

Instructor: John C. Franklin

Time/Place: MWF 10:10-11:00 a.m. OMANEX A202

Office hours: M/W 3:30–5:00 or by appointment. 481 Main St. Rm. 304 (top floor). Phone: 656-0649. Email: john.franklin@uvm.edu.

Course webpage: <http://www.kingmixers.com/HON195Comedy/Hon195.html>. Here I will post any changes to the syllabus, and have links to E-reserves. These will also be available in the normal way from the Bailey-Howe webpage.

Course Description: Introduction to and survey of ancient Greek and Roman comic playwrights (Aristophanes, Euripides, Menander, Plautus, Terence) and the reception/influence of the poetics of classical comedy. Secondary readings include classics of dramatic and comic theory.

Attendance Policy: 1 letter grade drop for every three unexcused absences.

Assessment:

- 50%: Reading Log. You must document your reading of assignments by writing a concise response to each, both primary (plays) and secondary (theory and criticism). For plays this should be, at a minimum, an outline of its action; for secondary reading, the theorist's/critic's essential doctrines should be summarized. But the more of your own critical response, the better. The complete log will be turned in at the end of the semester in electronic format.
- 20% Projects. Provisionally:
1. Comic fragments (collection project in BH).
 2. Reconstruction of a Menandrian plot. Due Feb. 15
 3. Comic scenario, with action sketched out over 5 acts. Due March 7.
 4. Attend on live comedy event and report (see listing on course webpage).
- 10% Performance. Each student will act in one scene of either Machiavelli's *Mandragola* or Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw* (parts will be rotated from scene to scene). This must be done from memory.
- 20% Final Paper on topic of choice. 5 pages single spaced.

TEXTBOOK:

Erich Segal, *The Death of Comedy*. Harvard 2001. ISBN 0674006437. **\$27.00.**

ANCIENT PLAYS:

1. Aristophanes: *Frogs and Other Plays*. Trans. Alan H. Sommerstein. Penguin. ISBN 9780140449693. Contains *Wasps*; *The Poet and the Women*; *Frogs*. **\$11.00.**
2. Aristophanes: *Lysistrata and Other Plays*. Trans. Alan H. Sommerstein. Penguin. 9780140448146. Contains *Acharnians*, *Clouds*, *Lysistrata*. **\$9.00.**
3. Aristophanes: *The Birds and Other Plays*. Trans. David Barrett, Alan Sommerstein. Penguin. ISBN 9780140449518. Contains *Knights*, *Peace*, *Birds*, *Assemblywomen*, *Wealth*. **\$11.00.**
4. Euripides: *Heracles and Other Plays*. Trans. John Davie. Penguin. ISBN 9780140447255. Contains *Heracles*, *Cyclops*, *Iphigenia Among the Taurians*, *Ion* and *Helen*. **\$10.95.**
5. Menander: *The Plays and Fragments*. Trans. Maurice Balme, Peter Brown. Oxford. Paperback 9780192839831. **\$10.95**
6. Plautus. *Four Comedies*. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Erich Segal. Oxford. ISBN 13: 978-0-19-283896-4. Contains *The Braggart Soldier (Miles Gloriosus)*; *The Brothers Menaechmus (Menaechmi)*; *The Haunted House (Mostellaria)*; *The Pot of Gold (Aulularia)*. **\$10.95**
7. Terence: *The Comedies*. Translated by Betty Radice. Penguin. ISBN 014044324X. **[Out of Print: Order from ABE.COM, \$1.00+]**

MODERN PLAYS:

8. *Eight Great Comedies* (Clouds, Mandragola, Twelfth Night, Miser, Beggar's Opera, Importance of Being Earnest, Uncle Vanya, Arms and the Man). Penguin Group. [Will be available in bookstore at **\$15.00**, but suggest ordering from **ABE.COM, \$1.00+**].
9. Shakespeare, *Comedy of Errors*. Dover Thrift edition. 0486424618 (**\$2.00**)
10. Shakespeare, *Henry IV Part 1*. Dover Thrift. 0486295842 (**\$2.50**)
11. Ben Jonson, *Volpone and the Alchemist*. Dover Thrift. 0486436306 (**\$3.50**)
12. Moliere, *The Misanthrope*. Dover Thrift. 0486270653 (**\$1.50**)
13. W. Congreve, *The Way of the World*. Dover Thrift 0486277879 (**\$2.00**)
14. R. B. Sheridan, *School for Scandal*. Dover Thrift. 0486266877 (**\$2.00**)
15. O. Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*. Dover Thrift 0486268675 (**\$2.00**)
16. W. Wycherley, *The Country Wife* (**some edition from Abe (1\$+) or elsewhere**)
17. Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro* (**some edition from Abe (1\$+) or elsewhere**)

