ENG 4300-003: Senior Seminar on "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/performers use language to make things happen in their communities. We’ll study the concept of “performance” in both dramatic and narrative contexts to see how artists create the aesthetics that locate art at the center of personal and social transformation.

Requirements:

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 a family emergency or other critical incident prevents 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 a midterm and a final exam. You’ll write three short response papers (1-2 pages) and one final research paper (8-10 pages or longer). You can choose three texts (from among those assigned for the class) as the subject of your short response papers. One of these can serve as the inspiration for your final paper. These short essays are basically reflective and analytic in nature. One main topic you may keep in mind is to explore the relevance of this text to class discussion, to a question posed, or to the theme of the seminar. (Please don’t summarize the story for me!)

Class presentation:

Each of you will do one oral presentation (lasting 15-20 minutes) during the semester. You can choose to do one of the two following tasks: Discuss the text assigned for class that day, or select a text not on the main syllabus and present it to the seminar. If you choose to do the former, your task is to draw attention to those aspects of the work which were neglected, or to challenge interpretations offered during our discussions. Along with your presentation, you need to share with the class an annotated bibliography (a list of 3-4 sources) you’d recommend as supplementary critical reading on the text of your choice.
Grading policy:

Exams: 40%; oral presentation and class discussion 20%; short response papers 20%; research essay 20%

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 of 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.

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Required Texts:

Harrington, *Modern Irish Drama* (We’ll read *Playboy of the Western World* and *Translations*)
James, “The Aspern Papers”
Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Powers, *Galatea 2.2*
Shakespeare: *The Tempest*, eds, Graff and Phelan
Shakespeare: *Hamlet*, ed. Susanne Wofford
Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Woolf, *Between the Acts*
Woolf, *Orlando*

On reserve:
James, “The Figure in the Carpet”
Kafka: “The Hunger Artist”
Scott, *The Gender of Modernism* (See, especially, the following essays: Zora Neale Hurston, “Characteristics of Negro Expression”, Richardson, “Women and the Arts”;
Stein, “How Writing in Written” and “A Translantic Interview 1946”; Woolf, “Modern Fiction.”
Woolf, A Room of One's Own (in the Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. II)

**Class Meetings and Readings:**

8/26: Introduction to the course
8/28: The Tempest
9/2: The Tempest
9/4: Hamlet and student presentation on Hamlet
9/9: Hamlet
9/11: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead
9/16: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead and student presentation on the play
9/18: The Picture of Dorian Gray
9/23: The Picture of Dorian Gray
9/25: Playboy of the Western World
9/30: Playboy (continued) (deadline for 1st short essay)
10/2: Translations
10/7: Translations
10/9: 3 Student presentations
10/14: Midterm Exam
10/16: A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
10/21: Portrait (continued) and student presentation on Joyce
10/23: Portrait (continued)
10/28: “The Aspern Papers” (deadline for 2nd short essay)
10/30: “The Aspern Papers”
11/4: *Orlando*

11/6: *Orlando*

11/11: *Orlando* and student presentation on *Orlando*

11/13: 3 student presentations

11/18: *Between the Acts* (deadline for 3rd short essay)

11/20: *Between the Acts*

Thanksgiving Break

12/2: *Between the Acts* and one student presentation

12/4: *Galatea 2.2*

12/9: *Galatea 2.2* and one student presentation

12/11: *Galatea 2.2*

Final paper is due.

Date of final exam to be announced.