



EMERSON COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

TH216: WORLD DRAMA IN ITS CONTEXT II

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A survey of theatre and drama from the 19th Century to now, with a focus on the major periods of Western theatre and dramatic literature: Realism, Avant-Garde Movements, Epic Theatre, American Drama, the Theatre of the Absurd, Existentialist Drama, Eastern European Drama, Feminist Theatre, Post-Modern Drama, African-American and Asian-American Drama. In addition, a survey of world theatre and drama with a particular emphasis on the African Drama, and South American Drama. Selected readings of plays in their historical context with particular attention paid to theatrical styles of plays and production.



TR: 12-1:45
Tuftes P914
SPRING 2009

Magda Romanska
mrmr24@cornell.edu
Office: Tuftes 501
Hours: M: 12:00-3:00

SYLLABUS:

JANUARY

Introduction

JANUARY

I) ROMANTICISM AND MELODRAMA

LECTURE: ROMANTICISM AND MELODRAMA

READ:

- Nineteenth Century: Romanticism, Melodrama, and the 19th Century Theatre (WAD, 525-534)
- Victor Hugo, Hernani (WebCT)

JANUARY

II) REALISM: IBSEN, STRINDBERG AND CHEKHOV

LECTURE: REALISM POWERPOINT

READ:

- Background: Emile Zola, from Naturalism in the Theatre (WAD, 901, E-reserve)
- Ibsen, A Doll's House (1879) (WAD, 551, E-reserve, Gutenberg)

Video:

- A Doll's House, 1972 - Call # EG2672.

JANUARY

READ:

- Strindberg, Miss Julie (1888) (E-reserve, Gutenberg)

Video:

- Miss Julie, 1999

JANUARY

READ:

- Chekhov, The Three Sisters (1900) (E-reserve, Gutenberg)

Video:

- The Three Sisters, 1970

JANUARY

LECTURE: STANISLAVSKY VS. MEYERHOLD POWERPOINT

READ:

- Background: Stanislavsky, "Direction and Acting" (WAD, 914)
- Nick Worrall, "Meyerhold's production of 'The Magnanimous Cuckold'," The Drama Review: TDR, Vol. 17, No. 1, Russian Issue (Mar., 1973), pp. 14-34. (E-reserve)

Videos:

- Stanislavsky: The Maker of the Modern Theatre, 1982 - Call # AW4131

FEBRUARY

III) AVANT-GARDE MOVEMENTS

EUROPEAN AVANT-GARE: DADA, FUTURISM, SURREALISM, CONTRUCTIVISM, BAUHAUS

LECTURE:AVANT-GARDE MOVEMENTS POWERPOINT

READ:

- Tristan Tzara, "Dada Manifesto 1918" (1918) (E-reserve)
- Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, "The Foundation and Manifesto of Futurism" (1909) (E-reserve)
- André Breton, "The First Manifesto of Surrealism" (1924) (E-reserve)
- "The Second Manifesto of Surrealism" (1929) (E-reserve)
- Jarry, Ubu Roi (1896) (E-reserve, Gutenberg)
- Maeterlinck, The Blind (1890) (E-reserve)

Videos:

- Stages, 1980 - Call # AG7830.
- Un Chien Andalou, 1928 - Call 765530.

QUIZ # 1

FEBRUARY

AMERICAN AVANT-GARDE

LECTURE:THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Background (WAD, 951-955)
- O'Neil, The Hairy Ape (1922) (WAD, 1020-1037)
- Stein, Four Saints in Three Acts (1929)(E-reserve)

Videos:

- Eugene O'Neil, 2006
 - Gertrude Stein: When This You See, Remember Me, 1970
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FEBRUARY

IV) EPIC THEATRE

LECTURE: EPIC THEATRE POWERPOINT

READ:

- Background: Brecht, "Theatre for Pleasure or Theatre for Instruction," (WAD 919)
- Brecht, The Three Penny Opera (1928) WAD, 148-167)

Video:

- The Three Penny Opera (1931) - Call # AK1890.

