Spring 1-15-2011

ENG 2005-001: Creative Writing: Drama

Lania Knight
Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 2005, Creative Writing: Drama  
Spring 2011, T/Th 9:30-10:45am, Coleman Hall 2120

Professor Lania Knight, PhD  
Coleman Hall 3015, 581-6121  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: ldknight@eiu.edu

This is an introductory course in the art and craft of playwriting. In this course, students will:
1. Read and analyze plays  
2. Attend and review two live performances: Tartuffe and Noises Off  
3. Respond in writing to course material  
4. Write several short plays  
5. Participate in workshop, which includes reading aloud other students’ plays  
6. Attend the EIU Playwright’s Workshop

Required Texts:

Grades:
Daily Journal Responses 300  
Performance Reviews 200  
Participation 100  
Short Play I 100  
Short Play II 100  
Final Portfolio 200

Total 1000 points

Academic Honesty
Please note the English Department’s statement on plagiarism (that is, the intentional or unintentional use of another writer’s intellectual property without proper acknowledgment):
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 own 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 assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Students with Documented Disabilities
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, you must make arrangements through the Office of Disability Services; you should contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Be Prepared for Class
To prepare for each class, please do the following:
1. Bring your textbook(s) and journal with you to class
2. Read the assigned material before class
3. Respond to the assigned reading in your journal (see Journal section below for more info) before class
4. Type your assignments and bring the appropriate number of copies to class on the day they are due

Daily Journal Responses
Please bring your bound notebook to class each day. In it, you will write responses to be shared with the class. Each response is worth around 10 points and should be comprised of the following:
A List of Ten, which means ten of anything about the reading, such as words you needed to look up, items you found interesting or confusing, phrases you had questions about. ANYTHING GOES. Write page numbers. On days when there is no reading beforehand, such as Tuesday, 1/18, when we will watch a film, or on Tuesday, 2/22, when we will conduct workshop, write out your List of Ten during class.

Attendance
I do not keep attendance, but rather, give points toward Daily Journal Responses if you attend class and have a written response that you read out loud. If you are not present, if you do not have a response, or if you do not read it out loud, you will not receive points for that day’s Daily Journal Response. Exceptions will be made only for documented emergencies and documented school team sport activities.

Participation
This grade is a gift as long as you show up, contribute to discussion, read (aloud) your fellow students’ plays, and do the in-class writing.

EIU Playwright’s Workshop
These will take place on one Tuesday evening each month in the Movement Studio in Doudna. If you attend all three, it will swing your grade up 30 points.

Tartuffe and Noises Off at Doudna Fine Arts Center
You must attend one performance of Tartuffe and of Noises Off at the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Tartuffe runs Friday, March 4th – Tuesday, March 8th. Noises Off runs Friday, April 15th – Tuesday, April 19th. You need a ticket or a signed program (signed and dated by an usher, cast member, or the director) from each performance, which you will turn in with your reviews.

Tentative Schedule
Week One
Tuesday, 1/11: Introduction and overview
Thursday, 1/13: Discuss Backwards & Forwards, pages vii-6: Foreword and Introduction
Week Two
Tuesday, 1/18: Film
Thursday, 1/20: Film

Week Three
Tuesday, 1/25: Discuss Backwards & Forwards, pages 7-36: Part One, Shape
Thursday, 1/27: Discuss Backwards & Forwards, pages 39-78: Part Two, Methods

Week Four
Tuesday, 2/1: Discuss Bedford intro to Hamlet and Act I, Scenes I-III (pages 337-48); in-class writing
Thursday, 2/3: Discuss Bedford Hamlet, Act I, Scenes IV-V (pages 348-51); in-class writing

Week Five
Tuesday, 2/8: Discuss The Playwright’s Guidebook, pages ix–46: Foreword, Introduction, Part One, Structure: One and Two; in-class writing
Thursday, 2/10: Discuss The Playwright’s Guidebook, pages 48-72, Part One, Structure: Three and Four; in-class writing

Week Six
Tuesday, 2/15: Discuss The Playwright’s Guidebook, pages 73-94: Part One, Structure: Five and Six; in-class writing
Thursday, 2/17: Discuss The Playwright’s Guidebook, pages 96-106: Part One, Structure: Seven; in-class writing

Week Seven
Tuesday, 2/22: Workshop
Thursday, 2/24: Workshop

Week Eight
Tuesday, 3/1: Workshop
Thursday, 3/3: Workshop and prepare for Tartuffe Performance

Weekend performance of Tartuffe at Doudna Fine Arts Center

Week Nine
Tuesday, 3/8: DUE: Review of Tartuffe; Discuss performance of Tartuffe; Bedford section on Molière and Tartuffe, Acts I-III (pages 509-27)
Thursday, 3/10: Discuss Bedford Tartuffe, Acts IV-V, and commentary (pages 527-38)

Week Ten
Tuesday, 3/15: Spring Break
Thursday, 3/17: Spring Break
Week Eleven
Tuesday, 3/22: Discuss The Playwright's Guidebook, pages 111-24: Part Two, Dramatic Elements: Prologue and Eight; in-class writing
Thursday, 3/24: Discuss The Playwright’s Guidebook, pages 126-69: Part Two, Dramatic Elements: Nine (omit 138-41); in-class writing

Week Twelve
Tuesday, 3/29: Discuss The Playwright’s Guidebook, pages 170-201: Part Two, Dramatic Elements: Ten; in-class writing
Thursday, 3/31: Discuss The Playwright's Guidebook, pages 204-18: Part Two, Dramatic Elements: Eleven; in-class writing

Week Thirteen
Tuesday, 4/5: Workshop
Thursday, 4/7: Workshop

Week Fourteen
Tuesday, 4/12: Workshop
Thursday, 4/14: Workshop and prepare for Noises Off performance

Weekend performance of Noises Off at Doudna Fine Arts Center

Week Fifteen
Tuesday, 4/19: DUE: Review of Noises Off; Discuss Noises Off and The Playwright’s Guidebook, pages 223-246: Part Three: Dealing with Problems, One: Rewriting; in-class writing
Thursday, 4/21: Revision Workshop

Week Sixteen
Tuesday, 4/26: Revision Workshop
Thursday, 4/28: DUE: Final Portfolio