

Spring 1-15-2007

## ENG 2011G-002: Literature, the Self, and the World: Drama

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### Recommended Citation

McCormick, F, "ENG 2011G-002: Literature, the Self, and the World: Drama" (2007). *Spring 2007*. 66.  
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English 2011G/SPRING 2007  
Literature, the Self, and the World: DRAMA

**Instructor: Dr. McCormick**  
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Office Hours: MWF 10-11, 12-1, & 2-3  
(and by appointment)

**Required Text:** Stages of Drama (4th ed.)

- Supplementary Purchases**
1. Spiral notebook -- for your JOURNAL -- to be used for this class only
  2. Theme folder

**NOTE:** I welcome your questions about any of our assignments for this course. Ask and I'll be happy to clarify.

**HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED**

You will be expected to attend class regularly, to perform reading and writing assignments diligently and promptly, and to contribute to class discussion. Your grade for the course will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

1. 20%--a 1000-2000 word theme (4 to 8 typed pages). (See "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout.)
2. 20%--Journal (to include both before-class and in-class writing) + 2 500-word journal-based essays. (See "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout for details.)
3. 20%--Mid-Term Exam.
4. 20%--Final Exam.
5. 20%--participation (contribution to class discussion) + performance on daily reading quizzes. Note that no one who has more than three unexcused absences will be eligible to earn a participation grade higher than a C). Frequent absences will result in a participation/pop quiz grade of D or F.

I will assign the following values to the grades you receive on the five projects described above:

|          |          |          |          |                |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| A+ =4.2  | B+ =3.2  | C+ =2.2  | D+ =1.2  | F =0.0         |
| A = 4.0  | B = 3.0  | C = 2.0  | D = 1.0  | Missing = -1.0 |
| A- = 3.8 | B- = 2.8 | C- = 1.8 | D- = 0.8 |                |

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

|                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| A = 4.2 to 3.8 | B = 3.7 to 2.8 | C = 2.7 to 1.8 |
| D = 1.7 to 0.8 |                |                |

## **INCENTIVE TO ATTEND CLASS FAITHFULLY**

If at the end of the semester your average falls 1 to 2 decimal points below the cutoff for the next higher grade category, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had **no more than 3 unexcused absences**. For example, if your average were 2.6 or 2.7 (i.e., 1 or 2 points below the cutoff for a B), you would receive a final grade of B if you had had no more than 3 unexcused absences. If you had 4 or more unexcused absences, your average of 2.6 or 2.7 would earn a final grade of C.

## **LATE AND MISSED WORK**

Papers are due at the beginning of the class period on the dates indicated by asterisks (\*\*\*) on your syllabus. Late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class day they are late. (For example, if a paper were due on a Monday and you submitted it on the following Tuesday, your grade would be penalized by a half letter.) Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up.

## **OPTIONAL REVISION:**

Any of you who wish to do so may elect to revise your 20% theme to try to improve your theme grade by a maximum of one letter. One exception: a paper whose grade I have penalized for plagiarism (see below) may not be revised and resubmitted. Revisions must be substantial. The revised paper will need to include some new paragraphs with new content not present in the version of the paper I have previously graded. Merely correcting the errors I mark in the original graded version of the paper will not result in an improved grade. The optional revision (together with the original graded version and my comment sheet) will be due no later than the final regular class meeting of the semester.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Note the English Department's statement concerning plagiarism:

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 assignment of a grade of F for the course.

## **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.

**ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO (EWP)**

If you entered EIU under the 2001-2002 catalogue (or a subsequent catalog), you may satisfy a portion of your **ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO** requirement by submitting one of the themes you write for this course to your **EWP**. For detailed information concerning the procedure for submitting a theme to your **EWP**, consult the information provided on the **Assessment** website at the following address: [www.eiu.edu/~assess](http://www.eiu.edu/~assess)

## SYLLABUS

NOTE: Asterisks (\*\*\*) in the left-hand margins of the following pages indicate important due dates.

