

English Through Drama, Fall 2006
Instructor: Gord Sellar

Course Objectives:

- Development an understanding of dramatic structure and arc.
- Improvement of expressive use of English through practicing dramatic expression.
- Expansion of vocabulary and writing skills necessary to the drafting of a play-script.
- An increase in confidence in terms of public speaking through public spoken performance.

Course Overview:

In this course, students will engage with English language and culture through the medium of drama, in terms of acting in plays (not TV drama). Students will engage with drama in the following ways:

- Studying dramatic structure, and reading a play, watching a performance of it, and discussing it both as a text and a performance.
- Memorizing and performing a dramatic monologue and a part in a full play.
- Creating a dramatic play collaboratively with other students.
- Performing their play for a live audience one or more times toward the end of semester.

All students will be required to take part in both script production and dramatic performances.

Homework:

Homework for this class falls into the following categories:

- *Basic preparations* for classes should be performed by students regularly, not only for their own benefit but for the benefit of classmates who are depending on you to do your part. This course involves a lot of collaborative, interdependent work, but your contribution will be assessed individually. This may involve learning lines, pre-reading some text, or making script revisions.
- *Performances*: both your midterm and final exam will involve a dramatic performance. This means learning lines, preparing your costume and props, and so on. Students will have a reasonable amount of notice before the performance dates.
- *Written work*: The occasional written work assigned in this class must be typed (double-spaced) and include your name, student number, my name, and the course name and number. Submissions consisting of multiple pages should be numbered and stapled *or* paperclipped, but *not* submitted in plastic folders or binders to submit their work. Any work failing to meet these criteria will be returned to the student immediately for resubmission within 3 days. Plagiarism will bring *harsh* consequences.

Textbook:

We will not be using a textbook for this course. Instead, we will use occasional photocopies, as well as other media. You may at some point be required to pick up materials at a copy shop near campus, which will entail paying a small fee.

Should you wish to explore texts or other media not encompassed in this course, please feel free to ask me for recommendations. I will be more than happy to help you find materials which are suited to your needs and worth exploring.

Assessment:

- In-Class Participation – 20%
- Essay & Written Homework – 20%
- Script Production – 20%
- Dramatic Monologue (Midterm Exam) – 15%
- Final Performance – 25%

However, a 0% in any of the above marks will result in an incomplete grade. Students must at least attempt all work in this course in order to complete the course.

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