

**INTRODUCTION TO PLAY ANALYSIS
DRAMA 1020**

Instructor: Roxanne Dicke

Office: L112

Phone: 539-2013

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To survey a selection of plays from various periods and genres with special attention given to the play's historical context and conventions of production.
- 2) To develop the student's skills in textual analysis, interpretation, and criticism (through both written and performed work).
- 3) To develop an understanding of the components of dramatic literature including:
 - a) structure and plot
 - b) characterization
 - c) use of language and silence
 - d) themes
 - e) style
- 4) To enhance the student's appreciation of drama, both written and performed.

COURSE CONTENT:

- **Reading:** We will be covering at least six plays from the text Understanding Plays (2nd Ed). You are expected to have read the assigned play prior to the class. You **can lose marks** for not being prepared to participate. The first play we will discuss is Sam Shepard's Buried Child.
- **Seminars:** Each student will be doing one fifteen minute presentation on a selected play from the course (two people will present on each play). As part of the grade for the seminar the student will submit a written summary of her/his presentation at the beginning of the class.
- **Theatre review:** Students are required to review a production. The review is to be handed in with the ticket stub and the program attached to it.

- **Essay:** Students will research and write one formal essay. **Note:** plagiarism will result in expulsion from the course. Refer to the MLA Handbook for information on documenting sources.
- **Monologue:** Each student will present a short monologue from a play studied in the course. A short (1-2 page) written component will be handed in after the presentation. This is not an acting class. The purpose of the exercise is to recognize the script as more than a literary work.
- **Take-home Exam:** In lieu of a final exam, you will be given a take-home exam on the last day of class. Again, **please note:** plagiarism or cheating will result in failure of the course.

COURSE BREAKDOWN:

- * Seminar Presentation and written summary (750 words): 25%
- * Theatre Review (750 words): 10%
- * Essay (1000 words): 25%
- * Monologue: 10%
- * Take-home Exam: 30%