- JAN    8    Introduction to the course.
- 10    "Reading and Witnessing a Play," 1-3.  
Trifles, 4-11.  
 Study pp. 1-4 of your "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout.  
**IMPORTANT**: Remember to bring to class a spiral notebook in which you have written a journal entry of no fewer than **150 words** in response to Trifles.
- 12    Classical Greek Theater, 13-17.  
 Sophocles, 47-49.  
Oedipus Rex, 50-55 (to ODE I).  
**JOURNAL REMINDER**: Before this and **EVERY** class session for which we have a reading assignment, remember to prepare a journal entry before you come to class. Bring your journal to every class.
- 15    Martin Luther King's Birthday. No class.
- 17    Oedipus Rex, 55-64 (to ODE IV).
- 19    Oedipus Rex and "Staging," 64-72.
- 22    Euripides, 73-75.  
The Bacchae, 76-87.
- 24    The Bacchae, 88-100. Would several of you wish to act out a portion of Bacchae or Oedipus Rex at our next meeting? If so, let me know of your interest as soon as possible.
- 26    Discussion and Synthesis. Write a journal entry of at least 500 words before coming to today's session. On what topic? For suggestions, see the list of "[THEME] **TOPICS**" on p. 6 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout. In your 500-word journal entry for today, see if you can come up with at least three different theme topics. If one of them looks especially good, develop it in detail. Do so and you'll have made an excellent start on your important 20% theme--due on the date indicated by asterisks below. Devote three hours to this task before coming to class.

- JAN 29 Medieval Theater, 149-154.  
Everyman, 171-191.
- 31 Renaissance English Theater, 193-196  
Christopher Marlowe, 197-199  
Doctor Faustus, 200-205 (Act 1 -- but skip scene 4).
- FEB 2 Doctor Faustus, 205-215 (Acts 2 & 3 -- but skip the following scenes: Act 2, Scene 3, on p. 210, & Act 3, Scene 3, on pp. 214-215).
- 5 Doctor Faustus, 215-222 (Act 4).
- 7 Doctor Faustus, 222-231 (Act 5 and "Staging").
- 9 Discussion and synthesis. Prepare a 500-word journal entry before coming to today's class. See if you can find a place for either Everyman or Dr. Faustus in one of the ideas for a theme topic you came up with in your previous 500-word entry - or devise another potential theme topic on yet another subject. (See list of "**TOPICS**" on p. 5 of "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout.)
- 12 August Wilson, 1235-1237.  
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, 1238-1255 (Act 1).  
Please remind me today to distribute a handout entitled "Request for MID-TERM EXAM Essay Topics. Your mid-term exam (see below) will consist of two in-class essays on the plays we have read thus far. After studying your "**REQUEST FOR MID-TERM EXAM ESSAY TOPICS**," handout, devise two topics for your two mid-term exam essays. Devise **ONE** topic that entails discussion of **TWO** of the plays we have read in the first half of the semester. Devise a **SECOND** topic that entails discussion of **THREE OTHER** plays we have read. Bring your topics to our next class meeting.
- 14 Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, 1255-1271 (Act 2 and "Staging").  
In class today I'll ask each of you to submit two topics for your mid-term exam essays. I'll type up your suggestions and distribute them at our next meeting. At the exam you may write on the two you like best.
- 16 Lincoln's Birthday. No class.
- 19 Review for Mid-Term Exam. At the beginning of class I will distribute a typed list of the Mid-Term Exam topics you submitted at our last meeting. Bring your Drama text to class so that you can do some preliminary writing for your Exam.
- \*\*\* 21 **MID-TERM EXAM, Part 1.**  
\*\*\* **SUBMIT JOURNAL & 500-WORD JOURNAL-BASED ESSAY FOR MID-TERM EVALUATION.**

**FEB\*\* 23 MID-TERM EXAM, Part 2.**

26 No class. You deserve a break, and I need time to read your exams and journals.

28 Aristophanes, 101-103.  
Lysistrata, 104-110 (to line 590).

**MAR** 2 Lysistrata, 110-116 (to line 1300).

5 Lysistrata and "Staging"/"Review," 116-123.

7 Neoclassical Theater, 385-388.  
Molière, 389-391.  
The Misanthrope, Act I, 392-397.

9 The Misanthrope, Acts II-III, 397-404. (Would several of you be interested in acting out a scene from The Misanthrope? Speak with me if you're interested.)

