

English 230: History of Drama and Theater I

Spring 2001
Oxford College

Dr. Lemons, Humanities 203
Office Hours: 1:30–2:30 daily

Objectives:

1. to gain an understanding and appreciation of some of the best plays of the classical and early modern period.
2. to develop an understanding of the development of plays and theatrical conventions from the ancient Greece through the 18th century and to see the influence of plays and playwrights in succeeding generations.
3. to improve one's ability to a) discuss, and b) write about: plays, the issues they present, and the theatrical environment, including the historical, religious, philosophical and sociological contexts of plays presented in a chronological format

Texts:

Stages of Drama; Sophocles: The Complete Plays, Ten Plays by Euripides, The Beams Are Creaking, Zoo Story, Master Peter Patelan (the last two texts will be provided for you)

Methods:

- Introductory remarks, particularly on the contexts; and questions
- Extensive class discussion of texts
- Frequent brief, factual quizzes
- Papers: one comparative & contextual essay
- A Final Exam in essay format
- Participation in a "lab," working on the Spring Play (10 hours)
- One theater field trip to Theater Emory's *Ah, Wilderness*
- Student-teacher conferences during office hours and by appointment

Guidelines:

1. Since the course involves active class participation, I expect you to be in class every day, **on time**. Each absence will result in one point off the final grade per absence. However, you may miss two classes without penalty. These cuts should be used for illnesses and/or whatever you believe important. You do not need to get permission for these cuts, nor tell me when or why you take them. Participation in class depends on your own personal style, but it should include: paying attention, listening, responding to the professor's and other students' comments, proposing interpretations, and answering questions. This is not a lecture class.
2. The Mid Term & Final exams, covering readings and our discussions, will consist of in-class essay(s), graded for writing ability as well as content. The Mid Term will cover the first half of the course, the Final the second half. You will not be able to use your text book or notes during the exam.
3. Quizzes are brief, factual 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 play reviews in the texts. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped so that missing two classes is not a penalty. **Tardiness means you will miss** the quiz given at the beginning of class.

OVER

4. The paper, 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. There will be some time given in class to instruction in paper writing for this assignments. Late papers will be reduced one letter grade per day late, beginning at the due time.

5. Play work is help on the Spring Play . Each hour of work counts one point up to 10 points (10 hours). Hours are flexible. Optional play reviews may be written instead of play work. Each 2 – 3 page review of a live performance counts 2 points up to 10 points. For the play work/review section of your grade, a maximum of 10 points may be earned. One pt.

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

Grading Scale:

Quizzes -20%

Paper -20%

Mid Term -15%

Final Exam -25%

Participation -10%

Play work/Reviews -10%

Extra credit: attendance at The Zoo Story (1 pt) and/or The Beams are Creaking (1 pt)

Schedule of Assignments:

1/17 Introduction

1/22 Agamemnon

1/24 Zoo Story/The Beams Are Creaking

1/29 Oedipus Tyrannus (Sophokles Complete)

1/31 Antigone (Sophokles Complete)

2/ 5 Oedipus at Kolonos (Sophokles Complete)

2/ 7 Philoktetes (Sophokles Complete)

2/12 Medea (Ten Plays)

2/14 Hippolytus (Ten Plays)

2/19 The Bacchae

2/21 Electra (Ten Plays)

2/26 Lysistrata

2/28 A Funny Thing Happened

3/ 5 Master Peter Patelan (Handout)

3/ 7 Mid Term

3/19 2nd Shepherd's Play

3/21 Everyman

3/26 Dr. Faustus

3/28 12th Night

4/ 2 Othello

4/ 4 Othello

4/ 9 Volpone

4/11 Volpone

4/16 The Misanthrope

4/18 TBA

4/19 Paper Due, 4 pm.

4/23 The Rover

4/25 The School for Scandal

4/30 Woyzeck

5/ 3 9-12pm Final Exam