

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES

DRAMA TERMS

Aristotle's elements of drama: Plot, character, thought, diction, spectacle, and music.

Character in drama: that which reveals the moral purpose of the agents (according to Aristotle).

Comedy: A form of drama that is usually light in subject matter and ends happily. Comedy that is art is not void of seriousness.

Form: The arrangement or organization of the elements of a work of art in space (visual arts). A form may be conventional or imposed by tradition (the Greek temple, the sonnet, the sonata, the five-act play) or original with the artist.

Hellenic Greek: Usually refers to the "classical" period of Greek cultures; i.e., the fifth and fourth centuries B.C.

Hellenism: The culture of ancient Greece.

Medium: The material or materials with which the artist works. Example for drama: Language, costume, lighting, actors, sound, etc.

Plot: The sequence of actions or events.

Satire: A mode of expression that criticizes social institutions or human foibles humorously.

Style: Characteristics of form and technique that enable us to identify a particular work with a certain historical period, place, group, or individual.

Style: Characteristics of form, which are peculiar to a certain work or a group of works.

Tragedy: Drama that treats a serious subject matter and ends unhappily.

Tragicomedy: Drama that includes characteristics of both tragedy and comedy.