighbourhood of 300 hours fulfilling the requirements of the course, i.e. 10-12 hours per week, during the trimester, and the rest preparing for the exam. **Remember: this is a rough guideline only.** Some students may need to put in more time, others less, and the time commitment will be greatest just prior to due dates for assignments and the exam. In general, however, the following rule applies: the more you put into the course, the more you will get out of it, as measured both in terms of your learning and understanding, and in terms of your grade.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2 in-class presentations/seminar leadership and essays on the topics of each of the two presentations (2000 words each)	50% (25% each)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	TBD. The essays are due 3 weeks after the relevant presentation.
2	Final end of year examination (3 hours, gobbets and essays)	50%	1, 2, 4, 5	TBD

## Marking Criteria

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. 45-50 minutes. After this, please have three (or more) 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. Find an aspect of the play or topic of your presentation, which you would like to focus your essay on, and briefly discuss it with me before you start writing, please.

Should you prefer to write on another topic, you will 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 presentation, so the topic is still fresh in your mind.

## Submission and return of work

You must hand in two copies of your essay.

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box. You should always keep a copy of your assignment until you receive back your marked assignment.

It is Classics policy that all written work received by the due date will be returned within two weeks. There may be circumstances when this cannot be achieved (e.g. sickness or heavy workload of markers), but it is our objective to provide you with the earliest possible feedback on your work.

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

Extensions for the essay must be applied for **in advance of** the final date for acceptance.

Late assignments for which an extension has not been granted will be accepted up till 16 October. However, they may be penalised, and there is no guarantee that a late essay will be handed back before the final examination.

### Penalties

Assignments that are submitted late without an extension will receive a penalty of 5 marks out of 100 per late working day (weekends count as one working day) and may not receive feedback.

## Set texts

- Aristophanes vol. 1-4, ed., tr. J. Henderson (Loeb Classical Library) Harvard UP

The text books are available from Vic Books ([www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz))

Copies of the secondary literature which will be discussed in class will be distributed in class or put on Blackboard.

## Recommended texts

A bibliography will be distributed in class.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

## Student feedback

We have carefully reviewed feedback and results from student evaluations of past iterations of CLAS 401. These were largely positive, with no salient suggestions for changes to the course. Thus we are continuing to offer CLAS 401 in its present form.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

**TIMETABLE** - NB: Changes are possible!

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

8.3. Aristophanes' *Acharnians*

15.3. Aristophanes' *Knights*

22.3. Aristophanes' *Clouds*

*Easter Break*

5. 4. Aristophanes' *Wasps*

12.4. Aristophanes' *Peace*

19.4. Aristophanes' *Birds*

*Mid-trimester break*

3.5. Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*

10.5. Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazousae*

17.5. Aristophanes' *Frogs*

24. 5. Aristophanes' *Assembly Women*

31.5. Aristophanes' *Wealth*

*break*

12.7. The Fragments of Aristophanes

19.7. The Fragments of Eupolis

26.7. The Fragments of Cratinus

2.8. The Topics and Humour of Old Comedy

9.8. The Origins of Comedy

17.8. Influences on later Comedy