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

Campbell
Eastern Illinois University

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English 2011G-003—Literature, the Self, and the World: Drama
Fall 2002

Dr. Campbell
CH 3572, 581-6974
Office hours TTH 11-12:30, W 2-3
MWF 12:00
CH 3170
cjdc@eiu.edu

Texts
Klaus et al. *Stages of Drama*
Sophocles, *The Theban Plays*
Euripides, *Medea, Hippolytus, . . .*
Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

Course Description
This course will offer an introduction to drama from the classical to modern periods. Since the theme of the course is Literature, the Self, and the World, for each period that we address, we will ask such questions as the following: “How well is the concept of a self illustrated in the drama from this period?” “How are individuals depicted as they interact with society or their world?” “Why is drama a particularly excellent genre to study regarding these questions?” “How have depictions of the self evolved through centuries of dramatic development?” “What playwrights seem to be the most skilled at teaching us about the human condition as they portray it during their times?” “Why do some of the issues addressed in plays from the classical period still seem incredibly relevant to us today?” “What issues regarding one’s self and the world have provided *topoi* or commonplaces for drama throughout the centuries?” Our exploration of these questions will guide us as we read, discuss, and write about drama this semester.

Policies
-- The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that 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 assigned essay and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

-- Hand papers in on time. If you’re having problems, let me know. Papers more than a week late without a University-approved excuse will not be accepted at all. Also plan to show up for exams. Again, if you have problems, let me know. You will have no more than one week to make up an exam, and the make-up exam will be different from the one given during class.
--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.

--Be prepared for class. You'll get a lot more out of class discussions if you are participating in them, and I'll notice if you do not seem prepared to participate.

Requirements

--Two exams: a mid-term
and a final .......................... 40% (20% each of final grade)
--One 7-10 page research paper . . 20%
--Preliminary research report .... 15%
--Response writings, group work,
research paper draft ............ 25%

The midterm and the final will cover the units of study: the Classical Period, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Contemporary Period. There will be interplay between these periods in our discussions and in the test questions, and the final exam will have some comprehensive elements.

The research paper topic will be chosen from the assigned texts and issues related to them. I will give you a list of possible topics and/or areas of study to consider early in the semester because you will be expected to select a topic and begin research early on. The paper will be 7-10 pages long. You will use at least 3-5 outside sources to support your arguments, and they should consist of scholarly books, journal articles, and internet sources of well-known scholarly repute. (If in doubt, ask.) You will use MLA Parenthetical Style, with a Works Cited page, for documentation. Around midterm, you will have small group conferences regarding this project. Then, to follow up on the information gleaned in your conference, you will have time set aside for research; then, you will have a preliminary research report due to show the progress that you have made regarding your research project. At some point after that, you will also have due a rough draft of the paper. Do not worry that we haven't covered the topic that interests you in class—this portion of our study is meant to be independent exploration of a topic that may be completely new to you. It is my hope that your independent study will augment for you what is eventually covered in class and will broaden the scope of the course as a whole for you.

The response writings and group work will be concerned with specific reading assignments and are meant to generate class discussion and to give you regular writing practice. Regarding response writings, I will give you questions to answer or a short topic to address. You will word process and turn in all assignments except certain in-class writings. Regarding group work, each group will take a particular play, research specific assigned aspects of it, or answer specific questions about it, and present their findings to the class.
Tentative Schedule

Note: Readings may be shifted around during the semester to accommodate the class discussion.

The Classical Period
W. Sept. 4—Go over syllabus. Read *Antigone*.
F. Sept. 6—*Antigone*.

M. Sept. 9—*Antigone*. Read *Lysistrata*.
F. Sept. 13—*Lysistrata*.

M. Sept. 16—*Lysistrata*.
F. Sept. 20—*Medea*.

M. Sept. 23—*Medea*.
W. Sept. 25—Finish *Medea*. Read *The Second Shepherd's Play*

The Middle Ages
F. Sept. 27—*The Second Shepherd's Play*

M. Sept. 30—*The Second Shepherd's Play*. Read *Everyman*.
W. Oct. 2—*Everyman*.

M. Oct. 7—*Midterm Exam*. Sign up for conference times.
W. Oct. 9—Small group conferences over research projects.
F. Oct. 11—Small group conferences over research projects. Read *Othello*.

The Renaissance
M. Oct. 14—*Othello*.
W. Oct. 16—*Othello*.
F. Oct. 18—Fall Break. No class.

M. Oct. 21—Research projects.
W. Oct. 23—Research projects.

M. Oct. 28—*Preliminary research report due*. *Othello*.
W. Oct. 30—*Othello*. 
F. Nov. 1—Finish Othello. Read Much Ado.

M. Nov. 4—Much Ado
W. Nov. 6—Much Ado
F. Nov. 8—Rough drafts of research papers are due. Finish Much Ado. Read Hamlet and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead.

The Contemporary Period
M. Nov. 11—Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
W. Nov. 13—Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
F. Nov. 15—Finish Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Read 'Night, Mother.

M. Nov. 25—Thanksgiving
W. Nov. 27—Thanksgiving
F. Nov. 29—Thanksgiving

M. Dec. 2—'Night, Mother.
W. Dec. 4—'Night, Mother.
F. Dec. 6—Research papers are due.

M. Dec. 11—Finish 'Night Mother.

Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 16, 12:30-2:30 p.m.