

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2021
EN 235	Tragedy and Comedy	Prerequisite: 3 credits EN
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	In-class	Instructor:	Jonathan Goossen, PhD	First day of classes:	Mon, Jan 11
Days:	T/Th	Email:	jgoossen@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 24
Time:	5:00-6:15 pm	Phone:	403-410-2000 x5960	Last day to request revised final exam:	Mon, Mar 8
Room:	A2133	Office:	L2065	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar 19
Lab/Tutorial:	N/A	Office Hours:	W/F 11:00am-noon Zoom by appointment	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar 29
Final Exam:	1-4 pm April 20, Rm A2133			Last day of classes:	Fri, Apr 16

Course Description

The dramatic genres of tragedy and comedy originated in Ancient Greece yet continue to populate theatre stages and screens to our time. This course will survey the long history of these genres by studying seminal representatives of each and important theoretical accounts of the formal conventions that define them.

Learning Outcomes

Diligent students of this course will:

- gain understanding of the major recurrent traits and types of tragedy and comedy over the long history of each genre.
- gain understanding of central theoretical accounts of the form, effect, and significance of tragedy and comedy.
- consider the differences and similarities between these two primary narrative modes
- consider the relationship of Christian theology to the tragic and comic visions of human life.

Special Statement

Like the last, this semester begins beneath the cloud of COVID-19 and the sweeping powers Alberta Health Services (AHS) has assumed to deal with it. At any point, AHS may force individuals not to attend class, or it may force us all temporarily or permanently online. Despite this threat, I have designated this as a traditional, on-campus and in-person class because I believe that university education is most beneficial, courageous, and enjoyable when it involves unmediated, fully human interaction with your professor and fellow students. In light of these circumstances and this belief, I make the following commitments to you and place the following expectations on you for this semester.

- I commit to teaching the class and meeting with students in person as long as I am permitted to do so. I expect that you will attend class diligently and make use of my office hours as long as you are permitted to do so.
- I commit to making classroom materials available online to any students whose life situation requires them to stay off campus, though this online delivery will not be my primary focus. I expect that you will contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements if this should be your fate.
 - **This provision is to be used only in cases of COVID-related need, not because you prefer taking classes in your pajamas or because your cat seems lethargic.*
- I commit to making reasonable adjustments to assignment deadlines if you become sick or are forced into extraordinary circumstances. I expect that you will be honest about your situation, not using the pandemic as an excuse for indolence, and that you will still complete all assignments.

Textbooks

Aristotle. *Poetics*. Trans. Richard Janko. Hackett, 1987. [ISBN 9780872200333](#).

Aristophanes. *Clouds*. Trans. Peter Meineck. Hackett, 2000. [ISBN 9780872205161](#).

*Congreve, William. *The Way of the World*. In *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Volume C*. Norton, 2010.

*Euripides. *Hecuba*. Trans. Janet Lembke and Kenneth Reckford. *The Complete Euripides Volume I: Trojan Women and Other Plays*. Eds. Peter Burian, and Alan Shapiro. Oxford UP, 2010. ProQuest Ebook Central.

Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman: Text and Criticism*. Rev. ed. Penguin/Viking, 1996. [ISBN 9780140247732](#).

Rotimi, Ola. *The Gods Are Not to Blame*. [Ebook](#).

Shakespeare, William. *As You Like It*. Any edition will do, but [here is a cheap suggestion](#).

---. *Julius Caesar*. Any edition will do, but [here is a cheap suggestion](#).

*Sophocles. *Oedipus the King*. In *The Three Theban Plays*. Trans. Robert Fagles. London: Penguin, 1984. ISBN 9780140444254.

**Texts marked with an asterisk will be made available digitally on Moodle. Students are expected to print these digital copies, read and mark them up, and bring them to class on the days specified. Also, the Amazon links above promise fast shipping from within Canada. To ensure you have the text in time, please order from them.*

Course Guidelines

- Class sessions will be largely devoted to considering the assigned readings. Therefore:
 - **Read all assigned texts before** the class for which they are assigned
 - **Always bring the relevant texts** to class
 - **Print any readings posted on Moodle** and bring them with you to class.
- Additional short texts introduced in class will be made available on Moodle.
- In addition to the assigned readings, **you are responsible for the content of all lectures** on these readings, including their historical and literary backgrounds. In other words, **attend class**.
- All assignments are **due by the beginning of class** on the date specified and are to be submitted to the appropriate Moodle drop box.
- **Late Assignments:**
 - **The penalty for late assignments** is one refined letter grade per class day (T-F) late. Moreover, late assignments may well be graded and returned later than on-time submissions.
 - **Extensions** may be granted on written assignments in exceptional circumstances, but must be requested in advance.
- This is not high school: **all assignments must be submitted** to receive a passing final grade.
- Should you need to take any part of the course online via Zoom, **please turn your camera on** for the duration of the class. Whenever you'd like to contribute to the discussion, **just speak out; don't use the chat function**.

- The most current version of this syllabus will always be available on Moodle. You are responsible for any changes to it announced in class.

Course Evaluation

Participation & Reading Quizzes – 10%

Participation is your visible engagement with the class and the texts: look alert, ask questions, share your thoughts, and visit the professor's office when you need help. It goes without saying that such participation requires **regular attendance**: skip classes and your grade will suffer. **Short reading quizzes** will be randomly inflicted at the beginning of class to ensure that you are keeping up.

