

# 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](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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