

**ENG/CTA 3330 THEATRE: GREEK – ELIZABETHAN**

Fall 2006

TR 12n-1:40 p.m.

T4414

4 Credits

Dr. William Hodapp

T4126 723-5947

Hours: MW 3-4:30; TR 2-3:30 p.m.  
and by appointment

**TEXTS:** Available in the CSS Bookstore.

Beaumont, The Knight of the Burning Pestle (New Mermaid)

Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays, ed. Cawley (Everyman)

Machiavelli, The Mandrake, trans. Shawn (Dramatists Play Service)

Marlowe, Doctor Faustus, ed. Barnet (Signet)

Plautus, Four Comedies, trans. Segal (Oxford)

Ten Greek Plays in Contemporary Translations, ed. Lind (Riverside)

**COURSE:** In this course, we shall examine major historical developments in western theatre, beginning with Classical Greece, proceeding through the medieval period, and concluding with the Renaissance. We shall study dramatic texts in their theatrical, cultural, and historical contexts. This course, the first of two in a year-long sequence, is one of three core courses for the minor in Theatre. It also serves as an elective for the major or minor in English and the minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Finally, interested students can elect the course to fulfil Area IV (literature) or Area VIII (Fine Arts) in the College's general education program.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Become familiar with dramatic literature from Classical, medieval, and Renaissance periods of western culture;
- 2) Become familiar theatrical and generic conventions and developments from each period;
- 3) Become familiar with the historical and cultural contexts in which western drama developed and demonstrate an ability to discuss dramatic literature within those contexts;
- 4) Continue to develop and practice critical-analytical thinking, speaking, listening, and writing skills through various formal and informal writing and presentation assignments as outlined below.

**ENGLISH PROGRAM OUTCOMES (appropriate for this course):**

- Analyze, evaluate and place texts in context;
- Demonstrate an ability to understand texts from a variety of perspectives;
- Demonstrate an ability in writing to show due regard for audience and form;
- Demonstrate knowledge of grammar, mechanics and the conventions of standard English.

**BENEDICTINE LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION (Area IV and Area VIII):** As noted above, students can elect the course to fulfil Area IV (literature) or Area VIII (Fine Arts). As an Area IV course, ENG 3330 centers on reading dramatic literature in historical-cultural contexts. Writing exercises, examinations, in-class work, etc. focus on close reading, interpretation, and discussion of dramatic literature, particularly as the literature contributes to human culture. As an Area VIII course, ENG 3330 examines historical, cultural, critical, and theoretical dimensions of theatre as a fine art. Practice of historically-informed theatrical methods, and critical reflection on theatre productions, engage the imagination required to have produced theatrical performances in the past as well as to produce them in the present.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) **Readings:** play texts and other materials as scheduled or assigned.
- 2) **Class Participation/Presentations:** Active participation in class discussion and exercises is crucial. Exercises will include informal writing projects designed to help you prepare for discussion. You will also participate in group presentations on two of the three periods (classical and medieval). Working in teams on an assigned play, you will create a costuming plot appropriate for the period, enact a scene from the play, and explain interpretive and production issues of the scene. You will complete much of this work outside class for in-class presentation.
- 3) **Critical-analytical paper:** You will write one paper (1250-2000 words).
- 4) **Examinations:** There will be two term examinations and one final examination. The final will be comprehensive, covering the plays and historical developments.
- 5) **Performances/Critical Reviews:** You will attend three live theatre productions outside class time and write an informal critical-analytical response paper for each: the CSS production of William Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale (11/3-5, 9-12) and two plays of your own choosing (Guthrie, UM-D, UW-S, Duluth Playhouse, etc.). These non-CSS productions can be amateur or professional but should be aimed primarily at a public audience larger than parents and relatives (e.g., high-school level or higher – primary school productions, though entertaining for family and instructional for the children, wouldn't really fit this category; when in doubt, ask me).

**GRADES:** Your final course grades will be an average of five main grades: the paper, the two term exams, the final exam, and class performance. The class performance grade will be determined subjectively according to my judgment; it will depend on class participation, work on the presentations, informal writings, attendance, and the like.

## POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) **Readings:** Come to each class having read and prepared the text(s) scheduled for that day.
- 2) **Attendance:** More than three absences (two weeks or more) will lead to a full grade reduction.
- 3) **Plagiarism/Cheating:** If caught cheating or plagiarizing on a minor assignment (e.g., informal writing), the student will fail the assignment. If caught cheating or plagiarizing on a major assignment (e.g., presentation, paper, exam), the student will fail the course. In either case, a record of the incident will be forwarded to the Dean for possible further action (see the 2006-2007 Student Handbook for the College's Academic Honesty Policy). Simply stated: Do your own work.
- 4) **Timeliness:** I will not accept late work or reschedule examinations unless you have a fully documented excuse (medical, funeral, etc.). Due dates and exam dates are clearly marked on the schedule.
- 5) **Disability Accommodations:** Students with disabilities, physical or learning, are entitled to appropriate accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Access Center far enough in advance to allow a reasonable amount of time to approve of and provide the accommodation. Students must contact the Access Center at (218) 723-6552 to make such arrangements.

**SCHEDULE:** Readings TGP=Ten Greek Plays; FC=Four Comedies; EM=Everyman...

Note: If necessary, I shall announce adjustments of the schedule accordingly.

9/5	Introduction; Greek Theatre
9/7	Aeschylus, <u>Agamemnon</u> (TGP 33)
9/12	Aeschylus, <u>Agamemnon</u>
9/14	Sophocles, <u>Oedipus Rex</u> (TGP 111)

9/19 Euripides, Bacchae (TGP 325)  
9/21 Aristophanes, Lysistrata (TGP 365)

9/26 Aristophanes, Lysistrata; Roman Theatre  
9/28 Plautus, The Brothers Menaechmus (FC 75)

10/3 Classical Theatre Presentations  
10/5 Classical Theatre Presentations; Review

10/10 **Term Examination #1**; Medieval Theatre  
10/12 Medieval Latin Drama – Biblical Play (Handouts)

10/17 Medieval Latin Drama – Morality Play; Middle English; **Review #1 Due**  
10/19 Noah's Flood (EM 33)

10/24 Second Shepherd's Pageant (EM 75)  
10/26 No Class – Instructor attending College Trustee Meeting

10/31 The Crucifixion (EM 137)  
11/2 Everyman (EM 195); Folk Drama

**\*11/3-5, 9-12 CSS Theatre: William Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale**

11/7 Medieval Theatre Presentations  
11/9 Medieval Theatre Presentations; Review

11/14 **Term Examination #2**; Renaissance Theatre  
11/16 Machiavelli, The Mandrake

11/21 Machiavelli, The Mandrake; Elizabethan Theatre; **Review #2 Due**  
11/23 No Class – Thanksgiving Break

11/28 Marlowe, Doctor Faustus  
11/30 Marlowe, Doctor Faustus

12/5 Beaumont, The Knight of the Burning Pestle  
12/7 Beaumont, The Knight of the Burning Pestle

12/10 Jacobean Theatre (Handouts); **Paper Due**  
12/12 Jacobean Theatre; Semester Review; **Review #3 Due**

12/20 **Final Examination, 8:00 a.m., T4414**  
**DO NOT PLAN TO LEAVE TOWN EARLY; I WILL NOT RESCHEDULE THIS EXAMINATION**