

DRAMATIC LITERATURE

THTR 235L.01 Fall 2019

Instructor: Shane Lutz	Class Dates & Location: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30AM - 10:50AM LA Bldg 103A
Contact Information: shane.lutz@umontana.edu	Office Hours: 11:00pm - 1:00pm on Tuesdays in Recess Coffee in the Education Bldg

Course Overview:

Dramatic Literature is designed to familiarize the student with various aspects of both historical and contemporary dramatic literature and serve as the anchorage for writing within the major. Students will investigate various dramatic, social, political, and historical topics through literary criticism and script analysis. Due to the nature of the material, attention will also be given to theatre as a practical art form inspired by the written text (dramatic vs. theatrical). This course will provide students with a strong foundational knowledge of story, form, context, structure, dramatic action, character development, genre, and theme that will enhance their skills and experiences as perceptive and participatory readers, writers, audience members, and especially as practitioners of theatre.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Develop a foundational knowledge of dramatic literature, style, context, form, plot, and character
- Develop a knowledge of chosen play texts through close and analytical reading
- Develop a critically informed understanding of chosen play texts through reading and analysis of critical material
- Develop an understanding of how each play performs its language, characters, place, plot, politics, context and the conditions and challenges of contemporaneous production
- Engage with this work through script analysis, scene study, research, and critique
- Articulate engagement with the work through formal research and writing of structured criticism and analysis
- Develop the skills necessary to engage in independent criticism and analysis of dramatic literature as a practitioner, reader, or audience member

Required Materials:

ALL PLAYS AND MATERIAL WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH MOODLE.

If you prefer a non-digital copy, the plays can be found through the Library.

All students are expected to attend **ALL** productions in the School of Theatre & Dance this semester.

Tickets to the UM Productions are available at the UMArts Box Office in the Lobby of PARTV
(Open 12:30pm - 5:00pm M-F)

Moodle and Electronic Communication

All course readings and plays will be placed on Moodle this semester. You are expected to check the Moodle page **each week** in order to participate fully in the class. All written work must be formatted in Chicago Style and submitted **on Moodle before 11:55pm** on the date the assignment is due.

Late Work & Extensions

In order to promote fairness within the classroom, all students will be held to the same standard of scheduling and due dates. However, I understand that oftentimes life gets in the way through a variety of unavoidable inconveniences. Therefore I am happy and willing to work with any and all students to assure success in this class and will consider offering extensions on an individual basis only. **ALL EXTENSIONS MUST BE REQUESTED AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENT IS DUE.** Poor planning and procrastination do not constitute an extension. Late work without an extension will **NOT** be accepted for full credit; partial credit for individual assignments will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance and Promptness:

This course is participatory in nature. As a discussion based class, any absence severely affects the learning potential for each student and the School of Theatre & Dance's attendance policies will be strictly enforced. Only documented absences will be excused. For unexcused absences, every student has **TWO** for which their final grade (not attendance grade) will not be lowered. For every additional unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered a third of a letter grade.

Furthermore, besides adversely affecting your own learning, arriving late to class disrupts the learning process of your fellow students. Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will be considered a complete absence, and every two instances of tardiness—of whatever duration—will equate to one unexcused absence and impact the student's overall grade. Students who are tardy will not be given the opportunity to make up assignments and quizzes given at the beginning of class.

Students should keep their phones on silent or vibrate and all devices should be stowed away in backpacks during class. Cell phones **should not** be present on the desk, student's lap, or tucked underneath a book during class. Any students who use their phones during class will be asked to stow it in their bags and both their Attendance and Participation grade will be impacted.

Lastly, this is a discussion based class and therefore the ability to immediately connect to your fellow peers is paramount. That being said, there is no need for you to bring your laptop to class. If any computers are used during class at any time other than the instructor's approval, the student will be asked to stow their computer in their bag and their Attendance and Participation grade will be impacted.

WELLNESS STATEMENT

The School of Theatre & Dance recognizes that theatre and performance content and processes can provoke; therefore, during the course of a class or rehearsal, students can choose to remove themselves from activities should they feel a threat to their well-being. Please communicate with your instructor as soon as you can, prior to or after leaving.

Personal considerations such as health, wellness and/or other issues can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the health portal: www.umt.edu/hportal. For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact: the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text line: text MT to 741-741. For University of Montana financial aid: phone: (406) 243-5373 or email faid@mso.umt.edu

Please stay in communication with your faculty advisor and know that we are here to help. You can call in anytime to our office hours (posted on office doors) or email us to set up an appointment.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic integrity. 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 <https://www.umt.edu/safety/policies/default.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 courses 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 or visit <https://www.umt.edu/dss/>. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

FALL 2019	
Date	Description
Sat-Sat, August 17-24	New Student Orientation
Mon, August 26	Autumn Semester Classes Begin
Mon, September 2	Labor Day – No Classes, Offices Closed
Mon, November 11	Veterans Day Observed – No Classes, Offices Closed
Wed, November 27	Student Travel Day – No Classes
Thurs-Fri, Nov28-29	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes, Offices Closed
Fri, December 6	Last Day of Regular Classes
Mon-Fri, December 9-13	Final Exams
Sat, December 14	Fall Commencement

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.

