

Gender and Power on Stage

Course Outline

Week One: Introduction – No reading. Lecture on classical ideas about men's and women's natures and roles in society. Examination of brief video excerpts of Sophocles' *Antigone* and Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* and *Women in Power (Ecclesiazusae)*.

Week Two: Reading – Euripides' *Medea* (Robinson Jeffers' translation if possible). Video excerpts from the Kennedy Center production starring Zoe Caldwell.

Week Three: Reading – Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Acts 1-3. Short background lecture on women's rights, attitudes toward marital hierarchy, and the economics of marriage in Elizabethan times. Video excerpts from various productions / filmed versions.

Week Four: Reading – Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Acts 4-5. Video excerpts from various productions / filmed versions.

Weeks Five and Six: Reading – Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Short background comments on Ibsen's views of Scandinavian society and morality. Short video excerpts from the 1959 Hallmark Hall of Fame production starring Julie Harris, Christopher Plummer, and Jason Robards.

Weeks Seven and Eight: Reading – Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Short background comments on Shaw as a disciple of Ibsen and on Victorian class attitudes. Short video excerpts from the BBC – Time-Life version.