


English 108: Reading Drama

Fall 2023

<p>Dr. Dejan Kuzmanovic dkuzmano@uwsp.com</p> <p>Tue/Thu, 2:00-3:15 p.m. CCC 305</p>		<p>Office Hours: Tue, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Thu, 12:45-1:45 p.m. and by appointment CCC 427</p>
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SAFE SPACE: A classroom must be a safe space for all students. Showing respect for everyone – regardless of their age, sex, race, ethnicity, religious or political opinions, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other forms of difference – is essential for our success and wellbeing. Follow the Golden Rule: treat others as you expect to be treated!

SENSITIVE CONTENT: Drama often deals with sensitive and controversial subjects, so it is crucial that we create a climate of safe and open discussion. Engage with the material with an open mind and a critical lens. Feel free to express your views, but also listen respectfully to what others have to say, even when you disagree. Try to understand where others come from and empathize with their experiences.

Some plays you will read include explicit sexual content and sexual vernacular (“obscene words”). If reading and discussing such content offends you, this class might not be the right choice for you.

PURPOSE: This course will help you explore techniques for reading drama as literature. We will read a variety of plays in diverse styles from different historical periods in order to understand their formal elements, how they draw from their cultural contexts, and how they relate to us as 21st century readers.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- Two Exams 400 points (200 points each)
- Two Short Essays 200 points (100 points each)
- Final Project 200 points
- Daily Work Grade 200 points

To pass the course, you must:

- **Take both exams, take part in the final project, and submit at least one essay.**
- **Earn at least 610 course points, including at least 122 daily work points.**
- **Miss no more than 5 class meetings, except for documented illness.**

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Important: This course uses the Canvas default grading system. You must earn at least 61% of the points for a passing grade. Avoid missing assignments. If you get an F on an assignment, you will still receive some points for it, but if you simply fail to turn it in, you will receive no points, which could lead to failure.

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

A = 940-1000 points	B- = 800-839 points	D+ = 670-699 points
A- = 900-939 points	C+ = 770-799 points	D = 640-669 points
B+ = 870-899 points	C = 740-769 points	D- = 610-639
B = 840-869 points	C- = 700-739 points	F = 0-609 points

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK (text rental):

The Bedford Introduction to Drama, 8th Edition (Bedford St. Martin's, 2018)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the completion of this Humanities course, you will be able to:

- Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts or cultural artifacts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition (such as the search for truth and meaning, the confrontation with suffering and mortality, or the struggle for justice, equality, and dignity).
- Investigate and thoughtfully respond to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than your own.

More specific course learning outcomes relate to your growing ability to:

- Analyze plays from diverse cultural contexts, both as dramatic literature and in performance, using appropriate aesthetic criteria, critical tools, and disciplinary terminology.
- Explain differences between key dramatic genres, and between drama and other literary genres.
- Describe how dramatic texts are shaped by their social, historical, and cultural contexts, but also reflect on perennial issues, still of concern to present-day readers and viewers.
- Understand motivations, values, and worldviews of dramatic characters very different from you.

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EXAMS:

You will take both exams in class as scheduled (see Course Calendar). Each exam will focus on the content covered in the few weeks before the exam. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions (possibly including identification of quoted passages) and short written responses (1-3 full paragraphs) to several questions about the readings. You will receive detailed guidelines in advance of the exam, which will specify the topics on which you should focus in preparation for the exam.

SHORT ESSAYS:

Each essay will be **3-4 pages** in length (no less than 800 words). The essays should be double spaced, with a common size-12 font (Calibri or Times New Roman), and one-inch margins. They should be posted in Canvas by the stated deadline (see Course Calendar). I will deduct half a letter grade for each day an essay is late.

One of the essay will be a **drama review**, based on your personal opinions about the meaning and contemporary relevance of the chosen play. For the other essay, you will write a **dramatic scene** (related to one of the readings) and a brief rationale explaining your choices. You will receive detailed prompts and instructions for each assignment.

FINAL PROJECT:

All final projects will be based on the last reading of the semester: Ayad Akhtar's play "Disgraced." However, you will choose from several options: comparative analysis, dramaturgical analysis, theatrical season analysis, and more. This project will probably have a group-work component. You will receive detailed instructions later.

TUTORING & LEARNING CENTER (TLC):

TLC helps students become more effective, confident learners. It offers these services:

- Academic coaching: Build study skills, time management, test-taking, etc.
- Course Content: Deepen understanding of content and prepare for exams.
- Reading/Writing: Develop reading skills, brainstorm & refine essays.
- Tech Essentials: Help with computer use and applications like Canvas & Zoom.

TLC tutors can help you at any stage of the writing process: brainstorming, outlining, drafting, or revising. They are located in CCC 234 (tlctutor@uwsp.edu; 715-346-3568). You can also self-schedule an appointment using Navigate. They provide both in-person and online services, which are free. For more info:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/writing-center.aspx>.

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DAILY WORK GRADE (attendance, pop-up quizzes, other assigned activities)

A = 188-200 pts	B = 168-173 pts	C = 148-153 pts	D = 128-133 pts
A- = 180-187 pts	B- = 160-167 pts	C- = 140-147 pts	D- = 122-127 pts
B+ = 174-179 pts	C+ = 154-159 pts	D+ = 134-139 pts	F = 0-121 pts

All students automatically receive 10 welcome points!

