

Oxford College of Emory University

The Forms and Expression of Tragedy
English 389-01 RQ
MWF 1:15-2:20; Language 102
Fall 2014
appt;
4571)

Dr. Jeff Galle
Office: Seney 401
Hours: 2:30-3:30 & by
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Required Texts*

Classical Tragedy- Greek and Roman. Ed. Robert Corrigan. Applause, 2000. [CTGR]
The Cambridge Introduction to Tragedy. Ed. Jennifer Wallace. Cambridge, 2007. [CIT]
The Good Soldier. Ford Maddox Ford. Oxford UP, 2012. [GS]
The World's Greatest Short Stories. Ed. James Daley. Dover Books, 2005. [WGSS]

*I have supplemental materials for you to use in exploration of the dimensions of the tragic. For examples,
Terry Eagleton's Sweet Violence
Rita Felski's, Rethinking Tragedy
http://www.amazon.com/Events-That-Changed-The-World/dp/B00A7DC90Y/ref=sr_1_23?ie=UTF8&qid=1358170068&sr=8-23&keywords=Tragedies .

Course Description

This course examines the expression and intersection of the many meanings attached to the idea of 'tragedy.' The course can involve an exploration of different kinds of literary research: 1) historical scholarship; 2) influence study scholarship; and 3) genre scholarship. But in addition to these avenues of literary study, the discussion can also extend to popular culture, traditional history, and even personal experience. What do we mean when we say something is tragic or call something a tragedy? What do scholars mean when they use the words? What is the rich and complex set of meanings behind these words, and how are they used in different genres (short story, drama, novel) and in different contexts (cultural, historical, psychological)?

Course Objectives/Outcomes

1. Students will read and interpret short stories, dramas, and one novel with the purpose of developing a response to the central question, "What is the Tragic?"
2. Building on this basis, students will read, discuss, and analyze theoretical essays that will lead to refinement of a beginning anecdotal sense of the tragic.
3. Students will complete an original research project.
4. Students will further develop their writing on and about literature.

Assignments and Percentage of Final Grade

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|---|-----|
| 1. Two 4-6 page literary essays. | 30% |
| 2. A 10-12 page research paper and oral presentation. | 30% |
| 3. Multiple 1-2 pg response papers, short assignments | 30% |
| 4. A final exam (Discussion questions) | 10% |

The 2 essays: These essay will emerge from the primary readings. They can involve definitions, influences, artistic vision/style, historical parallels, and other approaches. (minimum 1100 words, 4-6 pp, ds)

The research project: This project will germinate in the first and second essay and grow from a central question raised in one or both of them and involve an extended treatment of the question, perhaps using a drama, story (ies), or a novel that we have not read. The presentation may be undertaken in small groups or panels. We will decide once we determine what everyone is interested in doing. (10-12 pp)

1-2 pp responses, short assignments, class work/participation, quizzes, facilitation, etc: These assignments are the weekly work of the course which emphasize exploration, inquiry, discovery, and application. We will have at least one quiz each week on the reading due for the day. Everyone is expected to be ready to engage in discussion each day, to respond to each other's ideas, and to carry the discussion forward.

Final: An in-class written final exam.

Other Responsibilities and Related Matters

1. Attendance. Be present and on time. I take roll the first thing as class begins, and always mark as absent those who are not in the room. You may miss three class meetings, but I will deduct points (5 pts per absence) from your class participation grade after the third absence. Students who are late must assume responsibility to be certain the attendance record is changed to reflect their attendance.
2. Honor Code. We will discuss this important issue in class, and we will cover plagiarism at that time. But please be aware that your writing is to be your own, and any other person's writing must be acknowledged through citations in the proper form. Please consult the Oxford College Handbook if you have any questions regarding the Code or the Honors Council. Essays and other written work will be submitted to Safe Assign.
3. Late essays and other work. For every day that an essay (or other work) is late, 5 points (the +, -) will be deducted from the grade of the paper.
4. If I have to go to a conference to make a presentation, there will be online blended learning assignments in Blackboard. Perhaps a discussion board. But we will stay in touch through Blackboard/email.

Weekly Outline of Readings/Assignments

Readings and due dates*

*Short assignments, quizzes, and other group work are not placed on the calendar because those due dates will be made in class.

August 27: Syllabus, introduction to course, impromptu writing

August 29: CIT, 1-10; discussion of the various elements; what is left out?

September 1: Labor Day Holiday

September 3: CIT, 1-10; other def sources; WGSS, 1-31.

September 5: WGSS, 31-37

September 8: CIT, 117ff, Aristotle; WGSS, 38-84

September 10: CIT, 121ff, Hegel; WGSS, 85-112

September 12: CIT, 124ff, Nietzsche; WGSS, 113-126

September 15: CIT, 128ff, Kierkegaard; WGSS, 127-135

September 17: CIT, 131ff, Camus; WGSS, 136-149

September 19: CIT, 134ff, Girard; WGSS, 2 stories, 150-61 ESSAY 1 due

September 22: CIT, 137ff, Case Studies, Fate; WGSS, 162-179

September 24: CIT, 145ff, Case Studies, Politics; WGSS, 2 stories, 180-91

September 26: CIT, 151ff, Case Studies, Gender; WGSS, 2 stories, 192-205

September 29: CIT, 158ff, Visual Culture; WGSS, 206-218

October 1: CIT, 168ff, Novels; WGSS, (c/c novel to short story: changes?)

October 3: CIT, 172ff, Films; WGSS, 222-225

October 6: CIT, 176ff, Psychoanalysis; WGSS, 226-229

October 8: CIT, 182ff, Theology; WGSS, 2 stories, 230-236

October 10: Taking stock: research questions? Projects?

ESSAY 2

October 13-14 Fall Break

October 15: GS, 1-40

October 17: GS, 40-80

October 20: GS, 80-120

October 22: GS, 120-160

October 24: GS, 160 to end

October 27: CTGR, "Prometheus Bound"; 137-74

October 29: CTGR, "Prometheus Bound"; 137-74

October 31: CTGR, "Oedipus"; 185-244

November 3: CTGR, "Oedipus"; 185-244

November 5: CTGR, "Antigone"; 255-95

November 7: CTGR, "Antigone"; 255-95

November 10: CTGR, "Antigone"; 255-95

November 12: Classical and Modern expressions of the Tragic: discussion

November 14: Research/Oral presentations

November 17: Research/Oral presentations

November 19: Research/Oral presentations

November 21: Research/Oral presentations

November 24: Research/Oral presentations

November 26 – 28: Thanksgiving Recess

December 1: Personalizing the Academic: Reflection and Peer Discussion

December 3: Personalizing the Academic: Reflection and Peer Discussion

Reflective Essay due

December 5: Research Paper due

December 8: Last day of MWF class: final exam prep/makeup day

December 10: Wednesday Reading Day

Final Exam: