English 105: Introduction to Drama, CRN 22289, MWF 10-10:50, Winter 2011, 248 GER
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Office Hours: M, W & F 8:45-9:45

ENG 105 is an introduction to drama, one of the major genres in literary studies. Students will read, discuss, and analyze plays from a variety of periods and national traditions in order to become familiar with the major styles, techniques, and conventions that characterize dramatic literature. Although this is a course on drama as literature, with an emphasis on the interpretation and analysis of dramatic texts, students will explore the performative dimensions of drama as well. The course will provide a broad introduction to theoretical and historical debates that stand at the center literary studies today, and students will have the chance to enter into these debates through critical writing assignments totaling at least 8-10 pages. Readings typically average one play per week, in addition to which students may be expected to attend out-of-class dramatic performances. As a basic introduction to texts, issues, and questions that are central to the study of dramatic literature, this course satisfies the university’s Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. It is not recommended for English Majors, who are encouraged to enroll in the department’s more historically oriented and comprehensive Introduction to the English Major sequence, ENG 220-222.

Required Materials (available at the UO bookstore; please use the specific editions ordered for this course):
Aristophanes, Lysistrata
Shakespeare, The Winter’s Tale
Gay, The Beggar’s Opera
Ibsen, A Doll’s House
Wilde, An Ideal Husband
Synge, The Playboy of the Western World and Riders to the Sea
Miller, A View From The Bridge
Mamet, Oleanna

Class Participation and Reading Quizzes (10%): You are expected to actively participate in class conversations, engage in group work, perform in-class written work on readings and discussions, and share your ideas with the class. You are responsible for completing readings and assignments before you enter the classroom. It is nearly impossible to discuss assigned texts if you have not read them and if you do not bring them to class. If you do not actively participate in class (I will be grading on the quality, not the quantity, of your comments), you cannot get higher than a “C” on this portion of your grade. Read slowly and carefully; avoid passive or superficial readings; annotate as you read; highlight key passages or compelling moments; note what you find important or interesting or confusing as you read and we will discuss such things in class. Moreover, expect reading comprehension quizzes that may cover assigned plays and supplementary literary terms. Quizzes may be given at the beginning, middle, or end of class and cannot be made up for any reason, so always come on time, prepared to stay the full length of the class, and with readings fresh in mind.
Critical Essay #1 (15%): This thesis-driven papers will reflect your independent thinking, analytical interpretive skills, and close reading abilities; no research is required. The essay will be two to three pages in length and will be a close reading / detailed analytical argument of a brief passage from either Lysistrata or The Winter's Tale. Late papers will lose one entire letter grade per day late, including weekends and holidays.

Theater Review (15%): This essay will reflect your analytical response to a live theatrical performance of your choice. You can choose any play, it need not correspond to the plays we are reading. Go see the play and then write a two to three page analysis of how it was performed. You might consider such things as costumes, props, sound, lighting, staging, casting, acting style, set design, program design, poster design, and so on. Don't just summarize your experience; analyze how the production's choices impacted the viewing experience. This may be a review, but it is an analytical one.

Critical Essay #2 or Performance Project (30%): For your second critical essay, you may either write a four to six page thesis-driven argumentative paper on one of the plays we read during the quarter or you may work independently or with a group to come up with a creative project. Creative projects will be accompanied by a two to three page justification essay explaining the project's intentions, but the focus of the creative project will be the project itself, which may be the performance of a scene, the drafting of a set design, the recording of a soundtrack, and so on. Creative projects will be shared with the entire class during week ten. If you would like to do a performance project, please see me by the end of week 8 for approval of your idea.

Formatting: All assignments must be typed and formatted according to MLA guidelines: use double spaced Times New Roman font (12pt.); employ standard one-inch margins on all sides; indicate, single-spaced, at the top left-hand corner of the first page your name, the course name, and the due date on three separate lines; centrally place an interesting title two lines below this information and two lines above the body of the text; do not increase the title's font size, place it in bold, or put it in caps; do not use extra spaces between paragraphs; type your last name, a dash, and the page number into a header at the top right-hand corner of every subsequent page; staple your work; follow standard citation practices. Keep in mind that "C" is average and "A" signifies superior work.