FEBRUARY

V) RESPONSES TO WWII

EXISTENTIALIST DRAMA

LECTURE: EXISTENTIALIST DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Sartre, No Exit (1944)
- Rec: Background: J. P. Sartre, "First Attitude Towards Others: Love, Language, Masochism" in Being and Nothingness (1993). (E-reserve)

FEBRUARY

THEATRE OF THE ABSURD

READ:

- Background: Martin Esslin, from The Theatre of the Absurd (WAD, 907)
- Beckett, Waiting for Godot (1955)

Videos:

- Waiting for Godot (1961) - Call # 749008
- Beckett Directs Beckett: Waiting For Godot (1990) - Call # CR1278

FEBRUARY

SPANISH DRAMA

READ:

- Federico Garcia Lorca, The House of Bernarda Alba (on-line)

Video:

- The House of Bernarda Alba - Call #

QUIZ # 2

MARCH

VI) DECONSTRUCTING AMERICAN DREAM: MILLER, WILLIAMS AND ALBEE

LECTURE: AMERICAN DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Miller, Death of a Salesman (1949) (WAD, 1064)
- Rec: Miller, from "Tragedy of the Common Man" (WAD, 1299)

Video:

- Death of a Salesman, 1986 - Call # BM0716.

MID-TERM PAPERS DUE

SPRING BREAK

MARCH

READ:

- Williams, The Glass Menagerie (1944) (WAD, 1038)
- Albee, The American Dream (1960)

Video:

- The Glass Menagerie, 1988 - Call # BR0300

MARCH

MID-TERM EXAM

MARCH

VII) DECONSTRUCTING RACE, GENDER & SEXUALITY

AFRICAN AMERICAN DRAMA

LECTURE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Background: African-American Drama and Theatre (WAD, 975-6)
- Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun (1959)
- Wolfe, "The Last Mama-on-the-Couch Play," from The Colored Museum (1986) (WebCT)

Video:

- Black Theatre: The Making of A Movement, 1978 - Call # EA0442.
- Lorraine Hansberry: The Black Experience in the Creation of Drama - Call # DT2480
- A Raisin in the Sun, 1987 - Call # BL7442
- A Raisin in the Sun, 1989 - Call #

MARCH

READ:

- Suzan-Lori Parks, The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World (In America Play)
- Kennedy, Funnyhouse of a Negro (1962), from Adrienne Kennedy in One Act (WebCT)

Videos:

- Women in Theatre: Susan Lori-Parks
- For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf, 1982 - Call # 771789.

MARCH

ASIAN-AMERICAN DRAMA

LECTURE: ASIAN-AMERICAN DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Hwang, M. Butterfly (1988), (WAD, 1186)
- Rec: Hwang, David Henry; DiGaetani, John Louis. "'M. Butterfly': An Interview with David Henry Hwang." TDR (1988-), Vol. 33, No. 3. (Autumn, 1989), pp. 141-153. (WebCT)

Videos:

- Madame Butterfly (1995) - Call #
- M. Butterfly (1993) - Call # 824282
- The Year of the Dragon (1975) - Call #

QUIZ # 3

MARCH

LATINO DRAMA

LECTURE: LATINO DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Jose Rivera, Marisol (bookstore)

APRIL

FEMINIST THEATRE

LECTURE: HISTORY OF FEMINIST THEATRE

READ:

- Sarah Kane, Blasted (WAD, 871)
- Caryl Churchill, Cloud Nine (WAD, 842)

APRIL

GAY & LESBIAN DRAMA

LECTURE: HISTORY OF GAY & LESBIAN DRAMA

READ:

- Drake, The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me
- Pomo Afro Homos, Dark Fruit (WebCT)
- Holly Hughes, Dress Suits to Hire (WebCT)

APRIL

VIII) DECONSTRUCTING POST-COLONIAL DISCOURSE

AFRICAN DRAMA

LECTURE: AFRICAN DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Background: WAD (1315- 1342)
- Fugard, Master Harold and the Boys (1982) (WAD, 1434)
- Rec: Jordan, "Life in the Theatre: Autobiography, Politics, and Romance in 'Master Harold'." Twentieth Century Literature, Vol. 39, No. 4, Athol Fugard Issue. (Winter, 1993), pp. 461-472. (E-reserve).

