COURSE DETAIL

LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY: THE ORIGINS OF DRAMA
Country Egypt
Host Institution American University in Cairo
Program(s) The American University in Cairo
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) English Comparative Literature
UCEAP Course Number 115
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY: THE ORIGINS OF DRAMA
UCEAP Transcript Title ORIGINS OF DRAMA
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

This literature and philosophy interface explores the origins of drama as theorized by two major thinkers, Friedrich Nietzsche and René Girard, and then moves on to test their hypotheses by reading major plays in the dramatic canon. The first part of the course explores Nietzsche's interpretation of the Dionysian origins of Greek drama and René Girard's belief that early drama attempted to resolve a metaphysical crisis with reference to a surrogate victim. The arguments for and against the role of the god, Dionysos, in the dramatic tradition are taken up in theory and practice. Dramatists read include Euripides, Shakespeare, Dryden, and Camus. This course, which combines seminar and lecture, is intended for majors in English and Comparative Literature but should also interest students in philosophy, psychology, and the social sciences.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ECLT 3014

Host Institution Course Title
LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY: THE ORIGINS OF DRAMA

Host Institution Course Details
https://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_course.php?catoid=44&coid=115567&print

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
English & Comparative Literature

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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