



Instructor: Tommaso Gazzarri  
 Email: gazzarrt@union.edu  
 Class meets: M.W. F. 8:00-9:05 AM  
 Location: HUMN 016  
 Office: HUMN 018/A  
 Office hours: T. 4:00-5:00 and by appointment  
 Mailbox: HUMN, Dept. of Classics (2nd floor)

### Description of the course

Ancient Greek comedy represents a fundamental chapter of our cultural history. Irony, social critique, laugh, sarcasm, as distinctive attitudes and categories of the human spirit, are part of the heritage we received from ancient theatre.

This course surveys the comedies of Aristophanes and Menander from different perspectives: historical, anthropological, political and literary.

The extensive analysis of some of the most celebrated ancient comedies will serve a double purpose. On the one hand it will strengthen the student's reading skills and consolidate his/her command of Greek grammar, on the other it will provide valuable material to develop critical thinking and scholarly writing.

Grammar competences will be regularly assessed with weekly quizzes and a midterm exam. As for the research requirements, at the beginning of the term students will select a topic in consultation with the instructor. On the basis regular feedback and in-class reports, a research paper will be developed, which will account for the final examination.

### Course schedule

Lecture 1 - 03/28/11	Introduction - The origins of Greek comedy
Lecture 2 - 03/30/11	Aristophanes - Clouds - Introduction
Lecture 3 - 01/04/11	Clouds - 50 lines

Lecture 4 - 04/04/11	Clouds - 50 lines <a href="#">QUIZ # 1</a>
Lecture 5 - 04/06/11	Clouds - 50 lines
Lecture 6 - 04/08/11	Clouds - 50 lines
Lecture 7 - 04/11/11	Clouds - 50 lines <a href="#">QUIZ # 2</a>
Lecture 8 - 04/13/11	Clouds - 50 lines
Lecture 9 - 04/15/11	Clouds - 50 lines
Lecture 10 - 04/18/11	Clouds - 50 lines <a href="#">QUIZ # 3</a>
Lecture 11 - 04/20/11	Menander - Hecyra
Lecture 12 - 04/22/11	Birds - 50 lines
Lecture 13 - 04/25/11	Birds - 50 lines
Lecture 14 - 04/27/11	Birds - 50 lines
Lecture 15 - 04/29/11	<b><u>MIDTERM EXAM</u></b>
Lecture 16 - 05/02/11	Birds - 50 lines
Lecture 17 - 05/04/11	Birds - 50 lines
Lecture 18 - 05/06/11	Birds - 50 lines
Lecture 19 - 05/09/11	Birds - 50 lines <a href="#">QUIZ # 4</a>
Lecture 20 - 05/11/11	Birds - 50 lines
Lecture 21 - 05/13/11	Birds - 50 lines

Lecture 22 - 05/16/11	Birds - 50 lines <a href="#">QUIZ # 5</a>
Lecture 23 - 05/18/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines
Lecture 24 - 05/20/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines
Lecture 25 - 05/23/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines <a href="#">QUIZ # 6</a>
Lecture 26 - 05/25/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines
Lecture 27 - 05/27/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines
Lecture 28 - 05/30/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines <a href="#">QUIZ # 7</a>
Lecture 29 - 06/01/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines
Lecture 30 - 06/03/11	Thesmophoriazusae - 50 lines

**Required texts** (available from the bookstore)

- Aristophanes, *Clouds*, ed. L. S. Barnard, (Bryn Mawr) 1987, ISBN 978-0929524023.
- Aristophanes, *Birds*, ed. P. Burian, (Bryn Mawr) 1991, 978-0929524641.
- Aristophanes, *Thesmophoriazusae*, ed. J. F. Gannon, (Bryn Mawr) 1987, ISBN 978-0929524047.
- Menander, *The Plays and Fragments*, ed. P. Brown and M. Balme, (OUP) 2008, ISBN 978-0199540730.

**Suggested texts** (available from the bookstore)

- Aristophanes, *The Complete Plays*, ed P. Roche (Nal Trade) 2005, ISBN 978-0451214096.



## Course requirements

### Attendance

Regular participation and prompt attendance are required. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse or is consistently unprepared for class, his/her grade will be significantly affected.

Quizzes **CANNOT** be made up. Make-up exams will only be given if a medical or family emergency arises, and the Dean of Students office notifies me.

### Grades

Final grades will be weighted as follows:

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Attendance and participation | 10% |
| • Quizzes                      | 25% |
| • Midterm exam                 | 30% |
| • Final exam                   | 35% |

### Grading Scale

	A 94–100	A- 90–93
B+ 87–89	B 84–86	B- 80–83
C+ 77–79	C 74–76	C- 70–73
D+ 67–69	D 63–66	D- 60–63

### Exam dates

- |                  |                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Mid-term exam: | Lecture 15 (04/29/11)               |
| • Final Exam:    | Wed, June 8 - HUMN 016, 11:30-01:30 |

**ADA Requirements**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office.
2. Bring me a letter (within the first two weeks) from the Dean of Student Office indicating the needed academic accommodations.

For more information contact:

Shelly Shinebarger, Director of Student Support Services  
Reamer Campus Center 303  
shinebas@union.edu