

Syllabus
DRAM2100H: Appreciation of Theatre
Fall 2004
Lectures: **T/R 9:30-10:45**
Rm. 201 Fine Arts Building

Instructor:

Dr. Farley Richmond
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Office hours: To be announced
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Required Texts:

Richmond, Farley *Theatre: The Collaborative Art: A Worktext with Readings by Prominent Experts* Second Edition, Revised Printing 2000 and Richmond, Farley (ed.) *Plays of Provocation*, Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1999.
Valuable material is provided on the content page of the website. (Details for accessing WebCT are provided below)

Goals:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to drama and theatre and the unique collaborative process by which plays are created and produced. The first part of the course emphasizes the context of performance, play analysis and playwriting, acting, and audience. The second part concerns directing, designing, and producing. You will be expected to read and be thoroughly familiar with three plays which will help you to better understand how the collaborative process works. The course focuses on the decision making process and the choices that are made by various individuals and teams of individuals beginning with the selection of the play for production, to conceptualization, through the rehearsal process, the preparation of sets, costumes, lights, and sound, and finally to the opening night.

Theatre people are fond of saying, "The only way to understand theatre is to do it." This may be true. Therefore, you will participate in exercises and projects designed to give you an opportunity to express yourself creatively and collaboratively.

Methods:

1. You will attend class twice a week. You should take notes on the lecture material. Often there will be activities requiring your participation. Videotaped illustrations, photographs, etc. enhance many of the sessions. Take notes on the illustrative material, as well, since it is not likely that you will ever see it again in class.
2. My office hours are for your benefit. Please use the opportunity to meet with me to discuss any problems you may be having with the course.
3. Reading the newspaper, talking, or interfering with the class sessions in any way disrupts the ability of other students to concentrate and learn. If I think you are being disruptive I will ask you to leave class. We have a small classroom for the number of students enrolled, so please don't make things more difficult than they already are because of the limited space.

Special Requirements:

1. You are required to attend two production this semester:

A. The first production is Anouilh's Antigone scheduled to be performed in Seney-Stovall Chapel behind the Varsity Drive-In. Production dates are Sept. 22 to Oct 2. Everyone will be expected to write a critical evaluation of this production. Papers are due Tuesday, Oct. 5.

B. You are also responsible for writing an essay on Pinter's The Homecoming scheduled to be performed in the Cellar Theatre. Production dates are Oct. 13-23. Papers are due Tuesday, Oct. 26.

It is your responsibility to purchase tickets. It is extremely likely that some of the productions will sell out; so, do not wait until the last minute to purchase tickets. Tickets may be purchased at the department box-office located in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building beginning at noon on Wednesday the week before each show opens. The box-office continues to remain open weekdays noon until 5pm. After that point the box-office remains open until all tickets are sold, at which time it will be closed until one hour prior to show time.

2. You will be expected to use WEBCT for this course. NOTE: The name of the course you will use is DRAM2000.

Valuable course material appears on the content pages. You will find overviews of the plays, a bulletin board to post questions and questions concerning the plays which will help you prepare for your exams and in your class discussion. There is also a useful theatre links page. The website has a useful calendar, as well.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. Only absences backed by adequate documentation will be excused. Exams may NOT be taken early or made up later. Please do not ask for an exception to this policy.

Evaluation:

Exam 1	15%	scheduled Thursday, Oct. 7
Exam 2	15%	scheduled Tuesday, Nov. 23
Production Essay #1	15%	due Tuesday, Oct. 5
Production Essay #2	15%	due Tuesday, Oct. 26
Attendance & Participation	10%	
Final Project	30%	class presentation Nov. 30 and Dec. 2. NOTE: Projects must be turned in on the day you make your presentation to the class.

Assignment and Exam Descriptions:

1. Exam 1 (15%): This exam consists of multiple choice and true/false questions as well as identification of terms and short essays. The questions will be based on all the reading material, lectures, and other materials you are assigned to read and see up to this point in time.
2. Exam 2 (15%): This exam may contain materials draw from earlier material like that found on the first exam, plus any material you have been assigned since the first exam.
3. Production Essay #1 (15%): This is a critical evaluation of Antigone. The central focus of your essay is the play, and to a certain extent, the production, especially the acting. Details about exactly what is required will follow.

4. Production Essay #2 (15%): This will be a more in-depth essay of The Homecoming. You are expected to concentrate on all aspects of the production, including acting, directing, and design. Details about exactly what is required will follow.
5. Attendance & Participation (10%): Besides your obligation to attend class you are obliged to come prepared by having read the assigned material, your participation is evaluated through discussions, quizzes, exercises, and so forth. You will be graded individually on most of these assignments.
6. Final Project (30%): In some ways this is the most important part of your work in this course. It requires you to use your creative imagination and to work collaboratively with other students. We will discuss this assignment in greater detail well in advance of when the assignment is due. I suggest you look at the material on pp. 285-289 for the kinds of details I am expecting.

Final Notes:

I will make every effort to accommodate students with disabilities but please inform me during the first two weeks of class if you need any special arrangements.

Warning! Warning! University policy on academic dishonesty will most definitely be enforced. Committing plagiarism by copying the words or the original ideas of another person without giving that person full and proper credit is an especially serious violation of this policy. If you violate this policy you will be reported immediately to the Student Judiciary for disciplinary action. According to university regulations, students convicted of plagiarism face one of three punishments: expulsion from the university, suspension for a semester, or a notation on your university transcript of academic dishonesty. I have come across such cases in the past and thus am especially vigilant. Please know that I will not be lenient for anyone caught!

Of Special Note: Sensitive issues concerning race, gender, etc. will be addressed during the semester. Theatre is typical of the arts in its courage to face controversial topics. I would not be doing my job if we did not address such issues in this course. I will do my best to contextualize and explain the significance of this material so that it does not seem gratuitous; however, you are encouraged to speak with me if you have a problem.

Tentative Schedule*

Aug.	19	Th	Introduction and Assignments
	24	T	Read Preface and Intro chapter; The collaborative process
	26	Th	Read Chapter 1; Performance space
	31	T	Read Chapter 4; Audience
Sept.	2	Th	Examples of audience experiences
	7	T	Read Chapter 2; Playwriting
	9	Th	Ball's analysis procedures and Read <u>The American Dream</u>
	14	T	Read <u>Split Second</u>
	16	Th	"
	21	T	Read Chapter 3; Acting
	23	Th	Acting exercises
	28	T	"
	30	Th	"
Oct.	5	T	<u>Antigone</u> papers due; Discuss play and production
	7	Th	Exam 1
	12	T	Read Chapter 5; Directing
	14	Th	Explore conceptualization
	19	T	Read <u>Execution of Justice</u>
	21	Th	"
	26	T	<u>Homecoming</u> papers due; Discuss play and production

	28	Th	Fall break; No class
Nov.	2	T	Read Chapter 6; Design
	4	Th	“
	9	T	“
	11	Th	“
	16	T	Read Chapter 7; Producing
	18	Th	“
	23	T	Exam 2
	25	Th	Thanksgiving Holiday; No class
	30	T	3 Final projects presented to class
Dec.	2	Th	3 Final projects presented to class
	7	T	Operates on Friday schedule; No class
	9	Th	Last day of class; Review and evaluations; Attendance mandatory

* Please Note: If I change anything on this schedule, I will discuss it with you in advance.