

Instructor: Lydia Wilkinson

Course number: DRE/ENG 121 HF

Course title: Traditions of Theatre and 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 Sophocles, Shakespeare, Moliere, 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. Students will have the opportunity to assist with or participate in the performance of excerpts from the plays—providing us with a further opportunity to consider the plays in performance then and now.

Required Reading: Selections from *The Norton Anthology of Drama Vol. I* (2008); additional plays and readings will be posted on Blackboard.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*; Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*; Plautus, *Pseudolus*.

Method of Instruction: Each week we will have two informal lectures, with much opportunity for class discussion. During the third class of the week we will stage parts of the plays we are studying. Students will have the opportunity to assist with or participate in scene performances.

Method of Evaluation: Close reading exercise (1000 words) (15%); Mid-term test (12%); Essay proposal and final paper (2000 words) (20%); Participation (20%); Final exam (33%)