

Greek Drama

Code: 100399
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500243 Classics	OB	3	1
2501907 English and Classics	OB	3	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

- This is an advanced level course of reading and translation of ancient Greek texts, for this reason it is highly recommended that every student enrolled in it has previously passed all the courses on Classical Greek language included in the 1st and 2nd year of the Degree in Classical Studies or others degrees combined with Classics.
- We also recommend the instrumental knowledge of the most common modern languages in the specialized bibliography of Classical Studies (English, French, Italian and, to a lesser extent, German), since reading in these languages can be suggested.

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Objectives and Contextualisation

This course is part of the subject "Classical language and literature" and is taught in the first semester of the 3rd year of the degree in Classical Studies and other degrees combined with Classics. This is a compulsory course whose contents are considered fundamental for the philological formation of the students.

The training objectives of this course are two:

- To contextualize the origin and development of the Greek dramatic genre within the framework of Greek literature.
- To acquire in-depth knowledge of the characteristics of the Greek dramatic genre in its two main variants -tragedy and comedy- through the translation and commentary of a selection of representative texts from its main authors and works.

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Competences

Classics

- Applying the acquired grammar knowledge to the analysis and comprehension of Greek and Latin texts.
- Identifying the classical literary fact and its transmission.

- Interpreting written Greek and Latin texts both in prose and verse, applying the philological method.

English and Classics

- Applying the acquired grammar knowledge to the analysis and comprehension of Greek and Latin texts.
- Identify and assessing the main historical, socio-political, scientific, literary and cultural landmarks of the Greco-Roman world.
- Identify the classical literary fact and its transmission.
- Interpreting written Greek and Latin texts both in prose and verse, applying the philological method.

Learning Outcomes

1. Applying the morphosyntactic analysis to the reading of Greek texts of increasing difficulty.
2. Contextualising in its cultural framework the corresponding genre, its genesis and its evolution.
3. Demonstrating the knowledge of the main cultural phenomena of the antiquity.
4. Explaining the context, works (characters, clichés) and the later tradition of the studied authors and genres.
5. Producing a grammar, metrics, and realia comment of a Greek text of the corresponding genre.
6. Students must be capable of correctly translating a passage of a proposed author, adjusting themselves to the appropriate style of the corresponding genre.

Content

The contents of this course are organized around three main areas :

1. A theoretical introduction, which aims to contextualize the Greek dramatic genre in its production axis and that will be developed in accordance with the following index:

- Origins of the Greek drama: tragedy and comedy.
- Context of representation of tragedy and comedy.
- Myth and drama.
- Characteristics of the tragedy. Main authors and works.
- Characteristics of the old comedy. The work of Aristophanes.
- Pervivence and tradition of Greek drama in Western culture.

2. Translation practices (approximately 50 verses / day) based on a selection of texts proposed by the teacher. This year the anthology will focus on "Women and Power on the scene". The following passages will be translated and commented:

TEXT 1: The Barbarian Queen: Atossa in *The Persians* by Aeschylus [x177]

- v. 155-255: the premonitory dream of Atossa.
- v. 681-758: dialogue between the ghost of Darius and Atossa.

TEXT 2: Women against the tyrant in *Antigone* by Sophocles [x 390]

- v. 1-100: Dialogue between Antigone and Ismene.
- v. 162-210: Creon presents himself before a Theban chorus and casts his first edict.
- v. 334-366: Praise of the human being.
- v. 441-470: Creon, aware that Antigone has buried the body of Polynices, faces her, but she not only recognizes her guilt, but argues and justifies her actions.
- v. 683-723: Haemon tries to convince his father to give up his intention to kill Antigone.
- v. 883-928: Last words of Antigone.
- v. 1033-1090: Creon faces Tiresias, who reveals terrible predictions against Creon and his family.
- v. 1261-1300: Creon regrets the misfortunes that have occurred to him.

TEXT 3: Women's ways of revenge in the *Medea* by Euripides [x 635]

- v. 1-48: The nurse introduces the plot of the tragedy recalling how Medea came to Corinth with Jason, and explains the misfortune that afflicts her mistress now: Jason has decided to repel Medea and to take as wife the daughter of the king of Corinth.
- v. 49-95: Dialogue between the tutor of the children and the nurse. The old tutor brings news that will aggravate the affliction of Medea: Jason has decided to send her to exile along with her children.
- v. 96-130: Medea cries from inside the palace and the nurse expresses her own fear for the safety of the children.
- v. 214-266: Medea presents herself before the chorus of women and exposes her situation, as well as her intention to avenge the offense received from her husband.
- v. 271-354: Creon is ready to banish Medea immediately, because he fears the foreign women with terrible fame, but Medea, with her skillful words, manages to grant the king an extra day before leaving.
- v. 465-592: Medea criticizes Jason for his decision, since she has done many things for him. Jason responds to the harsh accusations of Medea and defends his decision alleging that the new marriage will provide a better situation to all of them, in particular, to their children.
- v. 627-662: Let love come with measure.
- v. 764-806: Medea has succeeded in making Aegean, king of Athens, committing himself with oaths to welcome her and now is ready for her revenge: the bride will soon be killed and then - terrible decision - she will put to death her own children.
- v. 1040-1080: Medea speaks to her children for the last time and seems to be unable to fulfill the murder.
- v. 1293-1419: Jason tries to save his children, but it is too late, because Medea has already accomplished her revenge. Medea flees with the chariot of the sun and leaves Jason.

