

Dr. T. Givens
Ryland 303B Ph -8303
Office Hours: TR, 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

English 297

As a required introductory course to the English major, Literature: Genre and Mode (English 297), will focus in this case on a study of the tragic (and a module on comic taught by A. Russell). We will spend the first three weeks reviewing some classic treatments of tragedy, as a genre, as a mode, and as a condition of the universe. We will then study four great tragedies (actually 3 and 1 of questionable categorization) in light of those texts.

Students will be expected to participate vigorously in class discussions, make a class presentation, and prepare a 7-9 page paper. There will be a take home final for this section given at mid semester. Your grade will be an average based on your performance in both sequences. For this portion, the grade will consist of: 15% presentation, 15% participation, 35% paper, and 35% final.

Presentation guidelines:

In company with one (or two) classmates, you will conduct the first 15-20 minutes of a class discussion focused on one tragic text. In preparation, you will review and summarize for the class two critical essays or articles. Your guidance of the class discussion must be focused and well organized. Choose a thesis you will illustrate or critique (making reference to the secondary literature), select some passages for close reading, and have a series of well-framed questions.

Paper assignment:

Choose a non-syllabus tragedy from the classical era or from the nineteenth-century. Write a paper in which you explore the usefulness or inadequacy of a critical text we studied to capture the essentially tragic vision behind the work. If you prefer to take a different direction with your paper, you may do so if you discuss your thesis with me in advance. In either case, you must have at least one office consultation on your paper topic by the fourth week of class. You must use at least five peer-reviewed sources, and turn in all notes and drafts with your final paper.

Syllabus

Week 1	Tue Aug 23	Introduction: Jakobson and the Functions of Language
		Hopkins, Thomas, Keats, Herbert, Philips, Wordsworth
	Th Aug 25	Aristotle's Poetics
Week 2	Tue Aug 30	Hegel, Scheler, and Genesis 3
	Th Sep 1	Hugo, Krutch
Week 3	Tue Sep 6	Nietzsche, Steiner
	Th Sep 8	Antigone
Week 4	Tue Sep 13	Antigone paper topics due
	Th Sep 15	King Lear
Week 5	Tue Sep 20	King Lear
	Th Sep 22	King Lear
Week 6	Tue Sep 27	Death of Danton
	Th Sep 29	Death of Danton
Week 7	Tue Oct 4	Peer Gynt final paper due
	Th Oct 6	Peer Gynt

Books

Ibsen, Peer Gynt (Oxford UP) 978-0192822277
 Shakespeare, King Lear (Pelican) 978-0140714906
 Büchner, Danton's Death (trans. Price; Oxford UP) 978-0199540358
 Sophocles, Antigone (trans. Kitto; Oxford UP) 978-0199537174
 Aristotle's Poetics (Heath trans) 978-0140446364