Texas State University, San Marcos

TH 3367: Dramatic Theory and Analysis

Fall 2010

3:30- 4:50 T/TH pm

**Instructor:**

Dr. Jenny Kokai **Office:** Theatre Center 121B

**Office hours**: T/TH 10-11 AM, and by appointment

**Email:** jk50@txstate.edu

**Required texts:**

\*Backwards and Forwards by David Ball. (Southern Illinois Press, 1983)

\*Theatre/Theory/Theatre by Daniel Gerould (New York: Applause, 2000)

\*The Bedford Introduction to Drama, 6th Edition by Lee A. Jacobus (New York: Bedford, 2009).

**Required event attendance:** Students will be required to see the departmental productions Electra and All Shook Up. Students are responsible for procuring their own tickets. Students will need to pay close attention to these productions, as the success of their papers and exams depends upon it.

**Class website:** This class has a TRACS page. You will find there the syllabus, class schedule, assignments, instructor contact information. We also have a librarian embedded in our Tracs page, who has uploaded resources for you and is a contact if you have research questions throughout the semester.

**Departmental course objectives:** This course is designed to develop understanding of dramatic theory and play analysis. Through assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions, the student will acquire familiarity with the historical evolution of dramatic theory and dramatic genres, and gain understanding of the structural components of dramatic literature.

**Course requirements:**

Participation: 10%

Homework/Quizzes: 10%

Paper: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Presentation: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Total: 100%

**Assignments:**

Presentation: The presentations will be spaced out over the semester. In groups of five, students will choose a scene from the Glass Menagerie and adapt it with the theorist given. Presentations should come with a program that identifies all members of the group, tells us what scene and what theorist is under analysis, gives us a brief bio of the theorist (from a peer reviewed source, with citations), and answers the following questions for the theorist: What is the purpose of drama? How should the audience react? What are three techniques that best create the kind of drama the theorist considers best? Outside sources are required and can be found with the help of our class librarian, Lorin Fisher, who is embedded in our Tracs page and has added resources there for you. Scenes should be rehearsed and memorized and no longer than 15-20 minutes including set up and tear down.

Paper: After seeing the departmental production of Electra, students will analyze the “success” of the play in terms of one of the theorists we have studied to this point. Student will need to develop a thesis sentence identifying whether the theorist would consider the production a “success” or a “failure.” Papers should be 4-6 pages in length, one inch margins, and 12 point standard font. Header should be single spaced, but main body of text double spaced. Page layout should be adjusted on Microsoft Word so that there is not extra space after each paragraph. Please see me if you are concerned about formatting. You will have the option of turning in a draft for extensive feedback before the paper is due.

Mid-Term and Final: The midterm and final exams will consist of short answer and essay questions.

**Late Policy:** The grade on papers and homework will drop 1 letter grade for each day they are late, without a documented university approved excuse. If submitting a paper late, it needs to be date/time stamped and placed in my box in the main office, not slid under my door or submitted by email. Computer issues do **not** count as a valid excuse.

The grading system is based on the University's A-F scale:

A= 90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=0-59

\*It is Theatre and Dance departmental policy not to discuss grades over email. There are **NO** exceptions to this rule. Students must see the instructor in person to discuss a grade.

**Attendance policy:** "Texas State expects students to attend every scheduled class meeting" (from the Undergraduate Catalog, page 46). Each student will be permitted two unexcused absences. After the second unexcused absence, each additional absence will lower the course grade by 5 full points. Three late arrivals will count as an absence. If you need to miss a test for an excused absence, please arrange with the instructor to take the exam in ADVANCE. If you are absent on a scheduled test day or due date, for emergency reasons, and therefore do not complete these assignments when due, you must present documented evidence of this absence. Documentation for absences will be accepted up to one week after the missed class day. **Unexcused absences on test days will result in a zero/no credit grade for that test or assignment.** Excused absences include: documented illness, documented death in immediate family, required military service, documented university travel, Religious holiday.

