

English 231: History of Drama and Theater II

Spring 2003
Oxford College

Dr. Lemons, Few 103
Office Hours: 2:15-3:15 daily

Objectives:

1. to gain an understanding and appreciation of some important plays of the modern period from around the world.
2. to develop an understanding of the development of plays and theatrical conventions from the beginnings of the modern period to the present 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; Writing About Theater, The Laramie Project, Wit, Three Sisters

Methods:

- Brief introductory comments, particularly on the contexts; questions
- Extensive class discussion of texts
- Frequent brief, factual quizzes
- Papers: one an analysis of a play, the other a comparative & contextual essay
- Two essay exams
- Written theater reviews or participation in a "lab," working on the Spring Play (10 hours)
- One or two theater field trips
- Student-teacher conferences during office hours and by appointment

Schedule of Assignments

Jan 16	Introduction	Mar 7 (Friday)	<u>Paper #1 Due, 12pm</u>
Jan 21	Woyzeck	Mar 18	The Lesson
Jan 23	Laramie Project		& Writing Abt Thea 71-98
Jan 28	A Doll's House	Mar 20	Endgame
Jan 30	M. Julie	Mar 25	Dutchman/LosVendidos
	& Writing Abt Theater 41-50	Mar 27	Death & the King's Horseman
Feb 4	Three Sisters	Apr 1	Landscape
Feb 6	Pygmalion	Apr 3	"Master Harold" . . .
Feb 11	Six Characters in Search. . .	Apr 8	"night, Mother"
Feb 13	Juno & the Paycock	Apr 10	Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
Feb 18	The House of Bernarda	Apr 15	M. Butterfly
	& Writing About Theater 52-70	Apr 17	Oleanna
Feb 20	Galileo	Apr 21 (Monday)	<u>Paper #2 due, 12 pm</u>
Feb 25	Moon for the Misbegotten	Apr 22	Three Tall Women
Feb 27	Death of a Salesman	Apr 24	Copenhagen
Feb 27 – Mar 1	Spring Play	Apr 24 – 26	One Act Festival
Mar 4	Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	Apr 29	TBA
Mar 6	Mid Term Exam	May 7	9am-12noon Final Exam

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(Spring 2003, Dr. Lemons)

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 student's comments, proposing interpretations, and answering questions. This is not a lecture class.
2. The 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 will cover the entire course, concentrating on the second half. You will not be able to use your text book or notes for 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 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.
4. The first paper is a literary and functional analysis of a play we are studying. This paper, 5 pages long, will address traditional literary critical issues in play analysis as well as raise concerns for production. The second paper, 6 – 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. Use *Writing About Theater* as your guide for both papers. Topics for papers are best worked with your professor. There will be some time given in class to instruction in paper writing for these assignments. Late papers will be reduced one letter grade per day late, beginning at the due time.
5. Play work/Reviews: Each hour of work on the spring play counts one point up to 10 points (10 hours). Hours are flexible. OR, play reviews may be written instead of play work. Each 3 page review of a live performance (other than at Oxford) counts 5 points up to 10 points. Use the chapter on review writing in *Writing About Theater* as your guide. For this play work/review section of your grade, a maximum of 10 points may be earned.
7. No plus (+) or minus (-) will appear on your final grade.
8. Keep track of your own grades. I don't average grades until after the final exam is graded.

Grading Scale:

Quizzes-20%
Papers (2)-40%
Exams (2)-20%
Participation-10%
Play work/Reviews-10%