

Greek 4080/6080: ARISTOPHANES
MWF 11:15-12:05
Park Hall 228

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Objective: Students will learn about the structure of Greek and the literary character of Aristophanes and Old Comedy through a reading of *Birds*.

Text: *Aristophanes Birds* ed. Nan Dunbar (Oxford, 1998)

You will also need to have access to a lexicon, a grammar, and other standard scholarly sources like Denniston, *The Greek Particles*, etc. Most of these are available in the Classics Library. If you do not already own a lexicon, however, you ought to.

Grading

Translation, contribution to discussion, and general preparedness	25%
Midterm	20%
10-page paper + oral presentation (grad students see below)	25 %
Final Exam	30%

Special Graduate student requirements:

Graduate Students will read Aristophanes, at sight in a separate weekly session. The paper assignment for graduate students is 15-20 pages.

Program:

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. We will probably have the good fortune to have Professor Carl Anderson of Michigan State visit us to talk about his work on Aristophanes.

We will be reading 50-75 lines per class meeting. I expect you to be prepared to translate when called upon.

Important Dates:

Monday, Jan 16 MLK Holiday—No Class

Midterm Exam, Monday, March 6

Last Day of Withdrawal, Tuesday, March 7

Spring Break, March 13-17

Papers Due, Monday May 1—Oral reports will be scheduled in the last two weeks of class

End of classes, Monday, May 1

Paper topics

Many issues will emerge as we read the play together; feel free to work on one of these. Big issues in the play are different sorts of questions related to parody and literary history, as well as Athenian imperialism. You might also want to think about some well-known Aristophanic *komoidoumenoi* (people mocked in comedy). Dunbar's commentary provides a wealth of information on innumerable subjects. Take advantage of this unusually rich resource.

Academic Honesty Policy: All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." **Students are responsible for informing themselves** about those standards before performing any academic work.