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

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English 2011G/Fall 2000
Literature, the Self, and the World: **DRAMA**

Instructor: Dr. McCormick
Office: CH 339D
Phone: 581-6121
Office Hours: MWF 9-11 & 12-2
(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). (See "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout.)
3. 20%--Mid-Term Exam.
4. 20%--Final Exam.
5. 20%--participation (contribution to class discussion) + performance on occasional pop 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.

SYLLABUS

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

- AUG** 21 Introduction to the course.
- 23 Classical Greek Theater, 13-17.
Sophocles, 47-49.
Oedipus Rex, 50-55 (to ODE I).
Study pp. 1-4 of your "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout.
- 25 Oedipus Rex, 56-64 (to ODE IV).
- 28 Oedipus Rex and "Staging," 64-72.
- 30 Renaissance English Theater, 193-196.
William Shakespeare, 233-237. As an introduction to Shakespeare we will watch a portion of the film Shakespeare in Love at today's meeting.
- SEP** 1 Othello, Act I, 279-287.
- 4 Labor Day. No class
- 6 Othello, Act II, 287-296.
- 8 Othello, Act III, 296-305.
- 11 Othello, Act IV, 305-312.
- 13 Othello, Act V and "Staging" and "Review," 312-325.
- 15 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. 5 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.
- 18 Neoclassical Theater, 385-388.
Molière, 389-391.
The Misanthrope, Act I, 392-397.

- SEP** 20 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.)
- 22 The Misanthrope, Acts IV-V and "Staging," 404-415.
- 25 Modern Theater, 507-514. (Long assignment.)
Henrik Ibsen, 533-535.
A Doll's House, Act I, 536-547.
- 27 A Doll's House, Act II, 547-556.
- 29 A Doll's House, Act III and "Staging," 556-574.
IMPORTANT: Your mid-term exam (see below) will consist of two in-class essays on the plays we have read thus far. I welcome your suggestions for essay topics. In class today I'll ask each of you to propose two topics. 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.
- OCT** 2 Discussion and synthesis. Prepare a 500-word journal entry before coming to today's class. See if you can find a place for either The Misanthrope or A Doll's House 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 the list of "**TOPICS**" on p. 5 of your "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout.)
- *** 4 MID-TERM EXAM, Part 1.
- *** 6 MID-TERM EXAM, Part 2.
- 9 Aristophanes, 101-103.
Lysistrata, 104-110 (to line 590).
- 11 Lysistrata, 110-116 (to line 1300).
Carefully read the description of **THEME** requirements on pp. 5-6 of your "**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**" handout. Bring your questions to class.
- 13 Lysistrata and "Staging" and "Review," 116-123. (And work on your theme.)
- ** 16 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.

- OCT** 18 No class. Work on your 20% theme -- due at our next class meeting.
- 20 Fall Break. No class.
- *** 23 **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.)
- *** 25 **Submit journal for evaluation at beginning of class.**
I'll have some of your themes read by today's meeting.
- 27 No class. You need a break and I need time to read your themes and journals.
- 30 No new reading. In class today I'll return and discuss your themes and journals.
- NOV** 1 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.
NOTE: At the end of today's session I'll 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.
- 3 Arthur Miller, 841-843.
Death of a Salesman, begin Act I, 844-853.
- 6 **Death of a Salesman**, Act I-Act II (mid), 854-869.
- 8 **Death of a Salesman**, Act II and "Staging," 870-887.
- 10 Discussion and Synthesis. **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.

- NOV** 13 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.
- 15 Marsha Norman, 1207-1209.
'Night, Mother, 1210-1218.
- 17 'Night, Mother, 1219-1233.
- 20, 22, 24 Thanksgiving Recess. No classes.
- 27 Euripides, 73-75.
The Bacchae, 76-87.
- 29 The Bacchae, 88-100.
- DEC** 1 Discussion and Synthesis. Would several of you wish to offer a reading of the scene of your choice from The Bacchae or 'Night, Mother? If so, let me know your intentions as soon as possible. (In class you will sign up for a conference IF you plan to revise your 20% theme. Revision is entirely optional.)
- 4 Imamu Amiri Baraka [LeRoi Jones], 1041-1043.
Dutchman, 1044-1054.
- * **(OPTIONAL REVISION:** If you are revising your theme, note that the revision, accompanied by the original graded version, is due -- in your theme folder -- at the beginning of our final class meeting of the semester.
- 6 Luis Valdez, 1055-1057
Los Vendidos ["The Sell-Outs"], 1058-1065.
NOTE: Your final exam, like your mid-term, will consist of two essay questions. 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. At the exam you may write on the two you like best.
- 8 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 final exam: THURSDAY, Dec. 14, 10:15 a.m.-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.