Course Title: EL221 INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA & THEATRE

Credits: 3

ABE: Dominant Ability to be Assessed: Critical & Creative Thinking

Level: 2

Instructor: Jennifer M. O’Donnell, Associate Professor

Office Hours: Monday: 9:00AM-Noon; Tuesday & Friday: 11:30AM-12:30PM
Other times by appointment only

Office location: Bond House, 301
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Class time and room: EL221 – T/F 8:30-9:50AM; NH203

Catalog Course description: Introduction to Drama/Theatre (W) involves the study of representative playwrights and their works from the period of the Greeks to the 21st century. Emphasis is placed on the changes in the theatre and in production as well as in the structure of the drama – specifically tragedy and comedy. Attendance at theatrical production is strongly encouraged, and students will be required to attend and review two theatre productions of their choice.

CREDITS: 3 semester hours

Prerequisites: Prerequisites for this course: CW102 (C grade or better), the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.


Additional Readings: Refer to the text – “Glossary of Dramatic Terms.” (p. 1085)
Refer to How to Write a Review (p. 1080); Class handouts and materials identified in the course guide

VERY IMPORTANT – This is your online course guide.
Additional course materials including websites, reference guides, films, etc… can be found at the following:
URL: http://mitchell.libguides.com/EL221
It is the responsibility of each student to access the site throughout the course to keep up with assignments.
All students must have a student ID to access the guide from off campus.
Civility: It is the right of every college student to be educated in an environment that is free of distraction from the educational activities being conducted in the classroom. To support a student’s right to a distraction-free educational environment, students engaged in any type of disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted as absent from the class.

Communication: Students are required to obtain and use a Mitchell College e-mail account for all departmental and College communications. All assignments/information will be posted as described by the instructor.

General College Policies

Attendance Policy: The Faculty of the College believes that in order for a college student to derive the maximum benefits of a course, regular attendance is necessary as is the punctual and adequate preparation of assignments. Please reference the Course Catalog for more information. However, each instructor may also have his/her own attendance policy.

The College ADA Statement (effective fall 2017):
Mitchell College complies with the mandates created by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In accordance with these laws, Mitchell College is committed to ensuring that no otherwise qualified student, on the basis of his/her disability, will be denied access to course content, materials or activities.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Disability Student Services at (860) 701-5790 or by making an appointment through Starfish. To avoid any delay in the delivery of your accommodations, you should contact Disability Student Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I, the professor of this course, cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received your Letter of Accommodation from Disability Student Services. Students who receive accommodations through DSS must get an updated Letter of Accommodation each semester. Your cooperation is appreciated. For more information please see the course catalog and/or the DSS webpage.

Policy on Academic Honesty: Penalties and procedures regarding academic dishonesty are defined in the College Catalog. Academic dishonesty includes the following: using the work of another individual – including another student – as one’s own, using non-approved resources during quizzes or exams or submitting the same research paper for multiple classes. Please refer to the College Catalog for the procedure required when an instructor has evidence of Academic Dishonesty.

As described in the Mitchell College policy manual, “students at Mitchell College are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct.” By enrolling in this course, students agree that they understand and swear to adhere to those rules. Failure to adhere to these rules will affect a student’s grades. Cheating and/or plagiarism on any assessment will result in a score of zero for that assignment and the incident will be reported to the academic dean. Cheating on the final exam will result in course failure.
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES:

Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend all classes. If a student misses a class, he/she is responsible for the work missed and is expected to be prepared upon returning to class. If you know you must miss a class, assignments must be completed prior to the absence. A student missing more than the equivalent of one week of class may be in danger of falling behind. Note: If you miss more than two weeks of class, I may deem your absences excessive and request that the Academic Standing and Review Committee withdraw you from the course.

Make-up Policy:
MAKE-UPS WILL NOT BE GIVEN; HOWEVER, DOCUMENTED/EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE CONSIDERED provided the student contacts the instructor within 48 hours of the missed assignment. The student, who does not contact the instructor within 48 hours of the missed assignment with a verifiable written excuse provided to the instructor, forfeits the opportunity to make-up the assignment.

Policy on In-Class Assignments:
Students cannot make up in-class assignments that they have missed. These assignments must be completed during class sessions.

ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ON TIME FOR CLASS. LATENESSES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED, AS THEY ARE A DISCOURTEOUS AND DISRESPECTFUL INTERRUPTION FOR FELLOW CLASSMATES AND THE INSTRUCTOR. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Students must meet with the instructor regarding any exceptional circumstances related to class absence.

Accommodations:
Please inform the instructor of any special needs accommodations required. See the College ADA above for details.