GRADING SCALE & BREAKDOWN

Evaluation will be based on participation in class activities and discussion; three papers, weekly written responses, and a dramatic literature journal - all for formal assessment.

Grading Scale:	
A	100 – 90% [A-: 90-93]
B	89 – 80% [B+: 87-89, B-: 80-83]
C	79 – 70% [C+: 77-79, C-: 70-73]
D	69 – 60%
F	59 and Below
Assignments:	Percentage:
Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Presentations	10%
Paper #1	10%
Paper #2	20%
Paper #3	40%

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Every student will be expected to attend class each week. As this is a discussion class, you will be expected to come to class having read the assigned dramatic text and any additional supplementary material in order to engage in thoughtful, critical, and insightful discussion, debate, and analysis with your fellow classmates. Any student that does not meet this requirement will be considered unprepared for class and therefore absent. Reminder: coming to class having **just** read the play is not considered adequately prepared. Students are expected to come to class with original ideas and a willingness to engage. In the event of an absence or tardiness, the student is responsible for making up weekly quizzes and making sure their reading journal is checked. Any absences for Socratic Seminars that do not have documentation will drop the student's grade by a third of a letter grade.

PRESENTATIONS:

Each student will research and develop a brief presentation on the context of each play that we read. These presentations should include **historical, social, economic, religious, geographical, and cultural** details that make up the world of the play and therefore inform the play itself. Additionally, students should briefly discuss staging challenges of the play and its performance history. These presentations should frame our understanding of the world of the play, but they should not do the analysis for us. As the presentations should only inform our class discussion, they should range between 5 and 10 minutes. Any presentation under five minutes is insufficient in information.

WEEKLY QUIZZES:

At the start of class each Tuesday after we read a new play, students will complete a brief quiz regarding that play. These quizzes are open-ended written responses which encourage the development of writing and engagement with unique, analytical, and creative ideas. This is your opportunity to synthesize your own ideas and talk about the why rather than simply the what. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

PAPERS:

Dramatic Literature (THTR 235) is the entry level writing course to the Theatre Major. Even for those of you who do not pursue a BA or BFA in the Department of Theatre & Dance, this course will help you synthesize ideas in new ways and think critically about vast and complex topics. You will write **three** papers throughout this semester. Each one will grow in length, grade value, and rigor as the semester continues. We will discuss in class the expectations for each paper and we will take class time to workshop questions, concerns, or ideas that you or your classmates might have. Additionally, students are encouraged to attend my office hours and bring early drafts, outlines, or rough sketches of their papers for feedback. All papers will be written as **research papers** and therefore require the student to find sources, engage with outside material, and generate original thoughts based on your findings and research. All papers should be turned in no later than 11:55pm on the day the paper is due. All papers will be written in Chicago Style.

Course Schedule:	
Date	Topic/Assignments:
Week 1 August 27 & 29	INTRO + TRIFLES by Susan Glaspell How to Read a Play
Week 2 September 3 & 5	SWEAT by Lynn Nottage
Week 3 September 10 & 12	SWEAT by Lynn Nottage
Week 4 September 17 & 19	THE WOLVES by Sarah DeLappe
Week 5 September 24 & 26	THE WOLVES by Sarah DeLappe THURSDAY: PAPER #1 DUE by September 26, at 11:55pm ***** See production in the Masquer Theatre <u>THE WOLVES</u> by Sarah DeLappe SEPTEMBER 25 - 29 Opens WEDNESDAY NIGHT 7:30PM
Week 6 October 1 & 3	MR. BURNS by Anne Washburn

Week 7 October 8 & 10	MR. BURNS by Anne Washburn ***** See production in the Montana Theatre <u>MR. BURNS, a post-electric play</u> by Anne Washburn OCTOBER 9 - 20 Opens WEDNESDAY NIGHT 7:30PM
Week 8 October 15 & 17	MACHINAL by Sophie Treadwell
Week 9 October 22 & 24	MACHINAL by Sophie Treadwell THURSDAY: PAPER #2 DUE by October 24, at 11:55PM
Week 10 October 29 & 31	MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN by Bertolt Brecht
Week 11 November 5 & 7	MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN by Bertolt Brecht
Week 12 November 12 & 14	ANGELS IN AMERICA by Tony Kushner ***** See production in the Masquer Theatre <u>TWELFTH NIGHT</u> by William Shakespeare NOVEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 1 Opens WEDNESDAY NIGHT 7:30PM
Week 13 November 19 & 21	ANGELS IN AMERICA by Tony Kushner
Week 14 November 26 & 28	TUESDAY: TWELFTH Night by William Shakespeare THURSDAY: <i>THANKSGIVING BREAK - No Class!!</i>

<p>Week 15 December 3 & 5</p>	<p>TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare</p> <p>THURSDAY:</p> <p>PAPER #3 DUE by DECEMBER 8, at 11:55PM</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Optional production in the Montana Theatre <u>DANCE IN CONCERT</u> DECEMBER 5 - 7 Opens THURSDAY NIGHT 7:30PM</p>
<p>Week 16: Exams December 9 - 13</p>	<p>Dramatic Literature Final</p>