

PEOPLE PLACES AND PLAYS: Theatre That Changed The World

THEATRE ARTS 302Y (Summer B 2016)

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On-Line Office Hours: Sunday's 7:00-9:00PM E-mail: LSoroko@Miami.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines through the lens of the drama the seminal events that brought about the death of romanticism and gave birth to the modern era. Emphasis is placed on social change as evidenced through theatre as a mirror to the world in events dramatic literature and the people that shaped it from the Revolutions of 1848 to the present; exploring the great minds outside the world of theatre and the affect this had on the great minds in the theatre. *This course is not open to Theatre Arts majors and minors.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

As an online course you will be responsible for the eight Module readings throughout the semester. A number of them are online and denoted with the URL in the module some of them you will have to purchase. I would recommend an online vendor such as Amazon for these purchases. A number of translations exist and I tend to like the more modern ones, feel free to purchase or use any translation you wish—but DO NOT USE an adaptation, which is a different beast all together. Please know than any library (university or public is going to have multiple copies of these plays—albeit some may be in a collected anthology)

- The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov (I like the Paul Schmidt translation)
- The Dream Play* by August Strindberg (I like the Michael Meyer translation)
- Harry Ape* by Eugene O'Neill
- Mother Courage* by Bertolt Brecht (I like the Eric Bentley translation)
- No Exit* by Jean-Paul Sartre (any translation)
- Waiting for Godot* and *Engame* by Samuel Beckett
- Betrayal* by Harold Pinter
- Angels in America* (part 1 and part 2) by Tony Kushner

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will develop a deeper understanding of causation in a historical context and its affect on culture
- Students will develop a deeper understanding of causation in a social-political context and its affect on the arts
- Students will discover a foundational linkage between world events and culture/artistry
- Students will understand the significant of the Revolutions of 1848
- Students will develop an objective understanding of Marx, Comte and Darwin and the crucial position they play in the context of the theatre
- Students will develop an objective understanding of Freud and Jung and the crucial position they play in the context of the theatre
- Students will gain a basic understanding on the evolving nature of the drama

COURSE GRADING OPPORTUNITES:

This course consists of eight Modules. You have approximately two weeks to complete each module. Once the allotted period of time has expired to complete the module, you may no longer turn in this work for a grade

Below is a breakdown of the projects and their point value.

- Module Quizzes 15 percent
 - Module Journal Assignments 35 percent
 - Module Essay Assignments 50 percent
- Total Points Possible **100 percent**

GRADING SCALE:					
A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	78-79	D	63-66
B+	88-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-87	C-	70-72	F	59 or below

Note: Please be advised that these essays do not qualify for UM writing credit, nor do I offer the opportunity for an incomplete in this class

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Completion of the assignments is crucial to passing the course. All of the assignments are outlined in each unit on Blackboard. If you do not complete the assignment by the designated time, the module will automatically close and this cannot be made up.
2. The Quizzes are designed for you to show me you are reading the material.
3. The Journals are there for you to show me that are reading the material and developing an analytical perspective. Comments such as “I liked it” or “I did not like it” tell me nothing and are not indicative of a junior level university understanding. Use the material to support your assertions. The following rubric for these journal might be of value to you as you write your responses:

JOURNAL RUBRIC				
	Unacceptable	Needs Improvement	Average	Good
Quality of Response	Initial comments were posted but did not address the assignment. "I agree" types of replies with surface level thinking	Initial comments address some of the assignment requirements. Comments are not well organized and show limited knowledge and evaluation of the topic.	Initial comments address most, but not the assignment. Comments are reasonably organized and demonstrate adequate familiarity and analysis of the content.	Initial comments thoroughly address all parts of the assignment. The comments are clearly and concisely stated, demonstrating that the content was appropriately reviewed and synthesized.

