



Instructor: A. Jordão

~ a.jordao@utoronto.ca

Course Number: DRE/ENG121H5F

Course Title: Traditions of Theatre & Drama

Course description: This introductory course surveys plays and performance techniques from the Ancient Greeks to the late 18th century. We will study plays by Euripides, William Shakespeare, Molière, Aphra Behn and others, with a focus on situating the works in their historical contexts. We will consider the theatrical and social environments in which they were originally performed and the theatrical conventions that would have informed their staging. We will also discuss their contemporary significance to explore the reasons why they continue to be produced and adapted today. Special emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking and close reading skills. Students will also participate in staged readings of excerpts from the plays, providing us with a further opportunity to consider the plays in performance then and now.

Continued...

Required Reading: Selections from *The Norton Anthology of Drama Vol. I: Antiquity through the Eighteenth Century* (2009); additional plays and/or readings will be distributed as handouts or electronically.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Euripides' *The Bacchae*, Seneca's *Thyestes*, Hrotsvit's *Dulcitius*.

Method of Instruction: For each play we will have lectures, pair or small group exercises, and class discussion. We will also do staged readings of scenes from the plays and presentations on performance, with the aim of honing close reading skills and considering staging possibilities.

Method of Evaluation: Scene Study/Presentation and Report (500 words) (10%); Close Reading (1000 words) (15%), Mid-term test (10%); Final paper (2000 words) (20%); Participation (attendance, in-class assignments) (10%); Final exam (35%)