

FW 2024-25

AP/EN3192 6.0 & HUMA 3014 6.0	Tragedy in Western Literature: Ancient and Modern
Course Director:	<p>Marcia Blumberg Home Phone: 416-445-1568 (by appointment) Email: blumberg@yorku.ca</p> <p>All appointments should be scheduled with me via e-mail. I will try to accommodate requests from 10am to 9pm, please provide several time choices. The request should include the course number and a description of the topic. I will respond and confirm.</p>
Time:	Wednesdays from 2.30pm – 5.30pm
Delivery Format:	ONLINE Zoom Synchronous Delivery. Scheduled meeting times as above. Students should be available for the entire seminar to participate in course related activities. I will take attendance each week.
Description:	<p>Expanded course description: This introduction to Tragedy begins with an examination of Tragedy as a genre and the important writings on Tragedy by Aristotle and other theorists. We briefly analyze various contexts of Ancient Greece and the way in which these tragedies were staged. Choosing five significant tragedies, Aeschylus <i>Oresteia</i>, Sophocles <i>Antigone</i> and <i>Oedipus The King</i>, Euripides <i>Medea</i> and <i>The Bacchae</i>, we study each ancient text followed by a cluster of modern or contemporary re-visionings of these plays utilizing Adrienne Rich’s definition of that term, ‘the act of looking back, of seeing with fresh eyes, of entering a text from a new critical direction.’ In doing so we traverse a trajectory of texts from Ancient Greece, where Tragedy portrayed the fate of famous men and women and their relationship to the gods, to recent plays that represent the crises associated with ordinary men and women and their positionings in many different worlds. These latter texts will be situated in a range of countries and cultures including Argentina, Britain, France, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Poland, South Africa, USA and will offer new insights into the Ancient Tragedies using many theatrical forms.</p> <p>Course Objectives The course analyzes cultural and political contexts, specificities of time and place, aspects of race, class, gender and power differentials. We will interrogate theatrical, formal, thematic, and theoretical issues. Interpretations of the Greek Tragedies and the twentieth century plays emphasize theatre as a dynamic medium that uses language and bodies in diverse stagings and contexts; they also empower us with a heightened awareness to see with fresh eyes.</p>

Category:	N/A
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	<p>Requirements & Grade Breakdown</p> <p>Assignment 1 Theatre review (3-4 pages) = 15%</p> <p>Assignment 2 Comparative essay (7-8 pages) = 20%</p> <p>Assignment 3 Comparative research essay (9-10 pages) =30%</p> <p>Final Open-Book Test on Entire course on last class. =20%</p> <p>Engaged Class participation 15%</p> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL HAVE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS.</p> <p>NB –FINAL SENATE DEADLINE FOR ALL WORK APRIL 4, 2025.</p>
Reading List:	<p>Reading List</p> <p><i>Greek Tragedy: 3 Plays</i> (includes Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>, Euripides, <i>Medea</i> and, <i>The Bacchae</i>) (Nick Hern); <i>The Oresteia of Aeschylus</i>, in a new translation by Ted Hughes (Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2000); Jean Anouilh, <i>Antigone</i> (Samuel French) Steven Berkoff, <i>Greek*</i>; Bertolt Brecht, <i>Antigone</i> trans Judith Malina (Applause)*; Marina Carr, <i>By the Bog of Cats</i> (DPS); Caryl Churchill and David Lan, <i>A Mouthful of Birds*</i>; Rachel Cusk, <i>Euripides Medea. A New Version</i> (Oberon Classics, 2015) ; Euripides <i>Medea in a new version by Ben Power</i> (Faber); Rita Dove, <i>The Darker Face of the Earth*</i>; Maureen Duffy, <i>Rites*</i>; Yael Farber, <i>Molara</i> (Oberon); Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona, <i>The Island in Statements*</i>; Griselda Gambaro, <i>Antigona Furiosa*</i>; Janus Glowacki, <i>Antigone in New York</i> (Samuel French); Eugene O'Neill, <i>Mourning Becomes Electra in Three Plays</i> (Vintage); Franca Rame and Dario Fo, <i>Medea Prologue + Medea in Orgasmo Adulto Escapes from the Zoo*</i>; Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Rex (Dover Thrift Edition)</i>, trans. Sir George Young;</p> <p>Texts marked * will be available in a course kit. Scott Reserves have copies of old course kits and texts that are not easily available online. Please also check for ecopies in the library.</p>
Open To:	Yr 3, 4