

Mark W. Roche

GE 40105: Tragedy, Comedy, Identity

Germany has one of the world's richest traditions of drama as well as arguably the greatest theorists of drama and of modern drama. We will read and discuss selected masterpieces of German drama, paying attention to its historical development; the nuances and ambiguities of individual works; categories of genre, above all tragedy and comedy, including challenges to these genres; and the ways in which identity and identity crises, both individual and collective, relate to issues of genre. Dramas to be read and discussed will include Lessing's *Minna von Barnhelm*, Schiller's *Don Karlos*, Büchner's *Leonce und Lena*, Nestroy's *Der Zerrissene*, Grillparzer's *Ein Bruderzwist in Habsburg*, Hofmannsthal's *Der Schwierige*, and Dürrenmatt's *Die Physiker*. Some attention will also be given to distinctive German contributions to the theory of tragedy and comedy, including the singular contributions of Hegel and Scheler.