Videos:

- Master Harold and the Boys. 1986 - Call # 140179

APRIL

READ:

- Soyinka, Death and the King's Horseman (WAD, 1383)
- Rec: Franz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness," (WAD, 1605)

Video:

- Towards an Authentic African Theatre, 1992 - Call #
- Wole Soyinka and Nigerian Theater, 1986 - Call #
- D. Remnick talks with Wole Soyinka, 2006 - Call #

QUIZ # 4

APRIL

SOUTH AMERICAN DRAMA

LECTURE: SOUTH AFRICAN DRAMA POWERPOINT

READ:

- Background: Brockett, "Latin American Theatre," History of Theatre, pp. 486-488. (WebCT)
- Dorfman, Death and the Maiden (1991)

Video:

- Death and the Maiden, 1994 - Call # 829758

APRIL

CARIBBEAN DRAMA

- Shakespeare, The Tempest
Aime Cesaire, A Tempest (WAD, 1345)

APRIL

FINAL EXAM REVIEW

FINAL PAPER DUE: APRIL

FINAL EXAM: TBA

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will explore a variety of theatrical traditions and styles.
- Students will be able to recognize and name the elements of various dramatic traditions.
- Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of different theatrical cultures.
- Students will practice multiple ways of seeing, thinking about, and responding aesthetically to theater.

LEARNING PROCEDURES

- Lecture/demonstration of various schools of thought and dramatic traditions.
- Reading/discussion/writing.
- Viewing and analysis of performances.

NOTE:

The syllabus is available on WebCT To access it: 1). Go to <http://webcms.emerson.edu>. 2). Enter your Emerson email address and password. 3). Click on TH216.

Your grades, assignments, handouts and articles on E-reserve will also be available at WebCT Please, make sure to access it as soon as possible to familiarize yourself with the system.
I will communicate with you via email. Therefore, you must have and check regularly your Emerson email account.

BOOKS:

Available at Emerson Bookstore or Amazon.com

- W. B. Worthen, [The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama](#)
- J. P. Sarte, [No Exit](#)
- S. Beckett, [Waiting for Godot](#)
- Hansberry, [A Raisin in the Sun](#)
- Rivera, [Marisol](#)
- Drake, [The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me](#)
- Dorfman, [Death and the Maiden](#)
- Brecht, [The Three Penny Opera](#)
- Albee, [American Dream](#)
- Shakespeare, [Tempest](#)
- S.L. Parks [The America Play: and Other Plays](#)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Come to class on time. Please, see class attendance policy.
- Read all assigned text and come to class prepared to discuss them. You are expected to participate in classroom discussion, and I will call on you to answer questions pertaining to the readings.
- You are being trained to read the material as artists and/or scholars, not as a general reader, and that means that you should always know the materials of the day thoroughly and be prepared to have specific, concrete things to add to our discussions. The success of the class depends on you sharing your ideas and taking an active role in discussion.
- It is expected that you will spend about 4-5 hours per week preparing for the class (reading, studying, watching videos). You are responsible for all material covered in the class.
- Fully participate in classroom discussion, contributing your own ideas. Please, make sure you raise your hand before you want to speak. Show respect towards your fellow classmates. Listen to them and let them speak when it's their turn.
- Write mid-term paper and final paper. Submit your paper on time. Please, see class policy on late papers.
- Take four quizzes, mid-term exam and final exam.
- Attend mid-term and final exam review sessions.
- Each student is encouraged to make at least two individual appointments with the instructor throughout the semester.

EXAMS:

- Quizzes - ten questions each.
- Midterm exam - Fifty multiple choice questions.
- Final exam - Fifty multiple choice questions.

There will be mid-term and final review. You **must** attend both review sessions.

NOTE: According to the department policy, we do not administer early or late exams (unless you're sick). Therefore, please, plan your holiday vacations and family gatherings with the final exam date in mind. Please, do not purchase your plane tickets or make other plans for this date (unless you do not plan taking the exam). No exceptions.

PAPERS:

Assigned papers must be typed and turned in on the due date, at the start of class. Use one-inch margins and 12-point font. Don't forget to staple your paper. While citing your sources, be consistent and always follow the MLA format. For detailed guidelines, you can either refer to the MLA handbook or you can use this website: [Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism](#). Cite ALL your sources and include bibliography.

