

NYU SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BRILLIANT MINDS

Course No. X07.9305

Peter Arcese, MA, JD, LLM



READINGS FOR FALL 2007

Herodotus, *The Histories*, trans. Waterfield (Oxford)

Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book*, trans. Morris (Columbia)

Anonymous, *The Nibelungenlied*, trans. Hatto (Penguin)

Molière, *The Misanthrope*, trans. Wilbur (Harcourt/Harvest)

Balzac, *Père Goriot*, trans. Raffel (Norton)

Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, eds. Evans & Walsh (Cambridge)

Undset, *Kristin Lavransdatter: The Wreath*, trans. Nunnally (Penguin)

Naipul, *A Bend in the River* (Vintage)



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*, *Literature for the 21st Century*, and *Humanities III & IV*. His work in the arts began in 1984 with the opening of his verse play, *The Breakfast*, in New York City at the Douglas Fairbanks Studio Theatre. Recently, he directed the world premiere of *Behind the Eyes* and *Threesome*, a series of one-act plays by the late William Packard. He also earned the praise of Kurt Vonnegut for his staged reading of *Joseph in the Pit: The Third Dream*, a verse drama written by Walter James Miller and funded in part by the Rutenberg Foundation and the New York Foundation for the Arts (DVD, Athanata Arts 2003). His translations of poetry and drama from the classical Greek include Aeschylus's *Agamemnon* into English syllabic verse (Lintel 2001) and selected fragments of Sappho (*The New York Quarterly*, No. 58). 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 concentrating in Estate Planning, Wealth Transfer Taxation, and Entertainment Law, he works with individuals, families, businesses, and charitable organizations to create solutions for the preservation and succession of wealth across generations.