

THE 2000 THEATER APPRECIATION

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TEXT: The Bedford Introduction to Drama; Compact edition, Lee Jacobus, editor.
Recommended (see class discussion).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The development of drama from its beginning to contemporary theater. Included are the analysis and study of major plays exemplary of outstanding periods of theater history. Required of drama and drama education majors. 3 credits.

2. RATIONALE: Drama and theater compose one of the most enduring and vital of the performing arts. More popular entertainments such as television and film have roots in drama and continue to be responsive to that lineage. More importantly, the theater remains one of the most personal, affecting, and revealing human endeavors, and the study of drama cannot be anything but enriching to your lives. It's also fun.

3. COMPETENCIES: By the end of the semester you should be able to

- identify various dramatic genres and structures
- identify certain persons and periods of theater history
- have a workable idea of what constitutes theater production
- appreciate the relevance of drama to our society and our lives
- engage in a continuing course of study in any or all aspects of

4. UNITS: See calendar attached.

5. METHODS: This course combines lectures, readings, viewing of video tapes, and live performances, and student initiated projects to accomplish the objectives stated above.

6. EVALUATION: Grades for the course will be determined by averaging all the graded assignments. The following is a list of graded assignments.

- Three papers on plays that you read, films we watch, or essays that I assign (2 grades each).
- Two reports on plays that you see this semester.
 1. **All written responses will be evaluated using the state rubric that considers achievement in the areas of purpose, organization, development, and language.**
- Eight short quizzes on class lecture and plays that you read (1/2 grade each).

- One mid-term exam
- One final examination
- Attendance (policy explained below)

POLICIES and PROCEDURES: Theater is a collaborative art. It takes the effort of all involved in a project to make it successful. Similarly this course is collaborative, chiefly among you and your peers. This is particularly true when we are discussing a play. Please read the plays in a timely fashion so that you can contribute your ideas to our discussions.

A. Attendance: It is important for you to attend each class meeting, and your attendance will affect your grade for the class. An “attendance” grade will be issued based on the percentage of classes you attend. If you miss more than two classes, I may drop you from the course. **Each time you are tardy counts as ½ an absence.**

B. Cheating/plagiarism: I have rarely suspected students of cheating on any assignment or test. But if you engage in such behavior be assured that I will seek the severest penalty possible.

Plagiarism is also cheating and is just as detestable as copying the answers of another student's test. However I suspect that many students do not understand what plagiarism is. Briefly and simply put, plagiarism is the act of representing someone else's thoughts, words, or actions as your own. For example, a paper written in collaboration with another student in which you express his/her ideas without noting so is plagiarism. Copying from an internet source without proper attribution is plagiarism. Don't do this.

C. Conduct: Continued disruptive conduct will adversely affect your grade. If I have to ask you to leave class I will contact the Dean of Students and seek the harshest punishment that school policies permit.

D. Make-up tests and acceptance of late work: Make-up quizzes and tests will **not** be offered. If you miss a scheduled quiz or test you receive a 0 for that assignment. Late papers will be accepted on the following platform: Late by one class or less; one grade lower; more than one class but less than a week late; two grades lower. **Papers more than one week late will not be accepted. All writing must be presented in hard-copy only; no e-mails will be accepted.**

E. Cell-phones, computers, and pagers are not to disrupt the class. **This includes the use of text messaging or web surfing during class.** Continued disruption from these behaviors will have an adverse effect on your grade, including failure or dismissal from the course.

- a. First offense: warning

b. Second offense: dismissal from that class and referral to Dean of Students

F. Gordon Rule Requirements

- a. This class is part of the Gordon Rule and students are required to achieve appropriate standards in writing assignments to fulfill this obligation. Several writing assignments are included in the course calendar. **It is not possible to pass the class without fulfilling the Gordon Rule requirement.** A rubric describing the categories and standards by which students will meet the Gordon Rule requirements is available if you desire to see it.

CALENDAR

WEEK	READINGS/LECTURES	ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES/TESTS
8/27	Intro to class, Definition of theater	
	Definition of play, Dramatic structure	
9/3	Dramatic structure, Origins of theater Quiz 1 Greek theater	“Life Lessons” paper
9/10	Greek Theater, <u>Oedipus Rex</u> (Sophocles)	
9/17	Financial arrangements Quiz 2	Paper on <u>Oedipus</u>
9/24	Roman Theater, The Middle Ages Quiz 3	
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10/1	The Shakespearean Era, <u>Othello</u> video	
10/8	<u>Othello</u> video continues	
10/15	Review for mid-term	Mid-term exam, Paper on <u>Othello</u>
10/22	17 th Century France, Moliere Scenic design	Quiz 4
11/5	Romanticism, Costume design The coming of Realism, Ibsen <u>House</u> Quiz 5	Read <u>A Doll First performance paper due</u>
11/12	Realism, the Director Stanislavski and Chekhov Quiz 6	Paper on <u>A Doll House</u>
11/19	Lighting design	

Early 20th Century
Quiz 7

11/26 Williams and Miller Read Death of a Salesman (Miller) or The Glass Menagerie (Williams)

12/3 Existentialism and Theater of the Absurd
Video clips **Quiz 8**

12/10 Wrap up class and review for Final exam **2nd**
Performance paper due and Final exam

Student Withdrawal from Class

If you feel that you will be unable to complete the requirements for passing this class, you have the option to withdraw from the class by the College's "drop date". However, there are consequences of which you need to be aware if you drop a class or stop attending and you should always speak to your instructor or an advisor first. For example, you must earn at least two-thirds or 67% of the total credits for which you have registered and that failure to comply with this requirement will adversely impact your financial aid status with MDC. If after considering the possible consequences, you still opt drop the class, keep in mind that it is your responsibility to do so (not the instructor's) and failure to withdrawal will result in you earning a grade of "F" for the course you stop attending. If extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, accident, change in employment situation, etc.) prevent you from continuing to attend your class before the drop date, speak to your instructor first and if needed, to the Chairperson to assess your options.

Important dates:

Auditions for Fall Play: Monday, September 3 and Tuesday, September 4.

Last day to withdraw with grade of "W": November 5

Holidays: September 12, November 5, November 22 and 23.