MID-TERM PAPER - 3-4 pages

TOPIC: Guidelines are available on WebCT.

FINAL PAPER - 8-10 pages

TOPIC: Guidelines are available on WebCT.

LATE PAPERS:

- One day - ten points of the grade deducted
- Two days - twenty points of the grade deducted

Assignments received 3 days late will not be accepted.

NOTE: Final papers received late will not be accepted. No exceptions.

NOTE: No electronic submissions. Hard copies only. No exceptions.

HELP:

To get help with their papers (proofreading, organizing your ideas, etc), students can make appointments at the Writing Center in person at 216 Tremont Street or by calling 617-824-7874. Because the Center can get busy, students should make appointments in advance. This is not a drop-in Center. For more information, see website:

http://www.emerson.edu/learning_assistance/writing_center/index.cfm

GRADING

The College uses a system of letter grades and quality points to evaluate student performance. Grade point averages are computed on a scale where A = 4.0 (93-100), A - = 3.7 (90-92), B+ = 3.3 (87-89), B = 3.0 (83-86), B - = 2.7 (80-82), C+ = 2.3 (77-79), C = 2.0 (73-76), C - = 1.7 (70-72), D = 1.0 (60-69), F = 0 (failing). Based on this scale, the following class grading policy will be observed:

- Class attendance and participation - 100 points
- Quizzes (25 points each) - 100 points
- Mid-term exam - 100 points
- Final exam - 100 points
- Mid-term paper - 50 points
- Final paper - 150 points
- TOTAL 600 points

Final grades:

- A = 600 - 558 points
- A - = 557 - 540 points
- B + = 539 - 522 points
- B = 521 - 498 points
- B - = 497 - 480 points
- C + = 479 - 462 points
- C = 461 - 438 points
- C - = 437 - 420 points
- D = 419 - 360 points
- F = 359 or less

An I (Incomplete) is assigned when students engaged in passing work are unable to complete class assignments for medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances. No exceptions.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is essential to learning. If you must miss class, you are responsible for all work due and assigned on that day. Please try to let me know about absences ahead of time, and contact me afterwards so that you can be filled in on missed work. Assignments not turned in due to an absence are still considered late work.

According to Emerson Handbook: "Students are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly and are responsible for all work done in their classes while they are absent. Attending an out-of-class activity of event for another course may not be used as an excuse to disregard a given class's attendance policy. In addition, Massachusetts state law requires that any student who is unable, because of religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such requirement. The student will receive an opportunity to make up the examination, study or work requirement which may have been missed because of such absence on any particular day provided, however, that such make-up examination or work does not create an unreasonable burden upon the College." No exceptions."

CLASS POLICY: According to Emerson Handbook, "for courses meeting twice a week, 3 unexcused absences would result in a failing (F) grade." Therefore, you will be allowed 2 (2) unexcused absences without penalty (excluding mid-term review and final review). If you miss more than two classes, you will fail the course. Students with health/family emergencies need to consult the Dean of Students. If you miss mid-term review or final exam review, your final grade will be lowered one step (e.g., from A to A- or from A- to B+, etc.). If you are caught signing attendance sheets for another

student or being signed in, you will fail the course. No exceptions.

PUNCTUALITY

Tardiness will result in a lowered participation grade. Three tardies equals one absence. If you are more than a half-hour late, you will be marked absent automatically.

DISABILITIES

If you believe you have a disability which may require accommodations in this class, please, register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Bashir at 216 Tremont Street, 5th Floor, (617-824-7415) so that, together, you can work to develop methods of addressing needed accommodations in this class.

PLAGIARISM

"Plagiarism is the use of words and ideas of another as if they were one's own and without acknowledgement of their source. Plagiarism is stealing, and constitutes a serious offense against any ethical code, be it scholastic, artistic, or professional. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work, the work of another, or any work which he or she has not honestly performed, or to pass an examination by improper means, renders the offender liable to immediate suspension/dismissal. The aiding and abetting of a student in any dishonesty is likewise held to be a grave breach of discipline." ([Emerson College Policy on Plagiarism](#)).