Roman Drama in Translation (190:391)
Spring 2010
Tuesday, Friday 9:50-11:10
Frelinghuysen Hall (FH) A6, CAC

Instructor: Rachel Loer
E-mail: rachloer@eden.rutgers.edu
Office: RAB 015 (Basement), Douglass Campus
Office Hours: TBA in RAB 015 and by appointment

Required Texts:
2. The Comedies by Terence, Peter Brown, Oxford World's Classics, ISBN 9780192823991

All texts are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore at Ferren Mall on Albany Street. You may also order them online.

Course Description:
This course will examine the Roman dramatic tradition, spanning from its beginnings in the 3rd century BC to its modern reception. We will focus on reading a selection of plays from the comedians Plautus and Terence, as well as a few of Seneca’s tragedies. We will discuss the conventions of Roman drama, as well as its social and political context, its roots in the Greek tradition, and its reception in modern theatre and cinema.

Grading and Evaluation:
1. Attendance/Participation 20%
2. Presentation 20%
3. Midterm 25%
4. Final 35%

I do NOT negotiate grades.
If you have a concern during the course of the semester, please address it with me immediately. Points will be turned into letter grades according to the following scheme:
A 100 – 93%
B+ 92 – 88%
B 87 – 82%
C+ 81 – 77%
C 76 – 71%
D 70 – 65%
F 64% and below
Attendance:

Your attendance and participation are a required component of this course. Absences due to sickness, injury, or family emergency may be excused with a signed note from the university health center or another appropriate authority. Planned absences for religious observances may be allowed. Students requesting a planned absence must contact the instructor AT LEAST one week (7 days) in advance of the expected absence.

Unexcused absences will result in a non-negotiable loss of points. Each class session is worth 10 points, for a total of 280. The points are divided between attendance and participation. In order to receive full credit, you are expected to participate in class activities and discussion.

Presentation:

Each student will be placed into groups of either two or three and assigned one of the plays we are reading. The group will be responsible for introducing that play, performing a scene, and leading the class discussion by creating discussion questions. Further details will be provided when the assignments are made.

Exams:

The midterm will be administered during the normal class time in the eighth week, and the final will occur on May 12. These exams may NOT be made up without a signed note from your dean. Both of these exams are cumulative; that is, each will be designed to cover all the material presented in the course to date.

Additional Notices:

If you are a university athlete, please let me know.

Under Federal Law, the University is required to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students with documentable disabilities, in legally defined categories. If you have special needs in this course, please have your College coordinator contact me by the end of the second week of classes.

Make sure you are aware of the University’s regulations concerning academic dishonesty and plagiarism. You are responsible for adhering to these guidelines.
Schedule of Classes

Week 1: Introduction
   Tuesday Jan. 19: Introduction to Course
   Friday Jan. 22: Greek Origins of Comedy

Week 2: Plautus
   Tuesday Jan. 26: Introduction to Plautus
   Friday Jan. 29: The Braggart Soldier

Week 3
   Tuesday Feb. 2: Staging of Comedy and the Theatre
   Friday Feb. 5: The Brothers Menaechmus

Week 4
   Tuesday Feb. 9: Plot and Character
   Friday Feb. 12: The Haunted House

Week 5
   Tuesday Feb. 16: Understanding the Audience: The Social Context
   Friday Feb. 19: The Pot of Gold

Week 6: Terence
   Tuesday Feb. 23: Introduction to Terence
   Friday Feb. 26: The Girl from Andros

Week 7
   Tuesday Mar. 2: Sexual Violence in Comedy
   Friday Mar. 5: The Eunuch

Week 8
   Tuesday Mar. 9: Midterm Review
   Friday Mar. 12: MIDTERM

Spring Break: March 13 – March 21

Week 9
   Tuesday Mar. 23: Public Entertainment in the 1st Century B.C.
   Friday Mar. 26: The Brothers

Week 10
   Tuesday Mar. 30: Modern Reception of Roman Comedy
   Friday Apr. 2: A Funny Thing Happened
Week 11: Seneca
  Tuesday Apr. 6: Roman Tragedy and its Greek Origins
  Friday Apr. 9: Medea

Week 12
  Tuesday Apr. 13: Introduction to Seneca
  Friday Apr. 16: Thyestes

Week 13
  Tuesday Apr. 20: Spectacle in Post-Senecan Rome
  Friday Apr. 23: Trojan Women

Week 14
  Tuesday Apr. 27: Agamemnon
  Friday Apr. 30: Final Wrap-Up

***FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 12 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM @ FH A6***