

English 216: History of Drama and Theater II

Spring 2012
Oxford College

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

Objectives

1. to gain an understanding and 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 19th through the 21st centuries and the influence of plays and playwrights in succeeding generations.
3. to improve the ability to a) talk about, and b) write about plays and theater, the humanistic issues they present, and the theatrical environment, including the historical, religious, philosophical and sociological contexts of the plays.

Text: Stages of Drama 5th ed. (Klaus, Gilbert and Field)_ You need your own text for every class.

Methods

- Introductory remarks, particularly on historical and theoretical contexts
- In-depth class discussion of texts. We will strive for lively, engaging, fun, creative, and informative discussions that involve everyone; this is how most class time will be spent. You must be willing to participate actively and listen intently to what your colleagues say.
- 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 the Spring Play
- Participation in a class Blog
- Student-teacher conferences during office hours and by appointment

Guidelines

1. Since the course involves consistent and informed class participation, I expect you to be in class every day, on time. Each absence will result in one point off the final grade. However, you may miss two classes without penalty, to be used for illnesses or whatever you choose. You do not need to get permission for these cuts. Participation in class depends on your own personal style, but it should include: listening, responding to classmates' comments, proposing interpretations, and answering questions. So more than your physical presence is required in class. A note on illness: I suggest you save your 2 free cuts, if possible, for illness. I do not accept doctor's notes. If you miss more than 2 days (in this class that equals one week), you should contact Dr. Martucci, Director of Academic Services, so she can explain the situation to all your teachers. Laptops can be distracting; please don't use them during class.
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, the introductions to plays and other material about the plays in the texts. 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. I will drop the lowest two quizzes.

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** will consist of two parts: one presentation before the paper is due and one when the paper is turned in. The class presentation will be on the topic of your paper, but may also include other elements, such as a report on your progress, powerpoint, even a staged reading.

6. Play work/Reviews is help on the Spring Play or the One Act Play Festival. Each hour of work counts one point up to 10 points (10 hours). Hours are flexible. **OR**, Reviews may be written: each 2 – 3 page review of a live performance of a play counts 3.3 points up to 10 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.

7. Class Blog and Blackboard Site. At our Blackboard site, you will have access to announcements relevant to the class, the syllabus and any changes to it, reminders about what you need to do, handouts, and the class Blog. For the site and the blog, go to: classes.emory.edu. You will be in Blackboard and will see this Eng 205 class. Open and go to Tools, then to Blog Tool. Here you can 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 three comments on entries others have made. You can write whatever you like. Comment on the plays, the editor’s introductions, and what we’ve said in class. You can 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 much concerned about grammar or organization here or even the topic you are writing about – but it’s always a good idea to write (communicate) as clearly and as effectively as you can. You must make 6 entries and 6 comments minimum, but make as many as you like. They must be made over a period of time rather than all at once.

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 in a positive way to the class. Understanding this will make a positive 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.” This is part of an effort

Grading Scale:

Quizzes-20%

Paper-20%

Mid Term-15%

Final Exam-25%

Participation-10%

Reviews/Play Work-10%

Keep track of your grades. I do not do averages until after the final exam is graded.

Schedule of Assignments

Read the entire play and all introductory material in the text before the due date. We will discuss approximately one play per class meeting (that's our goal anyway). Check Blackboard announcements twice a week or so for updates and changes to the assignments.

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| Jan | 19 Introduction & "How to Read a Play" |
| | 24 Woyzeck |
| | 26 Doll's House; Shaw "The Technical Novelty in Ibsen's Play" pp. 1673-1678 |
| | 31 Miss Julie "Preface to Miss Julie" pp. 1666-1671 |
| Feb | 2 Importance of Being Earnest |
| | 7 The Cherry Orchard |
| | 9 Pygmalion |
| | 14 Six Characters in Search of an Author |
| | 16 The House of Bernarda Alba |
| | 21 Galileo; Brecht "Theater for Pleasure or For Instruction" pp. 1683-86 |
| | 23 Death of a Salesman; Miller "Tragedy & the Common Man" pp. 1690-92 |
| | 28 Cat on a Hot Tin Roof |
| Mar | 1 st -3 rd Spring Play 7:30 pm |
| | 1 The Lesson; Stanislavski "Direction and Acting" pp. 1678-83 |
| | 6 Endgame; Esslin "The Theatre of the Absurd" pp. 1692-1694 |
| | 8 The Zoo Story; Artaud, "No More Masterpieces" pp. 1687-90 |
| | 13-15 Spring Break, no class |
| | 20 Raisin in the Sun |
| | 22 Dutchman; Baraka "What is Black Theater?" pp. 1694-1696 |
| | 27 Death and the King's Horseman |
| | 29 Master Harold & the Boys |
| Apr | 3 Top Girls |
| | 5 'night, Mother; "Ten Golden Rules for Playwrights" pp. 1696-97 |
| | 10 M. Butterfly |
| | 12 Oleanna |
| | 17 Angels in America |
| | 19 Arcadia |
| | 24 Art |
| | 26 How I Learned to Drive |
| May | 1 Exam: 9-12 noon |