

English 231: History of Drama and Theater II

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 modern period.
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, Equus, Copenhagen

Methods:

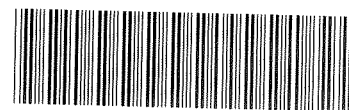
- Brief introductory comments, particularly on the contexts, and questions
- Extensive class discussion of texts
- Frequent brief, factual quizzes
- Papers: one an analysis of a play, the other a comparative & contextual essay
- A Final Exam in essay format
- Participation in a "lab," working on the Spring Play (10 hours)
- One theater field trip: *Fefu & Her Friends* at the Actor's Express
- Student-teacher conferences during office hours and by appointment

Schedule of Assignments

Jan 18	Introduction	Mar 22	Endgame
Jan 23	Woyzeck	Mar 23	<u>Paper #1 due, 4 pm</u>
Jan 25	A Doll's House	Mar 27	Zoo Story
Jan 30	Miss Julie	Mar 29	Dutchman
Feb 1	The Cherry Orchard	Apr 3	The Homecoming
Feb 6	Copenhagen	Apr 5	Fefu & Her Friends
Feb 8	Pygmalion	Apr 10	Spell # 7
Feb 13	6 Characters in Search. . .	Apr 12	"Master Harold" . . .
Feb 15	Juno & the Paycock	Apr 17	Equus
Feb 20	The House of Bernarda	Apr 19	"night, Mother"
Feb 22	Galileo	Apr 20	<u>Paper #2 due, 4 pm</u>
Feb 27	Moon for the Misbegotten	Apr 24	Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
Mar 1 - 3	Spring Play	Apr 26	M. Butterfly
Mar 1	Death of a Salesman	Apr 27 - 29	One Act Festival
Mar 6	Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	May 1	Oleanna
Mar 11 - 17	Spring Break	May 3	7pm-10pm Final Exam
Mar 20	The Lesson		

(See Over)

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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 Final exam, covering readings and our discussions, will consist of in-class essay(s), graded for writing ability as well as content. The Final will cover the entire course. 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 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. 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%
Final Exam-20%
Participation-10%
Play work-10%