

# **Roman Drama in Translation (190:391)**

Spring 2010

Tuesday, Friday 9:50-11:10

Frelinghuysen Hall (FH) A6, CAC

Instructor: Rachel Loer

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Office: RAB 015 (Basement), Douglass Campus

Office Hours: TBA in RAB 015 and by appointment

## **Required Texts :**

1. Plautus: Four Comedies, Erich Segal, Oxford World's Classics, ISBN 9780199540563
2. The Comedies by Terence, Peter Brown, Oxford World's Classics, ISBN 9780192823991
3. Seneca: The Tragedies (Vol. 1), David Slavitt, Johns Hopkins UP, ISBN 9780801843099

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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\*\*\***