Departmental E-Mail /Communications requirement:
Communications for this course will be through the Mitchell e-mail system. Students are expected to check e-mails on a daily basis.

Classroom Participation:
Classroom decorum during the instructional process is based on mutual respect: instructor for student, student for instructor, and student for other student. Respect for one another is shown in behavior: this includes listening attentively when another person (student or instructor) is speaking, as well as staying awake so that you may pay attention and contribute to class. Sleeping, talking inappropriately or doing other work during a lecture or video will result in a zero for the day, which will affect your participation grade for the course. No warning will be issued. At no time will headphones, Ipods, radios, or like devices be allowed in the classroom. Any student found using one will be asked to leave class.* All cell phones must be turned off or on silent mode. Texting during class is STRICTLY forbidden and will result in IMMEDIATE dismissal from class. Do not consult your cell phone unless it is an emergency situation and the instructor is notified prior to the start of class regarding the emergency.
* Anyone dismissed from class will be marked absent for the day. No one will be readmitted without meeting with the instructor beforehand.

Ability Based Education

ABE partners the intellectual abilities cultivated by the liberal arts and sciences with the professional skills and personal development required to compete in the global economy. As students’ progress through their programs of study, they will collect evidence (papers, videos, presentations, projects, etc.) that document their level of mastery. There are three levels of mastery:

1. Developing
2. Competent
3. Distinguished

Students must achieve at least Level 2, Competent, in 5 of 7 abilities. The seven abilities to be assessed prior to graduation from Mitchell College are:

1. Critical & Creative Thinking
2. Communication
3. Diversity and Global Perspectives
4. Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT Literacy)
5. Problem Solving and Analysis
6. Values, Ethics & Social Responsibility
7. Social Interaction

Course-Specific Information

ABE Abilities to be Assessed: Primary Ability: Critical & Creative Thinking; Level 2
As part of the college’s movement toward ability-based education (ABE), the Humanities Department has selected Critical and Creative Thinking as the primary ability that will be assessed in this course. The final research project and presentation to the class will be the assessment measuring the criteria linked to this institutional ability. Details for the final project can be found on p. 3 of the course syllabus.

Other course objectives will be assessed throughout the course using the following methods: mini projects and papers on the historical periods, the playwrights and their plays; performance reaction papers; final research project and presentation to the class. Written feedback will be provided by the instructor on all mini projects, papers, and the final project.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, students are expected to evidence mastery of the following in their discussions, tests, essays, critiques, and papers:

- Identify and demonstrate an understanding of the definition, form and characteristics of tragedy, comedy, and religious drama as reflected in the drama of the past & present
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the analysis of plays and the understanding of the elements of a play – protagonist, antagonist, plot, setting, theme, etc… (ABE ability – level 2)*
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical periods of the theatre and of drama

*These requirements are specific to the course and may vary depending on the instructor's assessment criteria.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the **writing style of individual playwrights** within the context of the historical periods in which they wrote
- Demonstrate an understanding of the **changes in the theatre from the Greeks to the 21st Century**
- Demonstrate knowledge of the **theatrical elements of a production**
- Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for **diversity in both drama and theatre**
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of theatre and the arts through **research and reflective critiquing** within the context of the periods studied and their impact and influence on today’s society.
- Demonstrate **cooperative participation & communication skills** in group and presentation situations

**Course Requirements:**
The course will consist of lectures, discussions, and viewing plays. Students are expected to keep current with assignments following the semester outline attached. **Films, videos, and other teaching aids will be used when appropriate. Students are also encouraged to attend live performances whenever possible.**

Mini project papers, a major final project presentation, play reviews, and attendance & participation will determine your grade in the course.

**Four (4) 2-3 page papers and/or mini projects will be used to demonstrate your understanding of the course material. Refer to the class schedule for projects and due dates.**

The final project presentation combines an explanation paper and a presentation to the class. See below for details.

**Attendance at plays on and off campus is an important part of the course as is attendance and active participation in class.**

**Play Reviews:**
Students are expected to attend live play performances as part of the course and will be expected to submit a 2 page review for each as indicated on the class schedule. Papers are to be done on the computer – doubled spaced, font size 12. **Read in your text Introduction: Reading a Play (p. 5), Genres of Drama (p.15), and Elements of Drama (p. 17)** so you will have an understanding of what to look for in a play. **Also, refer to p. 1080 of your text – Writing a Review.** Comment on the performance following the guidelines/format given in class. **Information on tickets for each performance will be provided in class (please refer to the schedule).** If for some reason you cannot attend live plays, you must see me no later than Sept. 26 for alternate assignments.

