

Theatre 307 – Theatre History and Drama, Modern-Contemporary Theory/Performance Development or Adaptation Project

THE PROJECT: Each student must complete a 4-6 page paper and prepare a 10-15 minute presentation to the class. You can either work alone or in groups on the project. There are two basic options. The first option challenges students to engage in the theatre-making process within a specific twentieth-century theoretical framework. Students will use existing play texts and/or accounts – or create their own performances – that grow directly out of and reflect a body of conscious theory. For instance, students could perform a scene that clearly demonstrates deconstruction or feminism. The second option is the Adaptation Project. This requires students to adapt a pre-twentieth-century play text for a contemporary performance such that it demonstrates a particular theoretical paradigm. For example, one might adapt *Tartuffe* so that it is futurist. Students doing adaptations will turn in a completely adapted script of the play and stage a reading of one scene from the adaptation.

THE PAPER: A 4-6 page paper is required from each student. The paper should explain your research and analysis of the theory and how it has been implemented in the project. The grade on the paper will be based on your ability to effectively explain the theory and articulate the way it has been implemented into your project's performance. All sources must be appropriately documented.

THE PRESENTATION/PERFORMANCE: The first part of the presentation will most likely be in the form of a memorized, well-planned, well-rehearsed, and effectively staged scene that demonstrates the way that you have implemented a particular theory to shape your performance. As mentioned above, those choosing to do an adaptation will simply coordinate a staged reading of one scene (6-10 minutes) of the adaptation. Following the performance and/or presentation, each student or group will explain what body of theory they were using in the performance and the ways in which they attempted to implement that theory. This will lead into a discussion of the relative effectiveness of the theory in accomplishing its stated goals through performance.

THE GRADE: The project is worth a total of 200 possible points and the grade will be based on the level of your creativity, the extent of your analysis, the plausibility of your concept, and the effectiveness of your performance and/or playwriting choices in implementing the theory.

THE TIME FRAME: All projects will be presented in the final exam period (Thursday, May 12, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM) or another day/time agreed upon by the class. Accordingly, you have approximately seven weeks for the research, preparation, and completion of this project.

Get started early and have fun!!