TEXT 4: Women's weapons in the *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. [x 139]

- v. 840-979. Dialogue between Cinesias and his wife Myrrhine.

TOTAL OF VERSES TO TRANSLATE: 1341.

3. Reading in translation of the following works:

- Aeschylus, *Seven against Thebes*.
- Sophocles, *Oedipus King*.
- Euripides, *Medea*.
- Aristophanes, *Wasps*.

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Methodology

- The teaching methodology of this course will be to alternate the theoretical explanations of the contents with the translation and the commentary on the selection of passages.
- The text anthology will be available in the moodle classroom space. According to the plan of the course, the student is expected to have a translation rate of about 24 verses per hour [24 verses x 55 hours of autonomous translation = 1320].
- Students will have to present a literary index card of the comedy *The Wasps* by Aristophanes according to a model that will be delivered at the beginning of the course.

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Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Explanation of topics.	4.5	0.18	1, 5, 6

Translation and commentary of texts	36	1.44	1, 5, 6
Type: Supervised			
Literary index card	10	0.4	2, 4
Translation and grammatical and metrical commentary	0	0	1, 5, 6
Type: Autonomous			
Preparation of a literary index card	20	0.8	2, 3, 5, 4
Reading of complementary sources	5	0.2	2, 3, 4
Reading of proposed works	15	0.6	2, 3, 5, 4
Translation of the Anthology of texts	55	2.2	1, 5, 6

Assessment

Evaluation activities

The evaluation is a continuous process along which the student must have the possibility to know their progress through partial notes.

For the evaluation of this course, the following activities will be taken into account:

- two exams of translation and literary commentary distributed throughout the course [35% + 35%].
- a reading control of the three tragedies included as course readings [10%].
- a literary index card of *The Wasps* by Aristophanes, in accordance with the model delivered at the beginning of the course [10%].
- attendance and participation in class [10%].

NB: To pass the course you must have an average of 5.

Procedure for the review of qualifications

Each time a partial note is published, the student will be informed of the place and date for the review.

Reassessment procedure

Students will have the right to reassess the course only if:

- they have done 2/3 of the proposed evaluation activities.
- they have obtained an average grade equal to or greater than 3.5.

They will be able to reassess: a translation exam (35%), the control of compulsory readings (10%) and the literary index card (10%).

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Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
1st Exam	35%	1.5	0.06	1, 5, 6
2nd Exam	35%	1.5	0.06	1, 5, 6

Attendance and participation in class activities	10%	0	0	1, 3, 5, 6
Exam of compulsory readings	10%	1.5	0.06	2, 3, 5, 4
Presentation of a literary index card	10%	0	0	2, 3, 5, 4

Bibliography

General bibliography

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<http://universitypublishingonline.org/cambridge/companions/ebook.jsf?bid=CBO9780511998928>]

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Interesting links

In Liceus Web

MELERO A., "La comedia. Orígenes de la comedia. Características generales".

RAMÓN PALERM, V., "Aristófanes y otros poetas de la comedia antigua".

VARIAS, C., "La tragedia. Orígenes de la tragedia. Características generales de la tragedia griega. La tragedia anterior a Esquilo", Madrid 2005: <http://www.liceus.com/> (página web de *Liceus*) Biblioteca virtual "E-excellence". 17 pág. ISBN: 84-9822-193-5.

VARIAS, C., "Esquilo", Madrid 2005: <http://www.liceus.com/> (página web de *Liceus: Servicios de Gestión y Comunicación, S.L.*) Biblioteca virtual "E-excellence". 21 pág. ISBN: 84-9822-089-0.

VARIAS, C., "Sófocles", Madrid 2005: <http://www.liceus.com/> (página web de *Liceus: Servicios de Gestión y Comunicación, S.L.*) Biblioteca virtual "E-excellence". 24 pág. ISBN: 84-9822-121-8.

VICENTE, A., "Eurípides", Madrid: <http://www.liceus.com/> (página web de *Liceus: Servicios de Gestión y Comunicación, S.L.*) Biblioteca virtual "E-excellence". 24 pág. ISBN: 84-9822-581-7.

On Greek Theater

<http://www.xtec.cat/~sgiralt/labyrinthus/graecia/littera/drama.htm>

<http://academic.reed.edu/humanities/110tech/theater.html>

On Greek Drama by the LONDON NATIONAL THEATRE:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSRLK7SogvE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSr6mP-zxUc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-BvMbfkxcc>