

# CLT 3123, Survey of Roman Literature in Translation

## Roman Drama



### Time and Location

MWF, Period 8 (3:00 – 3:50 pm)

Location: CSE E220

### Contact Information

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137 Dauer Hall

Office hours: M 2-3 PM; F 5-6 PM and by appointment

(137 Dauer Hall and on zoom; if you come to my office, you are required to wear a mask)

### Prerequisites / Credits

No prerequisites: knowledge of Latin is **not** required. 3 credits.

This course completes the requirement in General Education - Humanities, International.

### Course presentation

This course in translation explores ancient Roman theater in all its diversity, from tears to laughter, love affairs to bloody murders. Drama offers a unique insight into Roman culture and society as it was both a popular entertainment, often written and enacted by slaves, and an entryway for Greek tradition, myth and literature. What made Romans laugh or cry? Such reactions are deeply rooted in culture, and theater enables us to explore human relationships, emotions, and even senses through the strong auditory, visual and even tactile dimensions of its performances.

This course will present a wide panorama of Roman drama through its main authors, Plautus, Terence and Seneca, from 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC comedy to 1<sup>st</sup> century AD tragedy. With Plautus and Terence, we will analyze the variety of Roman humor, from slapstick to situational comedy, farce, wit and parody. With Senecan tragedy, we will analyze the rewriting of Greek myth during the Roman empire by a Stoic philosopher and statesman.

This course will thus enrich your knowledge of Greek and Roman culture, but also of Western literature since Plautus, Terence and Seneca were highly influential for modern playwrights like Shakespeare, Molière, Racine or Lope de Vega, but also contemporary theater, cinema and sitcoms. You will practice academic writing, literary commentary, performance analysis, as well as diction and acting, preparing you for further studies in Classics and Theater, but also enhancing your oral, reading and writing skills. From everyday life to timeless myths, “all the world’s a stage”!

## Course objectives and goals

1. Defining comedy and tragedy and the dual nature of theater as text and performance
2. Meaningfully interpreting texts in translation with special attention to the significance of voice, tone, imagery and register
3. Meaningfully interpreting various art forms from a different socio-historical context
4. Questioning the cultural construction of humor
5. Increasing your knowledge of Roman culture
6. Increasing your mastery of literary criticism and academic writing
7. Increasing your oral skills
8. Enjoying dramatic stories from Antiquity!

## Textbooks

- David M. Christenson. *Roman Comedy: Five Plays by Plautus and Terence*. Focus Classical Library. Newburyport, MA: Focus Pub / R. Pullins Co, 2010. [required]
- Wilson, Emily R. *Six Tragedies: Seneca*. Oxford World's Classics (Oxford University Press). Oxford: University Press, 2010. [required]

### For further reading see:

Franko, George Fredric, and Dorota Dutsch, eds. *A Companion to Plautus*. Hoboken: Wiley, 2020. [optional]

## Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

<b>Week 1</b>	Aug. 24, 26	1. Introduction: what is Greek and Roman drama?
<b>Week 2</b>	Aug. 29, 31, Sept. 2	2. Comedy: Plautus, <b>read</b> <i>Rudens</i> or <i>The Rope</i> by the 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 3</b>	Sept. 7, 9	3. Plautus, <i>Rudens</i> or <i>The Rope</i> ; <b>Quiz 1</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	Sept. 12, 14, 16	4. Plautus: <b>read</b> <i>The Two Menaechmuses</i> by the 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Week 5</b>	Sept. 19, 21, 23	5. Plautus; <b>Quiz 2</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	Sept. 26, 28, 30	6. Terence: <b>read</b> <i>Adelphoe</i> or <i>The Brothers</i> by the 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 7</b>	Oct. 3, 5, 7	7. Terence;
<b>Week 8</b>	Oct. 10, 12, 14	8. Terence; Review; <b>Midterm exam</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	Oct. 17, 19, 21	9. Tragedy: Seneca
<b>Week 10</b>	Oct. 24, 26, 28	10. Seneca
<b>Week 11</b>	Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4	11. Seneca; <b>Quiz 3</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	Nov. 7, 9	12. Seneca
<b>Week 13</b>	Nov. 14, 16, 18	13. Seneca; <b>Quiz 4</b>
<b>Week 14</b>	Nov. 21	14. Seneca
<b>Week 15</b>	Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2	15. Conclusion on Roman drama; Final performances
<b>Week 16</b>	Dec. 5, 7	16. Review; <b>Final exam</b>

