

NYU SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BRILLIANT MINDS

Course No. X07.9305 — Section 2

Peter Arcese, MA, JD, LLM



READINGS FOR FALL 2009

- Sep. 23, 30 Euripides, *Helen*, in *Euripides II*, trans. Lattimore (U of Chicago)
Tragic Drama and the Experience of Metaphysical Uncertainty
- Oct. 7 Kalidasa, *The Recognition of Sakuntala*, trans. Johnson (Oxford)
Love and the Dramatic Evocation of Emotion
- Oct. 14 Abelard, *The Letters of Abelard & Heloise*, trans. Radice (Penguin)
Sacred and Secular Love in the Medieval Period
- Oct. 21, 28 Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, trans. Grossman (Harper)
Epic, Ideology, and Absurdism at the Dawn of the Modern World
- Nov. 4, 11 Melville, *Moby Dick*, ed. Tanner (Oxford)
Monomania and the Duality of Consciousness
- Nov. 18, Dec. 2 Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, ed. Gatrell (Oxford)
Naturalism and the Power of Ideas & Passion
- Dec. 9 Carver, *Where I'm Calling From: Selected Stories* (Vintage)
Addiction and the Minimalist Revival
- Dec. 16 Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (Anchor)
The Individual in the Dystopian Vision



LITERARY GENIUS, the burden of greatness, takes innumerable shapes and forms. From book to play to poetry, brilliant minds use their extraordinary gifts to entertain, inspire, enrage, and enlighten us of philosophical and artistic concerns, social trappings, and human conceit, among others. In this course, we read exemplary literary works from each major period and movement, beginning with the classical world and continuing through the postmodern.

PETER ARCESE, poet, playwright, director, and attorney, has been on the faculty of NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies since 1997, teaching such courses as: *Brilliant Minds*, *Great Books*, *Shakespeare*, *Classical Literature*, and *Literature for the 21st Century*. His work in the arts began with the opening of his verse play, *The Breakfast*, in New York City at the Douglas Fairbanks Studio Theatre. His translations of poetry and drama from the classical Greek include Aeschylus's *Agamemnon* and selected fragments of Sappho. He is the recipient of NYU's Award for Teaching Excellence and is co-founder and President of Athanata Arts, Ltd., a production and publishing company dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary approaches to the arts. As an attorney, he concentrates his practice in estate planning, charitable gift planning, and intellectual property.