

**CLU34488 Senecan Tragedy
(JS)**

Module Code	CLU34488
Module Name	Senecan Tragedy
ECTS Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester taught	Semester 1 or 2
Module Coordinator/s	Professor Monica Gale
Module Learning Outcomes with embedded Graduate Attributes	<p>On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</p> <p>LO1. Translate and analyse the prescribed texts</p> <p>LO2. Identify and analyse the author's characteristic themes, style and diction</p> <p>LO3. Give a competent and independent interpretation of the prescribed texts in their literary, philosophical and historical contexts</p> <p>LO4. Critically engage with modern scholarship on the plays, including approaches based on psychoanalytic theory, media and film theory, and performance criticism</p> <p>LO5. Articulate well-researched views both orally and in writing</p> <p>LO6. Translate unseen Latin extracts of similar genre, style or content as the studied Latin texts into idiomatic English.</p>
Module Content	<p>The tragedies of Seneca are amongst the most violent and bloody works of ancient literature. Revolving around episodes of dismemberment, cannibalism and infanticide, they bear comparison to modern film and TV dramas such as <i>Game of Thrones</i> or the movies of Quentin Tarantino. Hugely influential on Shakespeare and the 'revenge tragedies' of the Renaissance, and much admired by T.S. Eliot and other modernists, they have also been criticised as static and excessively rhetorical. In this module, we will approach these contradictions and other scholarly controversies by drawing on frameworks including media and film theory, psychoanalysis and performance criticism, metapoetics and Hellenistic philosophy. Were the plays intended for performance or only recitation? Are they – can they be – effective as performance scripts? How do the violent passions embodied by Seneca's characters cohere with the Stoic philosophy advocated in his other works? What do the plays have to say about the imperial rule of Claudius and Nero, and about absolute power in general? And how should we interpret the acts of murder and mutilation which so often stand as the plays' climatic moments?</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	Weekly two-hour seminars

Assessment Details	Assessment Component	Assessment Description	LO Addressed	% of total	Week due
	1.	Class presentation	3, 4, 5	10%	n/a
	2.	Written assignment	2, 3, 4, 5	30%	11
	3.	End of term exam	1–6	60%	Assessment period
Reassessment Requirements	Same as original assessment (40% coursework, 60% exam). Only failed components are reassessed.				
Contact Hours and Indicative Student Workload	Contact hours: 22				
	Independent Study (preparation for course and review of materials): 114				
	Independent Study (preparation for assessment, incl. completion of assessment): 114				
Recommended Reading List	A.J. Boyle, <i>Tragic Seneca: An Essay in the Theatrical Tradition</i> (London, 1997) P.J. Davis, <i>Seneca: Thyestes</i> (London, 2003) R.G. Mayer, <i>Seneca: Phaedra</i> (London, 2002) N.T. Pratt, <i>Seneca's Drama</i> (Chapel Hill, 1983) G.A. Staley, <i>Seneca and the Idea of Tragedy</i> (Oxford, 2010)				
Module Pre-requisite	n/a				
Module Co-requisite	n/a				
Module Website	https://www.tcd.ie/classics/undergraduate/senecan_tragedy				
Are other Schools/Departments involved in the delivery of this module?	No				