Spring 1-15-2006

ENG 4300-4390-001-099: The Artist, the Performer, and the Community

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Course Objectives, Requirements, and Policies:

In this course, we’ll explore the ways in which artists and performers use language to make things happen in their communities. We’ll study the concept of “performance” in dramatic and narrative contexts to see how artists create the aesthetics that locate art at the center of personal and social transformation.

Attendance:
I call roll regularly and can disregard only two unexcused absences during the semester. If you accumulate more than two absences, your grade for the course will suffer (1/2 point for each absence). Please let me know if an illness or family emergency is preventing you from attending class. Since this is a seminar, you’re expected to be an active participant in class discussions.

Papers and exams:
You’ll take two exams during the semester (Feb. 28 and April 27). You’ll write two papers, one short (at least 4-6 pages, due on March 7), the second longer (8-10 pages at least; due on April 27). The second paper needs to incorporate research.

Class presentations:
Each of you will do one oral presentation (lasting 20 minutes) during the semester. You can choose to do one of the following tasks: Discuss one aspect of the text assigned for class that day, or select a relevant text not on the main syllabus and present it to the seminar. Along with your presentation, you need to share with the class an annotated bibliography of 4 sources you’d recommend as supplementary critical reading on the text of your choice. (Make copies of your bibliography for all members of the seminar.)

Grading policy:
Exams: 30%; class participation and oral presentation: 20%; paper # 1: 20%; paper #2: 30%

Conferences:
Please stop by my office to discuss any problem or question related to the course. You can make an appointment if my regular office hours are inconvenient for you.
Policy on plagiarism:
The English Department policy on plagiarism states that “Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘the appropriation 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 responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

Disability Services:
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.

Required Texts:
Harrington, *Modern Irish Drama*
James, *The Aspern Papers*
Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Pamuk, *Snow*
Plato, “Ion” (Xerox copy at the copy center in the Union)
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Woolf, *Between the Acts*

Class meetings and readings:

Jan. 10: Introduction to the course

Jan. 12: “Ion” (Xerox copy) and “Performance” (essay; hand-out)

Jan. 17: *The Tempest*

Jan. 19: *The Tempest*

Jan. 24: *Hamlet*

Jan. 26: *Hamlet* and **Student Presentation**

Jan. 31: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

Feb. 2: *R & G Are Dead*

Feb. 7: *R & G Are Dead* and **Student Presentation**
Feb. 9: *Picture of Dorian Gray*

Feb. 14: *Picture of Dorian Gray*

Feb. 16: *Picture of Dorian Gray* and Student Presentation

Feb. 21: *Playboy of the Western World*

Feb. 23: *Playboy*

**Feb. 28: FIRST EXAM**

March 2: “The Aspern Papers”

March 7: “The Aspern Papers” and Student Presentation. FIRST PAPER IS DUE.

March 9: No Class (I’ll be away at a conference)

SPRING BREAK

March 21: *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

March 23: *Portrait*

March 28: *Portrait* and Student Presentation

March 30: *Between the Acts*

April 4: *Between the Acts*

April 6: *Between the Acts* and Student Presentation

April 11: *Snow* and Three Student Presentations

April 13: *Snow*

April 18: *Snow*

April 20: *Snow* and Three Student Presentations

April 25: *Snow*

April 27: **SECOND EXAM.**

SECOND PAPER IS DUE.