Final Exam (30%): The exam will consist of short answers, identification, true / false, and multiple choice. Questions come from reading assignments, class discussions, quizzes, and lectures. The final will be comprehensive. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of documented emergencies.

Attendance and Classroom Policies: You are allowed three unexcused absences; your final grade will be lowered one full grade for every subsequent absence (ex: B to C for a third absence). I expect you to arrive prepared and on time. Arriving late; leaving early; and engaging in discourteous behavior such as sleeping, conducting personal conversations during class, leaving cell phones turned on, or disrespecting other people's points of view will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in your being counted absent that day.
Plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotes, paraphrases) must be properly documented. In cases where plagiarism has been clearly established, the award on and F for the final course grade is the standard practice. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

Access for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) which you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make arrangements, if necessary, for your full access to all classroom activities.

Incompletes: No incompletes will be granted except in cases of documented emergencies. If you are forced to take an incomplete, then, effective Winter term 2005, undergraduate students have one calendar year to make up an incomplete mark assigned by UO faculty. Failure to make up the incomplete at the end of one calendar year will result in the mark of an “I” automatically changing to a grade of “F” or “N.”

Please note that you must complete all major assignments (papers and exams) in order to pass the course.

*Your continued enrollment in this class indicates you have read this syllabus and understand and accept its stated expectations and requirements. If you feel unable to fulfill any aspect of this course, please see me during the first week of class.*

Schedule: Assignments are due on the day that they are listed and must be complete by the start of class. Readings and due dates are subject to change. Please note that some of the plays we will read contain graphic content that might be disturbing for some students. If you feel unable to fulfill the assignments for this course, you may want to consider if another class would be a better fit for you.

Week 1:
M 1/3 Introduction to the syllabus, each other, and drama
W 1/5 Read pages v-14 of *Lysistrata*
F 1/7 Read pages 14-31 of *Lysistrata*

Week 2:
M 1/10 Read pages 31-54 of *Lysistrata*
W 1/12 Read the notes and Act I of *The Winter’s Tale*
F 1/14 Read Act II of *The Winter’s Tale*

Week 3:
M 1/17 NO CLASS MLK DAY
W 1/19 Read Acts III and IV of *The Winter’s Tale*
F 1/21 Read Act V of *The Winter’s Tale*

Week 4:
M 1/24 Read the notes and Act I of *The Beggar’s Opera*
W 1/26 Read Act II of *The Beggar’s Opera*
F 1/28 Read Act III of *The Beggar’s Opera*; critical essay #1 due in class
Week 5:
M 1/31 Read the notes and Act I of A Doll’s House
W 2/2 Read Act II of A Doll’s House
F 2/4 Read Act III of A Doll’s House

Week 6:
M 2/7 Read the notes and Act I of An Ideal Husband
W 2/9 Read Act II of An Ideal Husband
F 2/11 Read Act III and IV of An Ideal Husband

Week 7:
M 2/14 Read the note, preface, and Act I of The Playboy of the Western World
W 2/16 Read Act II of The Playboy of the Western World
F 2/18 Read Act III of The Playboy of the Western World; theater review essay due in class

Week 8:
M 2/21 Read Act I of A View From The Bridge
W 2/23 Read Act II of A View From The Bridge
F 2/25 Wrap up discussion and reading for A View From a Bridge; performance project approval deadline

Week 9:
M 2/28 Read Act I of Oleanna
W 3/2 Read Act II of Oleanna
F 3/4 Read Act III of Oleanna

Week 10:
M 3/7 Final performances; critical essay #2 due
W 3/9 Final performances; critical essay #2 due
F 3/11 Final Exam Review

Finals Week:
TH 3/17 @ 10:15 Final Exam