

# 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 Campus

University College Utrecht

## Host Institution Faculty

Humanities

## Host Institution Degree

## Host Institution Department

LITERATURE

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