

English 230/Theater Studies 210: History of Drama and Theater I

Spring 2004
Oxford College

Dr. Lemons Few 103
Office Hours: M-Th 2-3

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 discuss and write about plays, the issues they present, and the theatrical environment, including the historical, religious, philosophical and sociological contexts of plays.

Texts:

Stages of Drama; Sophocles: The Complete Plays. The Way of the World

Methods:

- Introductory remarks, particularly on the contexts; and questions
- Extensive class discussion of texts
- Frequent brief, factual quizzes
- One paper
- A Midterm and a Final exam in essay format
- Play reviews of current productions or participation in the Spring Play
- Possible trips to theater in Atlanta
- 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. (If I do not call roll, that does not mean I am not taking attendance.) 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 essays, 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 paper is a literary and functional analysis of a play we are studying. It should be 6-8 pages long and should address traditional literary critical issues in play analysis as well as raise concerns for production.. Outside sources may be used (documented properly), but they are not

(Over)

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. Late papers will be reduced one letter grade per day late, beginning at the due time.

5. Reviews/Play work: choose one. Each 3-page review of a live performance (other than at Oxford) counts 5 points up to 10 points. I will arrange a play trip to an Atlanta theater. Or, each hour of work on the spring play may count one point up to 10 points (10 hours); hours are flexible. For this play participation/review 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%

Paper-30%

Exams (2)-30%

Participation-10%

Play work/Reviews-10%

Schedule of Assignments:

Read the introductory material before each play as well as the play

1/15 Introduction

1/20 Agamemnon

1/22 Intro 1-13 & Oedipus Tyrannus (Sophokles)

1/27 Antigone (Sophokles)

1/29 Oedipus at Kolonos (Sophokles)

2/ 3 Philoktetes (Sophokles)

2/ 5 Medea (handout)

2/10 The Bacchae

2/12 Lysistrata

2/17 A Funny Thing

2/19 2nd Shepherd's Play

2/24 Master Peter Patelan (handout)

2/26 Everyman

3/ 2 Mid term exam

3/ 4 Dr. Faustus

3/16 Much Ado About Nothing

3/18 Shakespeare Tragedy

3/23 Shakespeare Tragedy

3/25 Volpone

3/30 Volpone

4/ 1 The Misanthrope

4/ 6 The Rover

4/ 8 Paper topic discussion

4/13 The Way of the World

4/15 TBA

4/20 Paper Due, 4 pm.

4/22 The School for Scandal

4/27 TBA

5/5 Final Exam 2-5 pm