

Kirk Ormand
King 105a; x8394

Office Hours: T 9-10; W 10-11; Th 12:15-
1:30 and by appt.

GREK 307: Aristophanes

Fall, 2006

Purpose: In this course you will be introduced to the bawdy, hilarious, literary masterpieces of Aristophanes. We will read the *Thesmophoriazousae* in Greek, and most of the other comedies in English. Along the way, we'll also read some secondary studies of Aristophanes. I've ordered Henderson's *The Maculate Muse* for this purpose. Themes of particular focus will be: the tradition of Old Comedy; the use and function of obscenity in comedy; the construction of sexuality in the comedies and in society; the political functions of comedy.

Class Time: Class time will be divided between translating Aristophanes' Greek, and discussing his plays and recent analyses of them. I would like to get away from the tyranny of translating every line of Greek in class, in order to have more time to discuss. This means, however, that you must hold yourself responsible for keeping up with the Greek assignments week to week, and for noting any sections of Greek that you find particularly difficult or in need of attention.

Grading: Your grade will be based on class participation, a midterm and final, and a mid-length paper (7-10 pages), for which you must also write a brief proposal. Your class participation grade will be based on whether you are prepared to translate and to make contributions to discussion; if you miss classes, or regularly come to class unprepared, this portion of your grade will suffer.

Late Papers: Unless arrangements are made before a paper is due, late papers will be graded down 1/3 letter grade for each day late. Of course, in the case of a legitimate medical excuse, family emergency, etc., the above does not apply. Simply speak to me as soon as possible, and we will make arrangements.

Attendance: For the duration of this semester and for the purposes of this class, we are a community of scholars. Please plan to attend every class session. If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not mine) to find out what you missed. Repeated absences will harm your grade for class participation.

Academic Honesty: In the unlikely event that a student is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty (cheating, helping other students to cheat, plagiarism) he/she will fail the course. I will also report the student to the Honor Board, who may enact their own penalties. If any student is unclear as to what may be considered plagiarism, cheating, etc., she/he should speak to me about it. A full discussion of these issues can be found at <http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-regs.html#honor> .

Syllabus

Date	English	Greek
Sept. 5	First Class; Syllabus, expectations, introductions, introduction to Aristophanes	Zippo
7	<i>Thesmophoriazousae</i> in English;	<i>Thesmophoriazousae</i> 1-38
12	Acharnians	<i>Th.</i> 39-92
14		<i>Th.</i> 93-152
19	Henderson, "The Demos and the Comic Competition" (handout)	<i>Th.</i> 153-210
21		<i>Th.</i> 211-279
26	Clouds	<i>Th.</i> 279-351
28		<i>Th.</i> 352-413
Monday, Oct. 2	No Class -- Yom Kippur	
Oct. 3	Wasps	<i>Th.</i> 414-465
5		<i>Th.</i> 466-519
10	Birds	<i>Th.</i> 520-581
12	Midterm covering through Oct. 3	
Oct. 16-20	No Class -- Fall Break	
24	Lysistrata; Redfield: "Drama and Community: Aristophanes and some of his Rivals"	
26		<i>Th.</i> 582-640
31	Frogs	<i>Th.</i> 641-703
Nov. 2		<i>Th.</i> 704-764
7	<i>Maculate Muse</i> , 1-2	<i>Th.</i> 765-813
9		<i>Th.</i> 814-870
14	<i>Maculate Muse</i> , 7	<i>Th.</i> 871-934
16	Proposal for Papers Due; details to follow (Kirk in Indiana)	
21		<i>Th.</i> 935-1000
23	Thanksgiving -- No Class	
28	Zeitlin: "Travesties of Gender and Genre in Aristophanes' <i>Thesmophoriazousae</i> "	<i>Th.</i> 1001-1055
30		<i>Th.</i> 1056-1120
Dec. 5	Bobrick: "The Tyranny of Roles: Playacting and Privilege in Aristophanes' <i>Thesmophoriazousae</i> "	<i>Th.</i> 1121-1180
7		<i>Th.</i> 1181-1231

12	Tzanetou, Angeliki, "Something to do with Demeter," <i>AJPh</i> 2002 123 (3) : 329-367.	Catch up
14	<i>Final Papers Due</i> Last Day of Classes	Catch up
Dec. 15-17	Reading Period	
Tues., Dec. 19	2:00 pm Final Exam covering Oct. 5 to end of semester	

Secret knowledge: If you want to know what Prof. Ormand really thinks about the *Thesmophoriazousae*, you are welcome to read "Oedipus the Queen," *Theatre Journal* 55 (2003): 1-28.