

## English 216: History of Drama and Theater II

Fall 2013  
Oxford College

Dr. Lemons, Few Hall 104  
Office Hours: M-F 3 - 4 & by app't

### Objectives

1. to gain a better understanding and a new appreciation of some of the best plays of the modern period.
2. to develop an understanding of the development of plays and theatrical conventions from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and the influence of plays and playwrights in succeeding generations.
3. to improve the ability to talk about and write about plays and theater, the humanistic issues they present, and their theatrical environment, including the historical, religious, philosophical and sociological contexts of the plays.

### Methods

- Introductory remarks on historical and theoretical contexts
- Class discussion of texts. We will strive for lively, engaging, fun, creative, and informative discussions that involve everyone; this is how the vast majority of class time will be spent. Be willing to participate actively and listen intently to what your colleagues say.
- **Text:** The Bedford Introduction to Drama, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Lee A. Jacobs) You need your own text for every class.
- Frequent brief, factual quizzes
- One major paper & a presentation on this paper
- Final & Midterm essay Exams
- Written reviews of non-Oxford (Atlanta or elsewhere) plays and/or participation in a "lab," working on fall or OESA play
- Participation in a class Blog
- Student-teacher conferences during office hours and by appointment

### Guidelines

1. Since the course requires class participation, I expect you to be in class every day, on time. Each absence will result in one point off the final grade; being late 3 times counts one absence. You may miss two classes without penalty; you do not need to get permission for these cuts. Participation in class depends on your own personal style, but it should be active, not passive: listening, responding to my and your classmates' comments, proposing interpretations, and answering questions. So more than your physical presence is required in class. A note on absences & illness: I suggest you save your 2 cuts for illness. I do not accept doctor's notes except for extended illnesses. If you miss more than a week of class, you should contact Dr. Martucci, Director of Academic Services, so she can explain the situation to all your teachers.
2. The Mid Term & Final exams, covering readings and discussions, consist of in-class essays, graded for writing ability and content. The Mid Term covers the first half of the course, the Final the second half. You may not use your texts for the Midterm but you may for the Final.
3. Quizzes are brief, factual, easy, and frequent. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up;** and a 0 is recorded if a quiz is not taken. The quizzes cover the plays, their introductions and other material about the plays in the text. The lowest two quiz grades

will be dropped so that missing two classes is not a penalty. Being late to class will probably mean you will miss the quiz.

4. The paper, 5-8 pages long, will approach two or more plays from an historical, contextual, or literary critical perspective. Outside sources may be used and, if used, documented properly, but they are not required; the analysis should be essentially your own. Topics for papers are best worked with your professor. Late papers will be reduced one letter grade per day late, beginning at the due time. The **class presentation on the paper** will consist of two parts: one brief presentation before the paper is due and one when the paper is turned in. They will be on the topic of your paper, but may also include other elements, such as a report on your progress or a powerpoint.

5. Play work is help on the Fall or OESA plays. Each hour of work counts one point up to 5 total points. Hours are flexible. **OR, Reviews** may be written: each 2 - 3 page review of a live performance of a play counts 2 points up to 6 total points. Play reviews must be submitted within one week of seeing the play. For the play work/review section of your grade, a maximum of 10 points may be earned. Play work/play reviews may be mixed or all one or the other.

6. Our Blackboard site gives you access to announcements, the syllabus, reminders, changes, handouts, and the class Blog. Go to: [classes.emory.edu](http://classes.emory.edu). or find it on the College website. In Blackboard will see this English/Theater 216 class.

7. The Blog. From the menu on the left, you can go to the Blog, make an "entry," others can read it and "comment" on it, and you can comment on others' entries or comments. In this blog, we'll discuss plays and theater history as a kind of "journal" for the whole class. Enter as many posts and comments as you wish but do at least three entries of one or two paragraphs (about 5-10 sentences) and four comments on entries others have made for each Blog (there are 3

during the semester). You may not post more than one entry and one comment per day. You can write whatever you like. Comment on the plays, the editor's introductions, and what we've said in class. Write personal responses to plays, connect the plays to other courses you've taken or relate them to your own lives and to society however you like. I am not concerned about grammar or organization here—but it's always a good idea to write as clearly and as effectively as you can.

8. As in all classes at Oxford, students are expected to act in a professional way, preparing for class ahead of time, meeting deadlines, collaborating with classmates, and generally contributing actively and in a positive way to the class. Understanding this will make a difference in your work, and your grade.

9. The **HONOR CODE** is in effect for all your assigned work in this class and every Oxford class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. You must submit your own work, not another's, and if you use material other than your own (from the internet, books, etc.) that material must be acknowledged with citations.

10. College Statement: "Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education." Your identity, name, grade, etc. will not be used.

Grading Scale:

Final Exam-25%

Paper-20%

Quizzes-20%

MidtermExam-15%

Reviews/Playwork - 5%

Keep track of your grades; I do not average them myself until after the Final.

## 216 Assignments

Aug 29 Introduction & Trifles	Oct 24 Buried Child
Sep 3 A Doll House	Oct 28 Master Harold
Sep 5 Miss Julie	Oct 31 Glengarry Glen Ross
Sep 10 Importance of Being Earnest	Nov 5 Angels in America
Sep 12 Cherry Orchard	Nov 7 Arcadia
Sep 17 Riders to the Sea	Nov 12 How I Learned to Drive
Sep 19 Six Characters	Nov 14 The Laramie Project
Sep 24 House of Bernarda Alba	Nov 19 Eurydice
Sep 26 Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	Nov 21 Doubt
Oct 1 Death of a Salesman	Nov 26 God of Carnage
Oct 3 The Bald Soprano	Dec 3 August: Osage County
Oct 8 Endgame	Dec 5 Ruined
Oct 10 Raisin in the Sun	Dec 10 Catch-up Day Last Day
Oct 17 The Homecoming	Dec 18 9am-12noon: Final Exam
Oct 22 Catch-up Day	