4. The Essay Assignments. They are short, evocative and fun. That said, please follow MLA format on the written work and be sure your grammar and syntax is correct. Plays are underlined or italics and are to be treated like books. Use this URL for MLA in all of your written work
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

COURSE OUTLINE

MODULE 1 “Challenging the Status Quo: War and Revolution”

- Define Romanticism
- Discuss the seminal influences that gave rise to Romanticism
- Discuss the Revolutions of 1848 and their relationship to the Industrial Revolution
- Karl Marx and his importance in the development of the modern world
- Auguste Comte
- Charles Darwin and his importance in the development of the modern world
- Victor Hugo, Les Mis!

MODULE 2 “The Rise of Realism as the Avant-Garde”

- Definition of Realism
- Objections of the Romantics to Realism
- Courbet and how they depict Realism
- Richard Wagner and his importance/theatre architecture
- Emile Zola on dialogue
- Henrik Ibsen as the 'Father of Modern Drama'

MODULE 3 “Realism and the Birth of the Avant-Garde in the Modern World”

- Stanislavsky and the modern Realistic performance for the actor
- Anton Chekhov provided the vehicle for change
- Symbolism, (Maeterlinck), Jean Moreas)

MODULE 4 “Antirealism”: Acceptance for Antirealism By the early twentieth century, Antirealism in the theatre had gained steady acceptance.

- Sigmund Freud on the modern drama
- Strindberg on both Realism and Anti-Realism
- George Bernard Shaw

MODULE 5 “New Modes of Perception: A birth of ‘isms”

- Carl Jung on the modern drama
- Expressionism as a cogent artistic form
- Futurism

MODULE 6 “Iconoclasts, Anxiety and Alienation”

- Dada and its affect on 20th century culture and values
- Surrealism in art and the drama
- Andre Breton and Jean Cocteau
- Antonin Artaud
- Bertolt Brecht and his epic theatre

MODULE 7 “World War Two, Atomic Destruction and Beyond”

- Absurdism
- Samuel Beckett (talk about Godot, but have them read End Game)
- Existentialism
- Albert Camus
- Jean-Paul Satre

MODULE 8 “In Search of a Future”

- Harold Pinter
- Gender Studies
- Queer Theory
- Tony Kushner
- Angels in America. Play is really a fusion of all these ideas from Artaud, Brecht, social justice, realism and the modern world)

SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

Below please find the dates in which the Unit Assignments are released and due. You will be denied access to the units beyond the date listed at 11:55PM. As a consequence you will not have the ability to complete the assignments beyond the below date as denoted. **DO NOT WAIT** until 11:50PM on the due date to attempt this upload. Let me be clear, it “doesn’t work” if you waited and tried to upload past the cut off time. *Do not email me your work*, you must upload it to blackboard in order to receive a grade for the assignment.

Module 1	Released on June, 27	DUE on July 2
Module 2	Released on July, 2	DUE on July 7
Module 3	Released on July 7	DUE on July 12
Module 4	Released on July, 12	DUE on July 17
Module 5	Released on July, 17	DUE on July 22
Module 6	Released on July, 22	DUE on July 27
Module 7	Released on July, 27	DUE on August 1
Module 8	Released on August, 1	DUE on August 5

HOW TO PASS THE COURSE:

Do the work on time and do not ask if you can turn in your work late. The trick to passing this course without developing a migraine is to do the work early and pace yourself.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HONOR CODE:

Students’ rules and regulations are listed in the latest University of Miami Bulletin and Honor Code. Copies of those can be found at <http://www6.miami.edu/umbulletin/> and http://www6.miami.edu/UMH/CDA/UMH_Main/0,1770,2415-1;10933-2,00.html.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

The content owner of a URL I send you to may take it down (without warning). If that happens let me know and I will have another established so you can complete your project. I do so love the Theatre and hope that you will also begin to build a passion and understanding for it, as a vital living art form. Please let me know what I can do to aid you in your success in this course and in cultivating an understanding of the Theatre while avoiding any “drama” in the drama. Toward that end keep a copy of all the work you do in this course—just in case. I look forward to reading your thoughts on the subject at hand and hope you have a wonderful semester.

