

Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

**First Semester 2009**

**6 points – 2 hrs per week - Clayton**

Millicent VLADIV-GLOVER  
(CCLCS)  
Eva ANAGNOSTOU-LAOUTIDES  
(Classical Studies)

**CLS2100/3100 READING THE CANON: CRITICAL APPROACHES**

**Synopsis** The course explores texts with roots in ancient Greek literature (in translation) and examines how the classical material is transformed in the modern European canon. Both the classical and the modern texts will be studied in their respective historical and aesthetic contexts. Through a close reading of the texts, the course introduces students to methods of reading and critical analysis, using phenomenology as the broad theoretical framework which includes approaches such as Structuralism and psychoanalytic criticism. All texts are studied in English translation but students with background knowledge in Greek, Latin, French and German are encouraged to read texts in the original.

**Assessment** One seminar paper (1500 words): 20%  
Essay (2,000 words): 45% (Due week 8 of first semester).  
Test (90 minutes): 30 % (End of Semester) Class Participation: 5%

**Teaching Staff**

[Millicent.Vladivglover@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Millicent.Vladivglover@arts.monash.edu.au)

Tel: 9905 2256 mobile: 0402 254 900

[Eva.AnagnostouLaoutides@arts.moansh.edu.au](mailto:Eva.AnagnostouLaoutides@arts.moansh.edu.au)

Lectures are recorder on-line (MULO) and there is a MUSO unit site for course materials.

**PRESCRIBED CLASSICAL TEXTS:**

- Euripides *The Bacchae*

**Suggested Editions:**

1. Kovacs, D. 2003. *Euripides, Bacchae, Iphigenia at Aulis, Rhesus*. Harvard University Press.

2. Morwood, J. 2000. *Bacchae and Other Plays*. Oxford World Classics. Oxford University Press.

- Seneca *Phaedra*

### **Suggested Editions:**

1. Mayer, R. 2003. *Seneca Phaedra*. Duckworth Companions to Greek and Roman Tragedy. Duckworth Publications.

2. Watling, E.F. 1966. *Four Tragedies and Octavia*. Penguin Classics.

### **RECOMMENDED READING:**

Edmunds, L. 1990. *Approaches to Greek Myth*. John Hopkins University Press.

Csapo, E. 2005. *Theories of Mythology*. Blackwell, Oxford.

Harrison, S. 2001. *Texts, Ideas and the Classics. Scholarship, Theory, and Classical Literature*. Oxford University Press.

### **PRESCRIBED POST-CLASSICAL TEXTS:**

Jean Racine, *Phèdre* Penguin Classics

#### **Suggested Editions:**

William Packard 1966 Alexandrine Translation of Racine's *Phèdre*.

#### **Suggested alternative text:**

Tony Harrison, *Plays*. Faber & Faber, 2002 (*Phaedra Britannica*, after Racine's *Phèdre*).

Heinrich von Kleist, *Penthesilea*.

#### **Suggested Editions:**

Heinrich von Kleist, *Five Plays*. Continuum Collection. Blackwell Publishing.

Heinrich von Kleist, *Plays*. The German Library. Edited by Walter Hinderer. Foreword by E L Doctorow.

### **FURTHER SUGGESTED Modern and Post-Modern TEXTS**

- Pasolini's *Medea* (film)
- Freud's "Totem and Taboo" and other texts featuring the Oedipus complex
- German 'Classicism' (Romanticism) (Goethe's *Iphigenie auf Tauris*)
- Isabelle Allende *The House of Dead Spirits*