Reflection Paper – 5%

Read one of the two assigned articles on tragedy and theology and tragedy and women. Write a brief 300-word reflection paper that relates two plays to the ideas discussed in the articles. **Due March 2.**

Précis of Theoretical Texts – 2 x 10% = 20%

Write two 750-word (3 pp.) précis (summaries) of Aristotle's *Poetics* and Frye's "Mythos of Spring" that demonstrates your comprehension of their arguments. **Due January 28 and March 30.**

Essays – 20%, 25%

Topics will be assigned for each of two 1500-word (5-6 pp.) papers, one on each genre. **Essay 1 due March 9 16; Essay 2 due April 15.**

Final examination – 20%

The final will be comprehensive of the entire course. **April 20.**

*Further directions for these assignments will be given well before they are due.
The professor reserves the right to make adjustments to these requirements in response
to Alberta Health Services demands.*

Attendance:

Learning how to read literature is not simply a matter of memorizing facts from Powerpoint slides. Therefore, **class attendance is mandatory**. Attendance will be taken daily and will affect your participation grade. **Any student who misses more than 8 class sessions without legitimate excuse will automatically fail the course.**

Classroom Etiquette

In order for each of us to get the most out of this class, please observe the following:

- Arrive on time. Attendance will be taken.
- Do not talk compulsively. Be self-aware and leave space for others' voices.
- Do not be silent. Speaking is a crucial aid to formulating your thoughts on a topic.
- Eating in a formal venue like a classroom is brutish; since university education is meant to humanize you, don't do it. Unslurped beverages are fine.
- Texting or having your phone beep, ring, or rumble during class is not quite brutish (animals don't use technology), but it is certainly crude. Since university education is meant not only to humanize but to civilize you, **turn your phone off and put it away.**
- Despite frothy claims to the contrary by scholars often addicted to it, technology does not usually aid learning. Therefore, **students may not use any device more complex than pen and paper in our classroom.** Contact the professor if you need special accommodation.

Grade Summary:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A+	96-100	Excellent
A	91-95	
A-	86-90	
B+	82-85	Good
B	75-81	
B-	72-74	
C+	68-71	Satisfactory
C	63-67	
C-	60-62	
D+	56-59	Poor
D	50-55	Minimum Pass
F	0-49	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be

used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at ambrose.edu/wellness.
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See ambrose.edu/crisissupport for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Course Schedule – EN 235 – Winter 2021

* indicates texts available on Moodle. Please *print* and bring to specified classes.

Tuesday	Thursday
<p>January 12 Course Introduction</p>	<p>SECTION 1 - TRAGEDY</p> <p>January 14 – Ancient Greek Tragedy *Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i></p>
<p>January 19 *Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> Janko, Introduction to <i>Poetics</i>, pp. ix-xxiv</p>	<p>January 21 – Theory of Tragedy: Plot and Character Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> pp. 1-25 (Sec. 1-4.4)</p>
<p>January 26 Euripides, <i>Hecuba</i></p>	<p>January 28 Euripides, <i>Hecuba</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Précis of Aristotle due</p>
<p>February 2 – Ethics in Tragedy *Hegel, <i>Aesthetics: Lectures on Fine Art</i> (excerpts) *Bradley, “Hegel’s Theory of Tragedy”</p>	<p>February 4 – Renaissance Tragedy William Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar</i> Acts 1-4</p>
<p>February 9 Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar</i> Act 5</p>	<p>February 11 – Modern Tragedy *Steiner, from <i>Modern Tragedy</i> Miller, “Tragedy and the Common Man” (in <i>Death of a Salesman</i>) *Miller, “The Nature of Tragedy”</p>
TERM	BREAK
<p>February 23 Miller, <i>Death of a Salesman</i></p>	<p>February 25 Miller, <i>Death of a Salesman</i></p>
<p>March 2 Rotimi, <i>The Gods Are Not to Blame</i> *Conradie, “Ola Rotimi’s Version of the Oedipus Myth”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Reflection Paper due</p>	<p>March 4 Rotimi, <i>The Gods Are Not to Blame</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Essay 1 Thesis due</p>
<p>SECTION 2: COMEDY</p>	<p>March 11 – Old Comedy and Satire: Stage Aristophanes, <i>Clouds</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Essay 1 Thesis due</p>
<p>March 9 – Theories of Humour Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i>, pp. 5-7 (review) *Incongruity and Superiority: Excerpts on Laughter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Essay 1 due</p>	

Tuesday	Thursday
March 16 Aristophanes, <i>Clouds</i> <p style="text-align: right;">Essay 1 due</p>	March 18 – Satire: Film <i>Thank You For Smoking</i>
March 23 – Theory of Comedy: Plot and Character *Frye, from <i>Anatomy of Criticism</i> *	March 25 – Romantic Comedy: Stage Shakespeare, <i>As You Like It</i>
March 30 Shakespeare, <i>As You Like It</i> <p style="text-align: right;">Précis of Frye due</p>	April 1 – Romantic Comedy: Film <i>Groundhog Day</i>
April 6 – Manners Comedy: Stage Congreve, <i>The Way of the World</i>	April 8 Congreve, <i>The Way of the World</i>
April 13 – Manners Comedy: Film <i>Intolerable Cruelty</i>	April 15 – Last Class Course Review <p style="text-align: right;">Essay 2 due</p>
Final Examination: TBD	