**Introduction to Drama**

**(36148-2)**

“Doing is the best way to learn”

Time: Tue. 2:00-3:15/ Thur. 3:30-4:45

Classroom: Gyungyoung-kwan #209

Prof. Sung Hee Choi

Office: Humanities Bldg. Rm. 310 (x2172)

Office Hour: Tue./Wed. 1:30~3:00 and by appointment

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**Course Description /Objectives**

This course surveys theatre and drama across periods and cultures through reading representative dramatic works from the ancient Greece to 21st century America. The objective of this class is to help students improve their analytical abilities as readers and viewers of drama and explore their potentials as writers/directors/actors. At the end of the course, students will be able to 1) have fundamental knowledge about the history and theory of drama 2) understand dramatic conventions and literary techniques of the plays being studied and 3) formulate and communicate their critical/creative ideas effectively and persuasively.

**Course Requirement/ Grade Breakdown**

1. Midterm Exam 30%
2. Final Exam 30%
3. Playwriting assignment (write a 3-page sample play)10%
4. Directing assignment (write a 3-page production proposal) 10%

5. Acting assignment (staged reading) 10%

6. Discussion/Participation 10%

NOTE

* Specific guidelines and grading rubric for each assignment will be provided.
* Students are allowed up to 2 absences without any penalty. From the third absence of class, you lose 2 points for each absence. Three tardies count as one absence.

**Course Texts**

*Oedipus the King*, Sophocles

*The Taming of the Shrew*, William Shakespeare

*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller

*Endgame*, Samuel Beckett

*Sweat*, Lynn Nottage

**Weekly Schedule**

3/2(T) Introduction

3/4(TH) How to READ a play

3/9(T) How to WRITE a play

3/11(TH) **Theatre in Ancient Greece**

3/16(T) Oedipus the King

3/18(TH) Oedipus the King

3/23(T) Oedipus the King

3/25(TH) Staged Reading & Discussion

\*PLAYWRITING Assignment Due: 4/4(Sun)

3/30(T) **Theatre in the Middle Ages and Renaissance**

4/1(TH) The Taming of the Shrew

4/6(T) The Taming of the Shrew

4/8(TH) The Taming of the Shrew

4/13(T) Staged Reading & Discussion

4/15(TH) MIDTERM EXAM

4/20(T) **Modern Drama: Realism and Anti-Realism**

4/22(TH) Death of a Salesman

4/27(T) Death of a Salesman

4/29(TH) Death of a Salesman

5/4(T) Staged Reading & Discussion

5/6(TH) **Theatre of the Absurd**

5/11(T) Endgame

5/13(TH) Endgame

5/18(T) Endgame

5/20(TH) Staged Reading & Discussion

\*DIRECTING Assignment Due: 5/30(Sun)

5/25(T) **Postmodernism and Multiculturalism**

5/27(TH) Sweat

6/1(T) Sweat

6/3(TH) Sweat

6/8(T) Staged Reading & Discussion

6/10(TH) FINAL EXAM

**A Note on Grading**

This course uses ‘absolute grading’ (not curving) in which all students have an equal chance to earn an A. Provided specific criteria based on learning objectives and grading rubrics for each assignment, students know the instructor’s expectations for an A, B, C. Such criterion-referenced grading scheme minimizes the sense of competition among students because they are not competing for a limited number of A’s or B’s. No student will ever be hurt by another student’s good grade, so students are encouraged to help one another succeed and learn from collaborations of group work. I hope to see more students studying together in small groups and pooling their knowledge. What really matters in college education is not the knowledge itself but the skills you gain about how to learn.