Pop-up quizzes & other assigned activities (100 points): There will be occasional unannounced reading quizzes worth 5-10 points at the start of class. They will consist of purely factual questions – simple and short – about the major characters and events in the reading assignment for that day. At other times, you will be asked to submit a few discussion questions or fill out a worksheet related to a reading. There may be other similar small assignments (5-10 points each).

Attendance (90 points): You can earn 6 points every week by being present in class – in body *and* in mind! Students who doze off, repeatedly check their phones, or appear inattentive in other ways will receive fewer, if any, points for that day.

Please turn off all electronic devices unless you use them only for taking notes. Texting, emailing, or Web browsing in class is not allowed because it will distract you and others from class activities. Regular and attentive attendance is an easy way to earn 90 points.

For the first few absences, you will merely lose attendance points (3 per class), but **if you miss more than 5 class meetings, you will fail the course.** I excuse only absences caused by documented medical reasons or official university business.

Extra points for in-class participation: At my discretion, I will award **up to 15 extra points** to students who make a strong effort to participate in class activities.

Keep in mind: We are simply a community of readers and learners helping each other understand the readings as fully as we can. Therefore, you don't need brilliant ideas; any relevant thought or question is valuable. Step outside of your comfort zone and speak up!

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ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

Being a Pointer entails rights and responsibilities. Be aware of UWSP policies regarding student conduct: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

You have the right to be free from physical or verbal harassment: Bullying is unacceptable. Be aware of policies regarding sexual assault and incidents of bias or hate, and how to report them (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You can report (anonymously if you prefer) any incident of interpersonal violence or bias-based hateful behavior.

Names and Pronouns: Let me know if you would like to be addressed by a different name from the one in official records or if you identify with pronouns other than “he” and “she” (ex.: “ze” or “they”). Please join me in doing our best to respect other people’s self-identification choices. If you want to learn more about why pronouns matter, visit <https://www.mypronouns.org/>.

UWSP provides **accommodations for students with a documented disability**. For the procedure and paperwork, please contact UWSP Disability Resource Center: drc@uwsp.edu; <https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>.

Plagiarism, cheating, and academic misconduct are serious violations. When unsure if certain actions are appropriate, please feel free to talk to me about it.

Academic integrity is important. Read more about it here:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>

AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area is essential preparation for a competitive workplace.

Copyright Note: All lecture materials and recordings are protected intellectual property. You may use them only for personal use related to class participation. Copying or sharing lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting them online or selling them to commercial entities constitutes illegal copyright infringement and violates university policies.

The English Department policy is that students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor.

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COURSE CALENDAR: The calendar is specific but tentative. We will be flexible and make changes as needed. All readings are from our textbook. The plays are indicated by the title, other texts by page numbers. Additional readings may be posted in Canvas.

Complete readings before the assigned date and always bring the text to class.

Without the text in front of you, you will not be fully able to participate in class activities, which will have a negative impact on your Daily Work Grade.

9/5 Introductions	10/31 Sheridan, <i>The Rivals</i> , Acts III-V
9/7 <i>The Rising of the Moon</i> (19-32)	11/2 Ibsen, <i>A Doll House</i> , Act I Nineteenth-Century Drama (594-605)
9/12 Glaspell, <i>Trifles</i>	11/7 Ibsen, <i>A Doll House</i> , Act II
9/14 Hansberry, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , Act I	11/9 Ibsen, <i>A Doll House</i> , Act III
	Sat. 11/11 Essay 2 due in Canvas
9/19 Hansberry, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , Act II	11/14 Contemporary Drama (1200-1218) Kushner, <i>Angels in America</i> , Act I
9/21 Hansberry, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , Act III	11/16 Kushner, <i>Angels in America</i> , Act II
9/26 Greek Drama (33-42)	11/21 Kushner, <i>Angels in America</i> , Act III
9/28 Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>	11/23 No class – Happy Thanksgiving!
Sat. 9/30 Essay 1 due in Canvas	
10/3 Medieval drama (202-209) Hrosvitha, <i>Dulcitius</i> (219-221)	11/28 Catching up, prep for Exam 2
10/5 Anonymous, <i>Everyman</i>	11/30 Exam 2 (in class)
10/10 Renaissance Drama (252-262) <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Acts I-II	12/5 Akhtar, <i>Disgraced</i> , Scenes 1-2
10/12 <i>A Midsummer Night's...</i> , Acts III-V	12/7 Akhtar, <i>Disgraced</i> , Scenes 3-4
10/17 Exam 1 (in class)	12/12 Discussion of Final Projects
10/19 No class – Instead, we will watch the UWSP production of <i>The Moors</i> .	12/14 Discussion of Final Projects
10/24 Discussion of <i>The Moors</i> (with guests)	Wed 10/20, 10:15-12:15
10/26 The Restoration (445-448) Sheridan, <i>The Rivals</i> , Acts I-II	There is no final exam, but we may meet for presentation & discussion of Final Projects.