COURSE DETAIL

TRAGEDY: SOPHOCLES, NIETZSCHE AND THE DEFIANCE OF REASON
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University – University College Utrecht
Program(s) University College Utrecht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) English Comparative Literature Classics
UCEAP Course Number 113
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title TRAGEDY: SOPHOCLES, NIETZSCHE AND THE DEFIANCE OF REASON
UCEAP Transcript Title TRAGEDY
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course examines how the tragic worldview is expressed in the great dramas of Greek antiquity, such as Aeschylus' *Prometheus*, Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex,* and *Antigone* and Euripides' *Bacchae*. Attention is paid – through the study of the Old Testament book of *Job* and Marlowe's *Faust* – to the continuing importance of the tragic worldview in the Judaeo-Christian tradition. Finally, after exploring the political and philosophical conditions that caused the ever-decreasing importance of tragic modes of thought in modern times, the course turns to the remarkable new meaning the tragic legacy of the Greeks took on at the end of the nineteenth century. Through Friedrich Nietzsche's mightily influential *The Birth of Tragedy from the Spirit of Music* and a series of important works it inspired, it will be shown how the tragic worldview of the Greeks inspired artists to reject the dogmatism of reason and to find beauty, happiness, and truth in the irrational, subconscious and at times dark recesses of the human soul.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
UCHUMLIT24

Host Institution Course Title
TRAGEDY: SOPHOCLES, NIETZSCHE AND THE DEFIANCE OF REASON

Host Institution Course Details
https://cursusplanner.uu.nl/course/UCHUMLIT24/2023/SEM1

Host Institution Campus
University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty
Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
LITERATURE

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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