

ELIT 12 – Introduction to Dramatic Literature – *TENTATIVE SYLLABUS FALL 2017*

Time: Tues/Thur 1:30-3:20 **Room:** MQ-3

Instructor: Maria Frangos

Email: frangosmarie@fhda.edu (or maria.e.frangos@gmail.com in emergencies)

Office hours: Tues 12:30 -1:30, Student Center/Food Court

Course Description:

In this class you'll receive a solid introduction to theatre by learning about many of the significant movements in drama, including ritual drama, realism, naturalism, magical realism, and more, from diverse cultures and communities around the globe. We will learn to recognize and analyze the traditional qualities of drama, such as plot, character, setting, themes, and genres, and we will explore drama from different critical perspectives. Finally, we will discuss how theatre comes alive as directors, designers, actors, and other theatre professionals lift the work of the playwright off the page and onto the stage. We will also consider the modes of reading and interpretation used by actors, who of necessity are trained to be very careful and attentive close readers.

We will explore these plays using many different methods: reading and performing aloud in class, working in small groups, learning the historical and social contexts for the plays, watching performances/productions, comparing different performances and different interpretations, and more.

Required books (in the order that we will read them):

Some of these plays and other short materials will be available in PDF format on Course Studio. The rest of the plays are available for purchase (used) at the DeAnza bookstore, or you may want to order used copies online. *Please speak to me individually, or email me, if you are experiencing financial or any other difficulty and are not able to access a copy of the text to read for the day it is due, and I will figure something out.*

Sophocles, *Antigone* (Focus Classical Library, trans. Ruby Blondell)

Hansbury, Lorraine, *A Raisin In the Sun* (Vintage; Ed. Robert Nemiroff)

Kushner, Tony, *Angels in America (Part I): Millennium Approaches*

Rivera, José, *References To Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* (PDF to download)

Nottage, Lynn, *Sweat* (Theatre Communications Group edition)

Akhtar, Ayad, *Disgraced*

Course Objectives:

Throughout the quarter, we will learn to:

- Examine the nature and variety of dramatic texts and styles through reading and discussing a diverse array of drama.
- Experience culturally diverse voices and perspectives by engaging in drama from a range of ethnic, gender, cultural, national, and global perspectives.
- Explore plays through reading, analysis, and performance. Explore the performance of drama through various means.
- Identify and qualitatively analyze the generic aspects of drama.
- Analyze drama from multiple critical perspectives.
- Explore the contribution of drama to human culture and consciousness.

- Explore the dramatic text as a blueprint for performance.

Course Guidelines & Requirements:

Attendance is an important part of your grade in this course. Missing more than 3 class meetings will put you in danger of failing. Please let me know if you will be absent or if you are going through a difficult situation, so we can arrange for you to complete the assignments and classwork that you have missed. The reading list for each day must be completed by that day.

Extra credit: theatre performance & write-up: During this quarter, you will have the opportunity to attend ONE live theatre performance and write a response. There will be a performance of San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's *Romeo and Juliet* at the Cupertino Library on December 9 at the Cupertino Library Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave, Cupertino 95014. The show is at 4:00 pm, with a post-show Q&A with the cast at 5:00 pm. I will also try to create other opportunities for whoever is interested in the class to attend other performances here in the Bay Area. Please also ask me for information on how to access plays for free or plays that are "pay what you can" in the Bay Area.

Response Questions: On certain days marked in the syllabus, you have a one-paragraph response/question due, which can address any aspect of the play(s) we have read that week. Your response questions will be given a maximum of 10 points each, based on how they demonstrate that you have carefully read the text for the week and thought about it seriously.

All written work for the class should be typed, double-spaced, in a standard font, and be carefully proofread for errors such as spelling mistakes, missing words, and other typos. Your written work should be in MLA format (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>).

Midterm and Final Exam:

Your **midterm** will consist of identifications, a short-answer section, and an essay question (you'll have a choice of two questions). It will be worth 100 points, graded as follows:

25% - Identifications

25% - Short answer section

50% - Essay question section

Your **final exam** will consist of two parts:

50% - Take-home essay question (again, choice of 2) and write-up of scene performance

50% - Scene from any of the plays we have read, worked on with classmates, memorized and practiced, performed for the class on finals day (I promise, this will be fun! And we'll have snacks!)

Grades:

Your grade in the course will be cumulative, based on your progress over the term as well as on your performance on response questions, the midterm, and the final exam. Attendance and participation – both in class discussions, in small groups, and your play attendance write-up – are a significant portion of your grade (40%). Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

30% - final essay exam

20% - midterm short answer/essay exam

20% - attendance, participation

20% - play attendance and write-up
10% - response questions

Week 1 Introductions; Greek drama

Tues 9/26: Introductions
 How to read plays!
 Excerpt from Aristotle, "Poetics"
 Start talking about Greek drama and Sophocles, *Antigone*

Thur 9/28: Begin Sophocles, *Antigone*
Due: Response question(s)

Week 2 Ancient drama

Tues 10/3: *Antigone*

Thur 10/5: Finish *Antigone*

Week 3 Medieval drama

Tues 10/10: Medieval Sanskrit drama (India), selections

Thur 10/12: Medieval Japan: Noh drama, *The Feather Mantle (Hagoromo)*
Due: Response question(s)

Week 4 Realism, naturalism, modernism, political theatre

Tues 10/17: Bertolt Brecht, *The Spy* (from *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*)

Thur 10/19: Begin Lorraine Hansbury, *A Raisin In The Sun*
Due: Response question(s)

Week 5 Race, gentrification

Tues 10/24: Hansbury, *A Raisin In The Sun*

Thur 10/26: Finish Hansbury, *A Raisin In The Sun*

Week 6 Realism, magical realism

Tues 10/31: Begin Tony Kushner, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*
Due: Response question(s)

Thur 11/2: Tony Kushner, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*

Week 7

Tues 11/7: **Midterm exam**

Thur 11/9: Finish Kushner, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*

Week 8 Magical realism, race

Tues 11/14: Jose Rivera, *References...*
Due: Response question(s)

Thur 11/16: Jose Rivera, *References...*

Week 9

Tues 11/21: Finish Rivera, *References...*

Thur 11/23: **No Class** – Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10

Tues 11/28: Begin Ayad Akhtar, *Disgraced*
Due: Response question(s)

Thur 11/30: Finish *Disgraced*

Week 11

Tues 12/5: Begin Lynn Nottage, *Sweat*
Due: Response questions

Thur 12/7: Finish *Sweat*

Final Exam

Tues 12/12 1:45pm - 3:45pm
Due: Play attendance write-up
Due: Written portion of final exam
Due: In-class scene performances