OPTIONAL TEXTS (ALSO ON RESERVE):

1. Harry Levin, *Playboys and Killjoys: An Essay on the Theory and Practice of Comedy*. Oxford 1987. 0195048563. **\$18.95**
2. Andrew Stott, *Comedy*. Routledge, 2005. 0415299330. **\$19.95.**

14-Jan		Introduction
16-Jan	ATTIC	<i>Kômos / Iambos / Ta phallika</i> . DOC Chh. 1–3
18-Jan	OLD	Aristophanes <i>Acharnians</i> (425 BCE)
1/21 MLK NO CLASS	COMEDY	
23-Jan		Aristophanes <i>Knights</i> (424 BCE)
25-Jan		Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i> (423 BCE, rev. 419–416). CLOUDS I
1/28 Add/drop deadline		Comic fragments project . CLOUDS II
30-Jan		Aristophanes <i>Wasps</i> (422 BCE)
1-Feb		Aristophanes <i>Birds</i> (414 BCE)
4-Feb		Aristophanes <i>Frogs</i> (405 BCE). PARATRAGEDY (REDUCED SHAKESPEARE CO.)
6-Feb	TRAGICOMEDY	Aristotle: <i>The Poetics</i> (complete, in <i>ETD</i>)
8-Feb	AND	Euripides: <i>Ion</i> (c. 414 BCE). DOC ch. 8.
11-Feb	NEW COMEDY	Euripides: <i>Iphegna Among the Taurians</i> (c. 414 BCE) or <i>Helen</i> (412 BCE)
13-Feb		Theophrastus: <i>The Characters</i> (e-reserve). Menander: <i>Dyscolus</i> (The Grump). DOC ch. 9.
15-Feb		Menander II: Reconstruction project
2/18 NO CLASS		
20-Feb	ROMAN	Plautus: <i>Menaechmi</i> (<i>Brothers Menaechmus</i>). DOC ch. 10.
22-Feb	COMEDY	Plautus: <i>Mostellaria</i> (<i>Haunted House</i>). FUNNY THING I
25-Feb		Plautus: <i>Miles Gloriosus</i> (<i>Braggart Soldier</i>). FUNNY THING II
27-Feb		Plautus: <i>Aulularia</i> (<i>The Pot of Gold</i>)
Feb-29		Terence: <i>The Girl from Andros</i> . DOC ch. 12.
3-Mar		Terence: <i>The Eunuch</i>
5-Mar		Terence: <i>Phormio</i> . FAWLTY TOWERS I
7-Mar		Terence: <i>The Brothers</i> . FAWLTY TOWERS II. Comic scenario due.
3/10–3/14 Spring Break		
17-Mar	RECEPTION:	Commedia dell'arte (research). PASOLINI: BOCACCIO'S <i>DECAMERON</i>
19-Mar	I. RENAISSANCE	Machiavelli: <i>Mandragola</i> . (In-class performance). DOC ch. 14.
3/21 Withdraw deadline		Shakespeare: <i>Comedy of Errors</i> * [opt: DOC ch. 16].
24-Mar		Shakespeare: <i>Henry IV.1</i>
26-Mar		Shakespeare: <i>Twelfth Night</i> * [opt. DOC ch. 17].
28-Mar		Ben Jonson: <i>Volpone</i> . DOC: ch. 19, pp. 363–81. WODEHOUSE
31-Mar		Moliere: <i>Miser</i>
2-Apr		Moliere: <i>Misanthrope</i> . DOC: ch. 18.
4-Apr	II. RESTORATION	Wycherley: <i>The Country Wife</i> *. DOC: ch. 19, pp. 381–400.
7-Apr	AND	Congreve: WAY OF THE WORLD
9-Apr	COMEDY	Gay: <i>Beggar's Opera</i> * THREE PENNY OPERA
11-Apr	OF	Beaumarchais: <i>Marriage of Figaro</i> * DOC ch. 19, pp. 400–2.
14-Apr	MANNERS	Goldsmith: <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i>
16-Apr		Sheridan: <i>School for Scandal</i> *
4/18 Honors Day No Class		
21-Apr	III. MODERN	J. RENOIR: RULES OF THE GAME*
23-Apr	CLASSIC	Wilde: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> *
25-Apr		Shaw: <i>Arms and the Man</i> *
28-Apr	IV. DESTRUCTION	JARRY: UBU ROI. At Night: IONESCO: RHINOCEROS. DOC ch. 20
30-Apr	OF FORM	Orton: <i>What the Butler Saw</i> (E-reserve) (In-class performance)