

MODERN DRAMA

THTR 111-1

Academic Building 135A, MWF

11:00am-11:50am

Instructor: Rob Fulton

Office: Academic Building, Rm 122B or The Green Room in the Performing Arts Center

Office Phone: (309) 694 8587, (309) 694 5106

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:00-3:00

Email: robert.fulton@icc.edu

Course Description

This course studies trends in Modern Drama and Theatre that introduces the many fascinating forms of drama and theatrical production in use in our times. The plays and styles of production and acting used are the main focus. There is no performance involved. The course should make students aware of the extraordinary vitality and diversity of modern international theatre including the dynamic contributions of American playwrights, designers, and actors.

Course Goals

The student will be able to read and think critically.

The student will be able to demonstrate awareness of diversity of cultures, ethics, values, and aesthetics.

Assignments and Grade Percentage Break Down

Final	20%
Midterm	12%
Presentation 1	10%
Presentation 2	15%
Play Quizzes (9 quizzes)	18%
House of Blue Leaves Review	5%
Murder at Café Noir Review	5%
Participation	15%

Quizzes

All quizzes are online and must be complete by midnight of the first day the play is assigned, usually a Monday.

Presentations

Presentation 1 will be on a modern director, designer, adapter as playwright, or actor from a modern interpretation of one of the first three plays.

Presentation 2 will be on a director, designer, playwright or actor from a production of one of the last six plays read. Choose two from the same production.

Reviews

During the semester you are required to see two productions at ICC. You will then respond with 500-750 words discussing the production. This is not a summary of the plot. Your thoughts on a theme of the play, whether the production successful, and whether or not the production was relevant to you and/or society, or a proportion of society at large.

Participation

Participation is essential to this class. Acceptable participation includes but is not limited to: being prepared, having read all assignments, actively engaging in classroom discussions, being attentive, and classroom behavior: see class conduct below. A student's participation grade is a percentage of how many times they've participated in class divided by the total opportunities that had to participate in class.

MidTerm and Final

Both exams are accumulative from all the material covered up to the exam.

Shows

Students will be required to attend 2 productions in the semester, dates below. Productions start at 7:30 except on Sunday when they start at 2:30.

The House of Blue Leaves Sept 23-25, Sept 30-Oct 2

Murder at Café Noir Nov. 11-13, 15-20

Late Work

No late work is accepted.

Extra Credit

A student may work in the scene shop for extra credit. The student must set up times with the Technical Director and follow all safety rules and procedures while working in the shop. A student must sign in and out in the appropriate attendance book with authorized shop personnel signature. For every five hours a student works 1 point will be added to the student's final grade.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students are allowed 6 absences. More than 6 results in an assigned grade of "F."

I, the instructor, expect you, the student, to be an equal partner in your learning. Therefore, if you choose or need to miss class you are responsible for obtaining notes and announcements. Ask classmates, look for online supplements, and ask me at an appropriate time (office hour, after class, via email). I will not seek you out to inform you of class happenings.

Attendance and Financial Aid

A student will be designated as a "never-attender" if they do not attend at least one day of class before the end of the 2nd week. A student missing 6 days or more before the end of the tenth week will be designated as a "non-attender." For more information on financial aid and attendance contact the financial aid office: 694 5311.

Tardy Policy

Students will be counted present if they arrive no later than five minutes after class begins. If they do arrive within that time frame they are responsible for contacting the instructor to insure they are counted present. After five minutes students will not be allowed into class and will not be counted present.

Homework

Students are expected to have all assigned homework. It contributes to participation.

Class Conduct:

Students are expected to maintain proper classroom decorum. This includes, but not limited by: arriving on time with the proper assignment and attire, respecting others, and participating in a meaningful manner. Students should not sleep, be disruptive, or present behavior that demeans others. The use of cell phones is prohibited. The instructor is the final arbitrator of whether or not behavior is appropriate. A student may be removed from the class at the discretion of the instructor. A student so removed will be counted absent and receive no credit for that day whether or not assigned work was turned in on time.

Text

Jacobus, Lee A., ed. *The Bedford Introduction to Drama 7th Edition*. New York / Boston: Bedford / St. Martins, 2013.

Other Information

Standards for Written Work.

All work should be typed, free of spelling and grammatical errors, and contain your name and class title unless specifically instructed otherwise. One of ICC's General Education Goals is to communicate professionally and we will use this class as an opportunity to practice professional communication.

All written work must be Times New Roman, 12pt. with 1" margins around all edges of the paper.

Academic Integrity The student handbook states:

Matters relating to academic honesty or contrary action such as cheating, plagiarism, or giving unauthorized help on examinations or assignments may result in an instructor giving a student a failing grade for the assignment, test, or course. **Based on the severity of the offense, the instructor may recommend dismissal from the College.**

Academic Support

ICC offers a variety of academic support. The link listed below opens a webpage with a multitude of options.

<https://www.icc.edu/currentstudents/academicSupport.asp>

Changes

This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class. Students are responsible for knowing all changes whether they are present the day of the change.

Calendar

Calendar is subject to change. See above.

Week 1

- Syllabus Discussion
- p1-6, 17-23, The Rising of the Moon
- initial discussions on what is theatre and the elements of a play and production
- identify production elements from play

Week 2

Agamemnon

- p. 31-7, 64-9
- How to read tough plays
- in class reading
- identify productions elements
- research modern productions

Week 3

Agamemnon

Week 4

Bacchae

- in class reading
- identify themes and production elements
- research modern productions
- discuss relevancy of themes to us

Week 5

Bacchae

Week 6

Hamlet

- p 246-50, 325-8,
- in class reading
- identify themes and production elements,
- discuss relevancy of themes to us,
- why is Hamlet so prolific even today, talk about designers, directors, playwrights and actors, research modern et al for one of the last three plays

Week 7

Hamlet

Week 8

- Present Research

Week 9

The Importance of Being Earnest

- p667- 675, 779-81
- discuss themes and how relevant is the play to us
- 100 words on what you think about the play

- Week 10 *Death of a Salesman*
- p 890-903, 1100-1103, 1146-64
 - discuss themes and plays relevancy
 - 100 words on what you think about the play
- Week 11 *A Raisin in the Sun*
- p1223-5
 - discuss themes and plays relevancy
 - 100 words on what you think about the play
- Week 12 *Glengarry Glenross*
- p1440-2
 - discuss themes and plays relevancy
 - 100 words on what you think about the play
- Week 13 *How I learned to Drive*
- p1583-5
 - discuss themes and plays relevancy
 - 100 words on what you think about the play
- Week 14 *The Laramie Project*
- p1613-5
 - discuss themes and plays relevancy
 - 100 words on what you think about the play
- Week 15
- Review All Plays