

ENG 105: Introduction to Drama

Course Information

Term: Winter 2015
MWF 9:00-9:50, McKenzie 214
CRN: 22042

Instructor Information

Francesca Gentile
Office: PLC 241
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

Course Description

Welcome to ENG 105: Introduction to Drama. Over the course of the term, we will work together to develop our understanding of drama as a literary form distinct from, albeit related to, prose fiction or poetry. Given that drama as a literary form depends upon the transition from text to performance, we will critically examine the interpretive possibilities that might inform this transition in each of the plays we encounter. We will consider how general textual elements such as plot and character intersect with more performative elements such as dialogue and staging. For a number of the assigned plays, we will view specific stage renderings or film adaptations and examine how the production choices reveal particular understandings of these intersections, understandings which might differ from our own in significant ways.

While we begin the term in ancient Greece in 431 B.C.E and end in New York City today, the plays we will be reading all focus on issues of family and familial relationships. This common topical thread will allow us to ask how drama reflects societal and cultural values specific to historical periods and geographical locations (and to the audiences found in each) by considering how drama's engagement with the family as productive subject matter shifts or adapts with each play.

Credits earned from this course go toward the Arts and Letters category General Education requirement, but they do not count toward the English major.

Learning Objectives

ENG 105 challenges students to practice the tools of literary analysis in the study of drama while attending to both form and socio-historical context. To that end, students will become familiar with drama's core elements and the related terminology and with specific dramatic movements, theories, and critical lenses. Through close reading and careful analysis, students will develop interpretations of the course's core texts and will develop arguments that support these interpretations by drawing on specific pieces of textual evidence. ENG 105 is a writing-intensive course, and students will become familiar with the formal conventions of conducting literary analysis within the context of short academic essays. The course, however, is primarily discussion-based, and students will be asked to explore multiple strategies for both leading and participating in discussions of dramatic works within the classroom as well.

Required Texts

Medea, Euripides
Titus Andronicus, William Shakespeare
A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen
The Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Edward Albee
August: Osage County, Tracy Letts
4000 Miles, Amy Herzog

Grading and Assignments

The coursework for ENG 105 consists of weekly quizzes, one short three-page essay, an in-class midterm exam, two discussion-leading assignments, and one final five-page paper. When an assignment is due, it is due by the beginning of class. Any assignment turned in after will be docked one letter grade for each day that it is late. I will accept late assignments for up to one week after the initial due date, but I will assign an automatic zero for work that is more than one week late.

Complete Grading Breakdown:

Quizzes	15%
Discussion Leading	10%
Short Paper	20%
Midterm	25%
Final Paper	30%

Policies and Procedures

Attendance: Given that active participation in discussion is integral to every student's success in this course, attendance is required. You may miss the equivalent of one week of class (three class meetings) without it affecting your grade directly, but each additional absence will drop your overall grade by ½ of a letter. You should, however, keep in mind that the specific dates of the weekly quizzes will not be announced ahead of time, and quizzes cannot be made up. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped from final grade calculations, but quizzes missed will nonetheless be counted as a zero.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course, which means you may not submit papers or portions of papers you have written for any other course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please refer to the *Student Conduct Code* on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website and see me if you have any questions about this policy.

Access: The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or

Schedule of Assignments

	Date	Reading Due	Assignment Due
Week 1	M 1/5		
	W 1/7	<i>Medea</i> , Act I	
	F 1/9	<i>Medea</i> , Act II	
Week 2	M 1/12	<i>Medea</i> , Act III	
	W 1/14		
	F 1/16	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> , Act I	
Week 3	M 1/19	No Class (MLK Day)	
	W 1/21	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> , Acts II, III, and IV	
	F 1/23	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> , Act V	
Week 4	M 1/26		Short Essay
	W 1/28	<i>A Doll's House</i> , Act 1	
	F 1/30	<i>A Doll's House</i> , Act 2	
Week 5	M 2/2	<i>A Doll's House</i> , Act 3	
	W 2/4		
	F 2/6		In-Class Midterm Exam
Week 6	M 2/9	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> , Scenes 1 and 2	
	W 2/11	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> , Scenes 2, 3, and 4	
	F 2/13	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> , Scenes 4, 5, 6 and 7	Discussion Leading # 1
Week 7	M 2/16	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i> , Act 1	
	W 2/18	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i> , Act 2	
	F 2/20	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i> , Act 2	
Week 8	M 2/23	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i> , Act 3	
	W 2/25	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i> , Act 3	
	F 2/27		
Week 9	M 3/2	<i>August: Osage County</i> , Act 1	
	W 3/4	<i>August: Osage County</i> , Act 2	
	F 3/6		
Week 10	M 3/9	<i>4000 Miles</i>	
	W 3/11	<i>4000 Miles</i>	
	F 3/13	<i>4000 Miles</i>	Discussion Leading #2
Finals Week			Final Paper Due