# History of Greek and Latin Theatre (6 ECTS credits)

## Prof. Elisabetta Matelli

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

Module 1 aims to provide the fundamentals and basic tools to get familiar with classic theatre by using an interdisciplinary method that combines the history of literature with archaeology, epigraphy, philosophy, dramaturgy, and theatrical experience.

At the end of the course, students will be able to acquire the key concepts that are necessary to carry out the critical reading and interpretation of classical plays.

During the Advanced Module (which is optional and will take place after Module 1), students will be guided, with an interdisciplinary and interactive approach, towards the critical reading of some classical plays according to the *Poetics* by Aristotle and an interdisciplinary methodology that will intersect with archaeology.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module (30 hours, 6 ECTS)

1. Fundamentals of the history of Greek and Latin theatre with interdisciplinary method (philological, historical, archaeological-antiquarian, anthropological).

2. Dionysus myth, Dionysian festivals, and organisation of theatre festivals in classic Athens.

3. Setting out the method of dramaturgical analysis provided by Aristotle's *Poetica,* with readings from the main passages.

4. Critical reading of Aeschylus' *Persians* and Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* in light of the Aristotelian method.

5. Guide to the domestic reading of *Iphigenia in Tauris* by Euripides, *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, and *Oedipus* by Seneca.

6. The basics of the archaeology of Greek and Roman theatres.

7. The contents of the seminars proposed on the calendar at the beginning of the course.

***READING LIST***

The reading list is provided during the first lectures and posted on the Blackboard page.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Module 1 (duration: 30 hours + workshops and practical classes), based on interactive lectures, will take place during the first five weeks of the semester. The calendar will be made available on Blackboard. Class attendance is highly recommended. ‘Class attendance’ refers to both frontal lectures and remote classes (where needed).

Furthermore, students are invited to be present at the staging of the classical plays analysed in class. Practical classes and seminars are considered part of the course programme.

*Note*

Students are invited to check the following initiatives:

– the Workshop of Ancient Dramaturgy (for 3 ECTS), also for students with no theatrical experience, is dedicated to studying the staging of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata,* which takes place from 4 October 2023, with the final performances on Thursday 14 December, at 8:30 p.m. at the Teatro Leone XIII and on Friday 15 December, at 3:00 p.m. at the Teatro Carcere in Opera.

* for students with some acting experience, the Advanced Training Course, *Teatro Antico In Scena* [Ancient Theatre On Stage]*,* dedicated to Aristophanes' *Lysistrata,* which will begin on January 26, 2024, ending with the staging of the comedy on 29-30 May 2024. For information write to *elisabetta.matelli@unicatt.it*

– the billboard of classic performances proposed by the Kerkis Association. *Teatro Antico In Scena* ([www.kerkis.net](http://www.kerkis.net)).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

This course does not offer early examinations (*preappelli*). The exam takes place in person, organised in "roundtables", in which students are required to participate with the scheduled texts.

Assessment aims to test students’ knowledge and dramaturgical reading skills of texts included in the syllabus (according to the critical methods described during lectures and mostly based on Aristotle’s *Poetics)*, knowledge of the Greek and Latin historical-literary context in which the works were written, and accurate knowledge of historical-archaeological notions related to the theatrical structures and other useful elements. Attending and non-attending students must incorporate the lecture slides and notes published on Blackboard into their preparation, alongside the texts on the reading lists, also on Blackboard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students who don’t have a basic knowledge of history and literature should compensate with the study a specific textbook.

In addition, in order to receive updates on reading list and material, students are invited to subscribe to the Blackboard page of the course using their @iCatt email address.

The title of a three-year degree dissertation will be granted to students who pass the exam with at least 27 marks. Master’s theses are granted to students who pass at least two modules, achieving at least 27 marks in each.

Students will attend mandatory practical classes on techniques for writing their papers.

Graduating students must complete their paper at least one week before the submission date and, before the discussion, submit the complete paper to the supervisor and co-supervisor, including in hard copy.

Lectures and oral exams will only be conducted online where health emergencies (or similar) require it.

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.