– History of Greek and Latin Theatre

Prof. Maria Pia Pattoni

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to teach specialist knowledge on theatrical production methods of the ancient world, reconstructed through detailed study of all available sources (archaeological, literary, and academic). Furthermore, through study and commentary on some of the main Attic plays and their modern re-writings, which present archetypal myths and dramatic action in a contemporary key, the course aims to highlight the elements of continuity from Ancient Greece to the contemporary world. At the end of the course, students will have all solid knowledge of ancient theatre and its different values (archaeological, anthropological, historical, literary, etc.).

***COURSE CONTENT***

a) General section

Introduction to ancient drama: general issues (structure of ancient theatrical buildings and how theatrical productions were managed; semantic structure and mechanisms of tragedies and comedies; writers).

b) Single-subject section:

*Female characters in Athenian tragedy and comedy: reading paths*

***READING LIST***

See *NOTES AND PREREQUISITES*

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam.

Assessment Mark

*Sufficient* 18-20

*More than sufficient* 21-23

*Fair* 24-25

*Good* 26-27

*Very good* 28-29

*Excellent* 30-30 with distinction

Assessment will be based on: correct focalisation of the question and relevance of answer, level of in-depth study of the subject, analysis and summary skills, clarity and consistency of presentation, skills of expression, students’ ability to make connections, students’ ability to use specific technical terms pertaining to the subject.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

1) The course will take place during Semester 1 (October-December).

2) There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should be interested in theatre literature and the ancient world.

3) Syllabus for attending students and the relative reading list:

a) lecture notes; course pack available from the UC copy shop at the beginning of the course; (or on Blackboard, in case the current Covid-19 health emergency should persist); further teaching material (e.g. critical essays and iconographic material) available on Blackboard;

b) *Greek theatre*. *Tragedie*, including an introductory essay edited by G. Paduano, BUR, Rizzoli, Milan 20061; *Il teatro greco. Commedie*, including an introductory essay edited by G. Paduano, BUR, Rizzoli, Milan 20071 (the examination syllabus will be based on a selection of tragedies and comedies that will be read and discussed during the course).

c) Home reading:

from *Il teatro greco. Tragedie*, including an introductory essay edited by G. Paduano, BUR, Rizzoli, Milan 20061: Eschilo, *Agamennone, Coefore, Eumenidi*; Sofocle, *Trachinie, Edipo re, Edipo a Colono;* Euripide, *Ippolito, Troiane, Fenicie, Baccanti;* from the volume *Il teatro greco. Commedie*, including an introductoryessayedited by G. Paduano, BUR, Rizzoli, Milan 20071: Aristofane*, Le donne all'assemblea, Le donne alla festa delle Tesmoforie, Nuvole, Rane.*

d) Euripide, Seneca, Grillparzer, Alvaro, *Medea. Variazioni sul mito*, edited by M.G. Ciani, Marsilio, Venice.

e) One of the following pathways (students from the Ancient Dramaturgy Workshop taught by Prof. C. Cuccoro are not required to bring this part of the syllabus to the examination):

I) modern revisiting of ancient tragic myths:

Euripide-Wieland-Rilke-Yourcenar-Raboni, *Alcesti. Variazioni sul mito,* ed. Marsilio, Venice; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, *Alcesti* (the drama written by Hofmannsthal is available on Blackboard).

II) Reading of the original version of a tragedy in Greek or Latin (that must be previously approved by the lecturer).

4) Attendance is strongly recommended. Students who have valid reasons for being unable to attend should contact the lecturer before the end of the course to arrange an appropriate syllabus.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.