12, 14, 16 Spring Break. No classes.

19 The Misanthrope, Acts IV-V and "Staging," 404-415.

21 Modern Theater, 507-514. (Long assignment.)  
Henrik Ibsen, 533-535.  
A Doll's House, Act I, 536-547.

23 A Doll's House, Act II, 547-556.

26 A Doll's House, Act III and "Staging," 556-574.  
Carefully read the description of **THEME** requirements on pp. 5-6 of your "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout. Do some preliminary brainstorming, and sign up for a conference if you would like to discuss your ideas with me.

28 Devote no fewer than three hours to working on your 20% theme. Bring your Drama text and your questions to today's class.

30 Prepare a rough draft of your 20% theme.  
Bring your questions about the theme to class today -- along with two copies of your rough draft. You will submit one copy of your rough draft to me at the beginning of today's meeting. In class we'll do some things that will help you improve your theme through careful revision.

APR\*\* 2 **THEME DUE** (2 copies) at beginning of today's class. Submit your materials in a theme folder. Put two copies of your final version of the theme in the **left** pocket and all earlier scribbles and preliminary drafts in the **right** pocket. (Include photocopies of any journal entries in which you did preliminary writing which led to the final theme.)

4 No class. You need a break, and I need time to read your themes.

6 In class today I will return and discuss your themes.

9 David Mamet, 1309-1311.  
Oleanna, 1312-1319 (Act 1).

11 Oleanna, 1319-1336 (Acts 2-3 & "Staging"/"Commentary").

13 Devote **three hours** to correcting your theme as follows:  
(1) Correct all errors of punctuation, spelling, grammar, and sentence structure I marked on your theme. Do so in **pencil**, directly on the theme, even if I have already corrected some of the errors in red. If you are not certain how to correct a particular error, go to the Writing Center in CH 301 for help.

(2) Revise at least two of your paragraphs to strengthen their content and improve their clarity and grace. The two revised paragraphs need to be controlled by firm topic sentences and they need to have some new content -- content not present in your original paragraphs.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? At the end of today's session I will collect your corrected themes and revised paragraphs and you will receive 0, 1, 2, or 3 bonus points (toward your journal grade) depending on the carefulness and thoroughness of your corrections and revisions.

OPTIONAL REVISION OF THEME: **IF** you plan to revise your 20% theme, you will need to sign up for a conference to discuss revision strategies with me. Do so today. Revision is entirely optional. Note that revised themes must contain substantial new material not present in the original graded version. For additional revision specifications, see "Optional Revision of Theme" on p. 4 of your **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS** handout. Optional revisions are due no later than our final regular class meeting of the semester.

16 No class. Instead I will hold individual conferences with those of you who intend to revise your 20% theme. Bring to the conference your graded and corrected theme as well as your revised paragraphs.

18 Marsha Norman, 1207-1209.  
Night, Mother, 1210-1218.

- APR 20 Night, Mother, 1219-1233.
- 23 Adam P. Kennedy and Adrienne Kennedy, 1407-1409.  
Sleep Deprivation Chamber, 1410-1421 (to end of Scene 2). Remind me today to distribute a handout entitled "Request for FINAL EXAM Essay Topics."
- 25 Sleep Deprivation Chamber, 1421-1435 (to conclusion & "Staging").  
**NOTE:** Your final exam, like your mid-term, will consist of two essays. In class today I will ask each of you to submit two essay topics, which I will type up and distribute at our next meeting. You may write on the two topics you like best.
- 27 Discussion and synthesis. Review for final exam.  
\*\*\* Today is the final day for submitting a (thoroughly optional) revision of your theme.

Date and time of our final exam:

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 10:15-12:15 p.m.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Be sure to **bring your journal** to the final exam. I'll collect it at the beginning of the exam session.