**Students with special needs:** Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term. [www.ods.txstate.edu](http://www.ods.txstate.edu)

**Key:**

T/T/T= Theatre/Theory/Theatre

Bedford= Bedford Introduction to Drama

B&F=Backwards and Forwards

**Course schedule:**

**Aug 26:** Introduction/Manifestos

**Aug 31:** Williams Glass Menagerie *Bedford- 1028-1064*

**Sept 2:** Library Day- **Meet at Alkek 101 for instructional session.**

**Sept 7:** B&F 7-35

**Sept 9:** B&F 37-76

**Sept 14:** Aristotle The Poetics *T/T/T- 43-67*

**Sept 16:** Horace “The Art of Poetry” *T/T/T- 68-83*

**Sept 21:** Castelvetro The Poetics of Aristotle *T/T/T- 108-116*

**Sept 23:** Corneille Of the Three Unities *T/T/T- 153-167*

Presentation 1:  **Bharata**

365/365

**Sept 28:** Schiller“The Stage as Moral Institution” *T/T/T- 250-254*

**Sept 30:** Nietzsche “The Birth of Tragedy” *T/T/T- 337-350*

Presentation 2: **Zeami**

**Oct 5:** Zola “Naturalism in the Theatre” *T/T/T- 358-367*

**Oct 7:** Maeterlinck“The Tragical in the Daily Life” *T/T/T- 381-389*

**Oct 12: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Oct 14:** Video

**Oct 19:** Strindberg Miss Julie *Bedford 697-715*

**Oct 21:** Strindberg “Preface to Miss Julie” *T/T/T- 368-380*

Presentation 3: ­­­**Lope de Vega**

**Oct 26:** Craig “The Actor and The Ubermarionette” *T/T/T- 390-398*

**Oct 28:** Marinetti “The Variety Theatre” *T/T/T- 419-426*

**Nov 2:** BrechtMother Courage *Bedford 987-1020*

**Optional Rough Draft of Paper Due**

**Nov 4:** Brecht“Modern Theatre is the Epic Theatre” *T/T/T- 446-453*

Presentation 4: **Meyerhold**

**Nov 9**: Artaud “The Theatre and Its Double” *T/T/T- 433-443*

**Nov 11:** Revisit B&F- bring book to class

Presentation 5: **Boal**

**Nov 16:**  Revisit B&F- bring book to class

**Nov 18:** **Class will not meet- paper due in my box time/date stamped by 5 PM**

**Nov 23:** Discussion and Analysis of “All Shook Up”

**Nov 25: NO CLASS- HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

**Nov 30:** Parks365 Days/365 Plays Excerpts *Bedford1760-1768*

Presentation 6: **Soyinka**

**Dec 2:** Manifesto Defense/Class Wrap-Up

**THURS DEC 9th: FINAL EXAM 5-7:30**

* Complete *readings* **before** class meets that day.
* Due dates for test and critiques are final. However, the instructor reserves the right to alter the order of topics on the course schedule as needed.

**Academic honesty:** Students who violate the University Honor Code, which includes but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials, are subject to disciplinary action. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty in this course will receive a grade of zero/no credit for the assignment in question and will be reported to the University administration.

You can find the University's academic honesty policies here:

* http://www.dos.txstate.edu/TxState-Handbook/Rules-and-Policies/Honor-Code.html

(Texas State Handbook)

* http://www.txstate.edu/academicaffairs/CATALOG/UGCAT08-10/AcademicPolicies.pdf

(Undergraduate Catalog 2008-2010, page 42)

**Classroom environment:** "Students are full partners in fostering a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of behavior that detracts from the leaning experience of fellow students. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result in a request for the offending student to leave class” (from Student Justice brochure “Maintaining Civility in the Classroom”). Examples of disruptive behavior include: talking, chronic tardiness, leaving class early, activated cell phones, playing games or instant messaging on electronic devices, reading newspapers, sleeping, etc.