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ENG 2011G-003: Literature, the Self and the World: Drama

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English 2011C: Introduction to Drama

Instructor: Dr. David Radavich
Office: 3785 Coleman Hall
Telephone: 581-6971 (Office) or 345-9280 (Home)
Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 and 3:30-4:00 TR

Required Text: Klaus, Gilbert, and Field, eds., *Stages of Drama*, 4th Edition

PURPOSE. This writing-intensive course will provide an introduction to drama from the beginnings to the present. We will read a variety of plays that have maintained a hold on the stages and imaginations of the world for over two thousand years. We will attempt to define and understand how drama is structured and performed, as well as how audiences and societies have reacted to stage production. Examining the rôle of drama in articulating and debating social values and concerns will provide insights into why human beings enact stories of their lives and why theatre remains both a threatening and an engrossing art form.

COURSE ORGANIZATION. The course will unfold roughly chronologically, beginning with Greek drama, then continuing through the Mediaeval period and Renaissance to the eighteenth century and the present. Whenever possible, discussion will be supplemented with either a reading/performance or a videotape as time and resources permit.

ASSIGNMENTS. Three essays will be required: one shorter essay (ca. 3-4 pages), a prospectus, and one longer essay (ca. 6-8 pages) using outside sources. The longer essay may be submitted for the university electronic writing portfolio.

There will be a midterm and a final exam. Quizzes will be given at random during the semester; these will be brief but provocative for class discussion, focusing on your reaction to the reading. Everyone will be encouraged to keep a reading journal, which may be used for writing papers and for the essay portion of each exam. Everyone will also be required to attend two stage performances during the semester and to write brief reviews.

GRADING. Evaluation of your work will be demanding and fair and will include an assessment of your class preparedness and participation. The first paper will make up 10%, the prospectus 5%, and the documented paper 20% of the course grade. The midterm exam will count 15% and the final exam 25%. Active participation in class discussion, combined with in-class quizzes and play reviews, will constitute the remaining 25% of the overall grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY. You are assumed to be professionals-in-training and are expected to attend class regularly as you would show up for work on the job. The attendance policy for this course will operate as follows: you may miss up to one week of class without penalty; this allows you flexibility in case of illness or unexpected emergency. Thereafter, the course grade will be

lowered proportionately for each week missed. If you are absent more than four weeks of class, you will automatically receive an F in the course.

LATE WORK. Assignments turned in late will be penalized one-third grade PER CALENDAR DAY late. Missed in-class quizzes cannot be made up; that is the reward for coming to class regularly.

PLAGIARISM. According to University policy,

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (Random house Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of **F** for the course.

CONFERENCES. Please feel free to consult me regarding ideas, planning, problems, revision, etc. I would be happy to meet with you at any mutually convenient time.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

English 2011C Assignments (Radavich)

- Aug. 21 - Introduction to drama
23 - Greek drama, pp. 13-17; Aeschylus, Introduction and *Agamemnon*, ll. 1-855
- Aug. 28 - Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*, ll. 856-end
30 - Pp. 101-103; Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, ll. 1-942
- Sept. 4 - *Lysistrata*, ll. 943-end; review of Greek drama
6 - Mediaeval drama, pp. 149-154, *Everyman*
- Sept. 11 - Pp. 171-173 and 185-191; more *Everyman*
13 - English Renaissance Drama, pp. 193-196; Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Acts I-II
- Sept. 18 - *Twelfth Night*, Acts III-IV
20 - Review and Trouble-shooting
- Sept. 25 - ESSAY #1 DUE
27 - Neoclassical drama, pp. 385-388; Molière, *The Misanthrope*, Acts I-II
- Oct. 2 - Pp. 389-391; *The Misanthrope*, Acts III-V
4 - Pp. 463-65; Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*, Acts I-II
- Oct. 9 - *The School for Scandal*, III-V
11 - Review and discussion
- Oct. 16 - MIDTERM EXAM
18 - Modern Drama, pp. 507-514
- Oct. 23 - Pp. 599-601 Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*, Acts I-II
25 - *The Cherry Orchard*, Acts III-IV
- Oct. 30 - PROSPECTUS DUE
Nov. 1 - Pp. 689-691, Pirandello, *Six Characters . . .*, Act I
- Nov. 6 - *Six Characters*, Acts II-III
8 - Pp. 935-40; Ionesco, *The Lesson*
- Nov. 13 - Pp. 1041-43; Baraka, *Dutchman*
15 - ESSAY #2 DUE

Nov. 20 & 22 - Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 27 - Pp. 1139-41; Churchill, *Top Girls*, Act I
29 - *Top Girls*, Act II

Dec. 3 - Pp. 1437-1438, Reza, "*Art*"
5 - Review and Discussion

FINAL EXAM