No class on: Sept. 5: Labor day; Nov. 11: Veterans Day; Nov.23-27: Thanksgiving

## Course requirements and grades

Students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions and acting workshops. **No previous experience in acting is necessary.** In this regard, it is necessary to read and analyze in depth the assigned texts before coming to class.

In order to foster good participation, cell phone use is prohibited during class, and eating or drinking should be kept at a minimum.

The participation grade will also include posting 3 times on the Canvas Discussion Board throughout the semester and reacting to 3 students' posts.

Your grades will be based on 4 quizzes (30 minutes, including basic definitions, text and image commentaries and short essays; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped); a Midterm and a Final Exam (50 minutes, same content).

Lastly, we will prepare a final performance. We will decide as a class if you all want to perform one play or divide yourselves into groups to perform several extracts from various plays. Each student should memorize and enact at least 45 lines. **Again, no previous experience in acting is necessary**, we will do several non-graded workshops throughout the semester, and prepare together for the final performance(s). This will be further discussed in class.

- Midterm exam (Oct. 14) = 18%
- 4 quizzes, each = 12 % (except the lowest grade which will be dropped)
- Attendance, homework and participation = 10%
- Final performance(s) (Nov. 28, 30) = 18%
- Final exam (Dec. 7) = 18 %

### Class attendance and make-up works

Regular attendance and active participation are mandatory. Make-up examinations are rarely given and only for extraordinary circumstances beyond your control, such as a grave illness. You must notify me in advance if possible and at the latest within 24 hours of a missed exam in order to arrange a makeup. I must have written documentation for any medical or other emergencies which result in a missed test.

More than one absence will cause your final grade to be penalized by five points for each subsequent unexcused absence. Arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/3 of an absence.

### Covid-19 safety measures

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- You are highly recommended to wear a mask at all times (over the nose and the chin); neck gaiters, bandanas and scarfs are not masks.

- You are highly recommended to respect physical distancing and use the provided hand sanitizer.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus.

- Visit ONE.UF for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities: you are encouraged to check testing and health insurance options ahead of time in order to know what to do if you get sick. If you are sick, please stay home and call your primary care provider if you need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated. Make sure you email me as soon as possible and keep up with the homework and class materials available on Canvas.

### ADA requirements

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## Grading scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	below 60

## Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## Critical dates for quizzes and exams

- September 7: Quiz 1
- September 23: Quiz 2
- October 14: Midterm exam
- October 31: Quiz 3
- November 16: Quiz 4
- Final performance(s) (Nov. 28, 30)
- December 7: Final exam

## Honesty policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

*Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):* Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

*University Police Department:* 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### Academic Resources

*E-learning technical support,* 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.



*Career Connections Center*, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

<https://career.ufl.edu/>

*Library Support*, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

*Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints On-Campus*: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

*On-Line Students Complaints*: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

### **P.S.: Vote and Register to Vote!**

- Florida's next statewide election is Aug. 23. Although it is a primary election, you do not need to be registered as a Republican or a Democrat to vote for the nonpartisan races.
- Register by October 11 to vote in the November 8 General Election.
- Early voting for the general election is October 24-November 5th.
- All Alachua County voters can early vote at the Reitz Union.

<https://www.campusvoteproject.org/stateguides/Florida>



*Roman Theatre in the City of Orange, France*