**Students are required to attend the 3 events as follows:**

1. The Flock Theatre Production of Shakespeare’s **MACBETH**, on the Mitchell campus – Date & Time to be announced
2. The Mitchell Players Production of **Almost, Maine** on the Mitchell campus, Nov. 10, 11, 12
3. Flock Theatre Production of ‘**Make we Joy’** – Mitchell Campus – Date & Time to be announced
Final Project/Presentation: Due T. 11/28 (paper & copy of PP – (2-3 slides per page) - (Format for all papers -double spaced, computer generated, font size 12 plus appropriate referencing and a works cited page (MLA). Explanation papers for all projects must have a minimum of 4 pages plus a bibliography in MLA format. PROJECT AND/OR PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE. ALL PROJECTS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CLASS ON 12/ AND DURING THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD. Choose one of the following:

1. Research/Playwright - Research the life and work of one playwright –not studied in class - and demonstrate, through a PowerPoint presentation, how the plays reflect the personal life of the playwright and the society (norms, etc…) of the period. Evaluate 1 play to support your comments. An explanation paper must accompany the project. (See above.) A typed outline for the presentation must be submitted on or before T. 10/3.

2. Project – Evolution of Theatrical Effects - Special Effects, Costumes, Props, Make-up, etc… : Through pictures and/or actual models, recreate and demonstrate three or more of the theatrical effects (all from different periods). Discuss how these effects were executed, who created them, and a timeline for theatrical effects from the period of the Greeks to the present day. How are the theatrical effects of the past related to today’s theatre? An explanation paper must accompany the project. (See above.) A typed outline for the project must be submitted for approval on or before T. 10/3.

3. Create your own theatre project. Suggestions: The Japanese Theatre or Theatre of the Absurd (Check the text) - Show examples from specific plays (Video, DVD incorporated into the PowerPoint). A typed outline for the project must be submitted for approval on or before T. 10/3.

LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY: The Mitchell College Library has excellent resources which can be accessed through the Online Course Guide. Students are encouraged to contact Lauren Consolatore, Curriculum Support Librarian and Regina Ewing, Educational Technologist, for support.

Fall 2017 Important Dates:
No Classes: Labor Day – M. 9/4
Add/Drop ends: T. 9/5
Early Academic Reports (EAR’s) due: M. 9/25
No Classes: Columbus Day – M. 10/9
Mid-term Grades due: M. 10/16
Last Day to Withdraw from a Class: F. 11/10
Veteran’s Day - Sat. 11/11; Acknowledge those who have served.
Thanksgiving Break: Sat. 11/18 - Sun. 11/26
Last Day of Classes: R. 12/7
Exams run: F. 12/8 – R. 12/14
Final Grades due: M. 12/1
Class Policies:

Grading:

EVALUATION:
Mini Projects/Papers --------------- 30%
  THE MENAICHMUS BROTHERS, OTHHELLO, DOLL’S HOUSE/MISS JULIE
Final Project/Paper------------------- 25%
  And Presentation
Play Reviews ------------------------ 30%
Class Attendance, --------------- 15%
  Preparation & Participation

MAKE-UPS WILL NOT BE GIVEN; HOWEVER, DOCUMENTED/EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE CONSIDERED.

ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE. Please – NO CELL PHONE USE DURING CLASS.

PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR CLASS. LATENESSES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AS THEY ARE A DISCOURTEOUS AND DISRESPECTFUL INTERRUPTION FOR FELLOW CLASSMATES AND THE INSTRUCTOR. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class.

Communication: Students are required to obtain and use a Mitchell college e-mail account for all departmental and college communications.

Course Outline - Fall 2017

Note: Please have assignments read for the day they are due according to the following schedule. Reading assignments are from the course textbook or otherwise noted. Be sure to read the background on each play and the playwright to better understand the play. Please bring your book to class.

Week 1
T. 8/29 – Syllabus; Intro to Course; Discussion of Drama & Intro to Greek Drama (P. 30-38); Please read pages 1-6 & 16-22 of your text.
September
F. 9/1- OEDIPUS REX by Sophocles (video – to be seen in class

Week 2
T. 9/5 – OEDIPUS continued; Discussion of Greek tragedy & comedy

F. 9/8 – LYSISTRATA by Aristophanes will be read in class - read p. 80-84 in preparation for the class reading. Transition from Greek to Roman Theatre; Read the Introduction to Roman Theatre pages 104-120 in preparation for this class.

