

University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
College of Humanities - Department of English
Undergraduate Program – Fall 2018

Course Title: Modern Drama: 1940-Present

Code: Ingles 4217; Credit Hours 3

Instructor: Marlene Aponte, J.D., MA TESL, Ph.D.(c), E-MAIL: marlene.aponte@upr.edu, phone during office hours (787)6274695 or leave message English Dept. (x-2553).

Classes: T &Th; 2:30-3:50am; Office Hours = T &Th, 11:30am-2:30 and by appointment.

Prerequisites: None

Text: Plays and essays will be available at Copies Unlimited or you can purchase them on your own or online. They include Endgame by Samuel Beckett; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams; The Lover by Harold Pinter; Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? By Edward Albee, Dutchman by Amiri Baraka; Norman Conquests by Alan Ayckbourn; Amadeus by Peter Schaffer; Glengarry Glen Ross by David Mamet; Suburbia by Eric Begosian; Ruined by Lynn Nottage plus stand-up and performance art pieces.

Description: This class is designed to explore many facets of dramatic literature including, studying theatre history and developing performance skills. The class is focused on Modern Drama beginning after World War II until the present. Through analysis and close reading, you will be better prepared to read, understand, and criticize plays. You will also be expected to watch a live performance of a play and write a critique on it. In addition, you will be participating as an actor or director in a series of final scenes at the end of the semester. By the end of the course, it is expected that you will have a strong understanding of different genres of contemporary plays. This may sound like a challenging course (it is!), but I guarantee that your enthusiasm and participation will make this adventure an exciting ride. Good luck!

**Course
Objectives:**

1. To gain a better critical understanding and aesthetic appreciation of drama.
2. To develop critical writing skills about drama.
3. To develop research skills.
4. To develop critical thinking skills
5. To be able to perform dramatic materials
6. To know the basic language of performance.

Scene

Project: 10 minute learned scene performed by two actors with one director. Written paper to be included.

Play Review: Write a two-page review of a theatre production.

Research

Project: Write a short research paper on the work of one of the playwrights we study and be prepared to make a short presentation in front of the class.

Exams: There will be one take-home exam.

Class

Participation: This class is a discussion and participation class. You are expected to contribute in the discussion and participate in performance exercises. You will be receiving an attendance/participation grade.

Grading: The course is based on 500 points. The breakdown is as follows: Exam = 200 pts.; Quizzes = 50 pts.; Performance Scene = 75 pts.; Play Critique = 50 pts.; Group Presentation = 50pts. Class Attendance/Participation = 75pts. Grade scale: 448-500 = A; 395-447 = B; 347-394 = C; 300-346 = D; 0-299 = F.

Class Schedule

Class Dates		Assignments
Tue Sept. 4th	Introduction/Modernism/Theory	Readings
Sept 6th	<u>Endgame</u> – Theatre of the Absurd	Read <u>Endgame</u>
Week Sept. 11-13	Quiz; <u>Endgame</u>	
Week Sept. 18-21	<u>Cat on A Hot Tin Roof</u> -Lyrical Realism	Watch Movie <u>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</u>
Week Sept. 25-27	Quiz; <u>The Lover – Minimalism</u>	
Week Oct. 2-4	Quiz; <u>Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf?</u> - Modern Naturalism	
Week Oct. 9-11	<u>Amadeus</u> - Historical Alienation	
Week Oct. 16-18	Quiz; <u>Glengarry Glen Ross</u> Performance Groups Forms	
Week Oct. 23-26	Quiz; <u>Suburbia</u> Pay Reviews Due	
Week Oct. 29 Nov.1	<u>Ruined</u>	
Week Nov. 5-8	No class- Practice for Final Scenes	
Week 13-15	Final Scenes	
November 20	Pick up corrected papers and Final Take Home Test	
Week of Nov. 26-29	Work on Final Exam	

Week of Dec. 4-6

Final Exam Due

Week of Dec. 11-13

Pick-up corrected Final Papers

****This schedule is subject to change. A total of 11.5 hours is reserved for alternate forms of instruction, if necessary.**

Law 51

Students receiving vocational rehabilitation services must contact the teacher at the beginning of the semester to plan reasonable accommodation and assistive equipment in accordance with the recommendations of the Office of Affairs for People with Disabilities (OAPI) of the Dean of Students. Also, those students with special needs who require some kind of assistance or accommodation should contact the teacher.

Reminders:

- You are expected to attend ALL classes and you should provide a WRITTEN excuse if you miss more than three classes.
- After the midterm, a written warning will be given to students whose work in class is inadequate (a “D” or “F” grade).
- Your requirements for passing this course include the following:

One Written Exam

One Group Playwright Research Project

One Performed Scene

One Theatre Review

Five Quizzes

- Any form of cheating will result in dismissal from the class.
- In order to receive an “A,” it is expected that you are contributing beyond the requirements of the course and are consistently scoring high grades on all your assignments.
- In order to receive a “B,” your work is consistently above standard and your work is on a level which is superior to the average.
- In order to receive a “C,” you are fulfilling the requirements of the course but are doing only the minimum needed to pass.
- I don’t expect to give out any “Ds” or “Fs.”

Plays:

Endgame, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Lover, Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf, Amadeus,
Glengarry Glenn Ross, Suburbia

Other plays you may read: Marisol. Dutchman, Mineola Twins, Beyond Therapy, All in the
Timing

What is a play? History?

What are the parts of a scene?

How to look at a play

Direct your own scene

*Syllabus by Chris Olsen, Ph.D. 2015, revised by Marlene Aponte, J.D., MA TESL, PH.D.(c)
2018.