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THTR 530.1: Grad Seminar Dramatic Literature

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THTR 530 GRAD SEMINAR IN DRAMATIC LITERATURE SPRING 2016

TUES & THURS 11.10 – 12.30 plus one seminar hour every fortnight – time tbd.

Dr. Bernadette Sweeney

Office: MCGILL 212C email: bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu

Office Hours: w 1-2, F 11-12 & 1-2

Course Description:

This course is designed to familiarize the student with various aspects of both historical and contemporary dramatic literature. Grad students will investigate this topic through literary criticism and script analysis of listed plays. Due to the nature of the material, attention will also be given to theatre as a practical art form inspired by the written text. Selected scenes will be considered through performance on film or through class demonstration. This course, faithfully undertaken, will provide students with a strong foundational knowledge of story, structure, dramatic action, character development, symbolic layering and theme that will enhance their skills and experiences as perceptive and participatory readers, writers, audience members, and potential practitioners of theatre.

Grad student assessment:

The student will lead and participate in class discussion, give 4 class presentations over the course of the semester and write 1 substantial research paper for formal assessment related to but not necessarily focused on course materials.

Course Outcome for GRADUATE DRAMATIC LITERATURE:

On completion of this course students will:

Have a broad knowledge of dramatic literature, style, context, plot, structure, and character.

Have a knowledge of chosen play texts through close reading

Have a critically informed understanding of chosen play texts through reading and analysis of critical material

Have an understanding of how each play performs its language, characters, place, plot, politics, context and the conditions of contemporaneous production

Have engaged with this work through script analysis, scene study, research and critique

Have articulated their engagement with the work through formal research and writing of structured dramatic literature criticism and analysis

Have developed the skills necessary to engage in independent criticism and analysis of dramatic literature as a practitioner, reader or audience member

Have researched and written a substantial paper to an appropriate graduate level of writing.

Have experience in leading an undergraduate class in this work

Required Texts:

Introduction to Play Analysis by Cal Pritner & Scott Walters

Play texts, listed below

Materials on Reserve, Moodle or Hand Outs

Work:

RESEARCH PAPER 5,000 words, 90% [deadline to be determined in consultation with instructor]

Attendance, Participation and professional level management of research assignment 10%

Research paper must be printed with course details etc on the first page, all pages numbered, and include a bibliography or works cited. This must include an appropriate range of internet and printed sources, which are beyond those offered by the class [articles on moodle etc.]. Plagiarism will be taken very seriously, and may result in course failure.

Ground Rules:

I do not accept late papers unless the student contacts me with a reasonable excuse *before* the beginning of the class on the day the paper is due.

Attendance is required - each unexcused absence will result in your grade falling by a third of a letter grade. Continued absence will result in course failure. It is your responsibility to keep up with your attendance. If you are encountering any health or related issues that affect your attendance, please contact me Bernadette Sweeney about this as soon as possible. Please feel free to ask and answer questions inside and outside class.

Syllabus:

Course Schedule:	
Date	Topic/Assignments:
Weeks 1 & 2 Jan 26 & 28 Feb 2 & 4	<i>ALL MY SONS</i> by Arthur Miller [see performance Jan 28-30] UG Essay 1 Assigned week 2
Weeks 3 & 4 Feb 9 & 11 Feb 16 & 18	<i>THE GLASS MENAGERIE</i> by Arthur Miller UG Essay 1 Due Thursday Feb 18 th by start of class [hard copy only]
Weeks 5 & 6 Feb 23 & 25 Mar 1 & 3	<i>THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST</i> by Oscar Wilde UG Essay 2 Assigned week 5
Weeks 7 & 8 Mar 8 & 10 Mar 15 & 17	<i>MACHINAL</i> by Sophie Treadwell UG Essay 2 Due Thursday March 17 th
Weeks 9 & 10 Mar 22 & 24 Mar 29 & 31	<i>TOPDOG/UNDERDOG</i> by Suzan-Lori Parks UG Essay 3 Assigned
Week 11 April	Spring Break
Week 12 Apr 12 & 14	Final Essay drafting meetings
Weeks 13 & 14 Apr 19 & 21 Apr 26 & 28	<i>ROMEO AND JULIET</i> by William Shakespeare [see performance April 27 – May 1]
Week 15 May 3 & 5	Course review. UG Final essay due Thursday May 5 th

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary

sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Please refer to the current schedule for relevant dates with regard to adding, dropping, and withdrawing. Please make contact with a colleague or two to find out what has been assigned if you miss class.