Note: T. 9/5 Add/Drop ends
Week 3
T. 9/12 – Discussion of Roman drama; Assignment: MENAECHMUS BROTHERS. Reserve copies of the play will be in the Mitchell Library, but you can also check other libraries and online for copies of the play. Read THE MENAECHMUS BROTHERS (THE TWIN MENAECHMI) by Plautus. Write a 2-3 page paper (typed, double spaced, 12 font) on how the play fits the definition of comedy or farce citing specific examples throughout. Also, identify the differences in form (the way the play is structured) between this play and LYSISTRATA (due F. 9/22)

F. 9/15 – Intro to Medieval Theatre; Read background in the text prior to class (text – pages 122-130); DULCITIUS by Hrosvitha (mystery play) Handout

Week 4
T. 9/19 –EVERYMAN (DVD) will be seen in class.
Films on Demand – THE SUMMONING OF EVERYMAN

F. 9/22 – DUE: Menaechmus paper; EVERYMAN continued

Note: M. 9/25 Early Academic Reports due

Week 5
T. 9/26 – Class will meet in the Library for an informational workshop on researching, documenting, and PowerPoint with Regina Ewing in preparation for final project presentations.

F. 9/29 - Last day for approval of final project/research paper (see syllabus p. 6) Read - Renaissance Drama in the text. Video – Shakespeare’s

Week 6
T. 10/3 – DUE: A typed outline of project/paper is to be handed in at the beginning of class.
Shakespeare’s OTHHELLO (DVD) – read background in text prior to reading/viewing the play.
DUE F. 10/13: Write a 2-3 page paper (typed, double spaced, 12 font) on the following: How does the play fit the definition of tragedy? What are the themes of the play? Identify characters, lines, props, etc… that foster these themes. Films on Demand – OTHHELLO

F. 10/6 – OTHHELLO continued

Week 7
T. 10/10 - Video – Shakespeare’s stage – The Globe Theatre

F. 10/13 – DUE – OTHHELLO paper; Be able to discuss the definition of masque and why it was not a lasting form of drama. Who was most noted for writing masques? Find an example of a masque for class (refer to the Library Guide for the websites on Ben Jonson and the Masque). Films on Demand – Excerpt from the film BEN JONSON

Mid-term grades due 10/16

Week 8
T. 10/17 – Bringing Theatre inside – from Shakespeare to the Baroque and Classical

F. 10/20 – Discussion – Have the elements of theatre changed? What are the common elements in the drama & theatre from the Greeks to the 17th century? Read background on Late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Drama – text pages 300-308
Week 9
T. 10/24 – TARTUFFE and Moliere (video – to be seen in class)
F. 10/27 – Read TARTUFFE for discussion – text p. 313

Week 10
T. 10/31 – Read 19th Century Drama pages 361-372; read (p. 375-380); A DOLL’S HOUSE by Ibsen (p. 380); Discussion on the role of women in the 19th century; realism; detailed sets Video: A DOLL’S HOUSE

F. 11/3 - video - MISS JULIE by Strindberg (p. 414) - Write a 2-3 page paper (typed, double spaced, 12 font) on the place of women in 19th century drama. Using examples from each of the plays, compare the character of Julie to that of Nora – due T. 11/14.

Week 11
T. 11/7 – Read Drama in the Early and Mid-Twentieth Century (pages 494-510); CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF (text – p. 620) by Tennessee Williams

F. 11/10 – CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF continued

Note: Last day to withdraw from a class – F. 11/10

Week 12
T.. 11/14 – DUE: Paper on Doll’s House (Nora) & Miss Julie; A RAISIN IN THE SUN by Lorraine Hansberry (DVD to be seen in class); Read pages 771-773.

F. 11/17 - Films on Demand – A RAISIN IN THE SUN continued

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! (Break – Sat. Nov. 18 – Sun. 11/26)

Week 13
T. 11/28 – Read background on Contemporary Drama – text pages 812-833; THE PIANO LESSON by August Wilson (video to be seen in class)

FINAL PROJECT/RESEARCH PAPERS AND COPY OF POWERPOINT DUE

F. 12/1 – THE PIANO LESSON continued

Week 14
T. 12/5 -- Final Project presentations begin.

Semester classes end Thurs. 12/7.
The College exam schedule runs from Friday 12/8 -Thursday 12/14.

Final Exam –Tuesday, December 12 at 8:00AM – required attendance - Project Presentations continue.

PLEASE BE PREPARED AND ON TIME FOR CLASS.
IF A CLASS IS CANCELLED, FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE ABOVE KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH READINGS AND PROJECTS.
CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE MAY BE NECESSARY AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time as required by the instructor