

Instructor: Dr. Jack Ramsey

Office: Arena Theatre

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:15 – Noon
Tuesday 9:30 - Noon

Texts

Gomes, Peter J. *The Good Life*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2002.

Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* (1916)

Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* (1879)

George Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara* (1905)

Bertolt Brecht's *Good Woman of Setzuan* (1938-40)

Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* (1947)

Anatol Fugard's "*Master Harold: . . .and the boys* (1982)

Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* (1982)

Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: Part One: Millenium Approaches* (1991)

Course Objectives

To study and analyze selected plays of modern dramatic literature (1875 – Present) that pose moral problems for the characters

To compare moral problems and resolutions in dramatic literature and life that deal with issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, as well as other concerns that compromise the modern moral life

To consider the moral and ethical issues in light of character perceptions and motivations and evaluate the consequences of decisions made and actions taken

To enhance the literary and theatrical study of dramatic literature through the consideration of historical, psychological, philosophical and theological perspectives

To develop analytical, oral and writing skills

To strengthen the listening and viewing skills of practical audience members through reading and performance

Course Requirements

Journal

Keep an electronic journal of responses to the reading and video (250 words minimum per entry,) for each play, beginning with *A Doll's House*, for a total of 5 responses. E-mail the response to designated students and the instructor no later than Noon on the Saturdays indicated in the "Calendar" with the total number of words indicated in square brackets [] at the end of the entry. Each response is worth twelve points: 2 points – on time, 2 points – 250 words, 3 points – focus on a specific moral issue, 2 points - inclusion of one relevant reference to the text under consideration, and 3 points – depth of thought. The 5 entries are worth a total of 60 points.

Submit in hard copy (on paper) the entire journal and an introduction and conclusion (for a total of 500 words) reflecting upon the entries and the process of maintaining and sharing the journal worth 40 points. This project is due April 26th. [15% of final grade]

Unannounced Quizzes

There will be approximately five – seven unannounced quizzes, covering reading assignments. [Average of quizzes worth 25% of final grade]

Paper

Select a play from those listed under "Texts," and focus on the character or theme central to that play. Find three critical essays that deal with the character or theme of the play selected. One of the three critical essays may be a theater review. A summary of one critical essay is due Wednesday, February 8th, another on Wednesday, March 1st, and a third on Wednesday, March 22nd. Using the three critical essays as your base and two additional sources, develop a 6-7 page paper that discusses the character or theme selected. The final paper will be due on Wednesday, April 12th. The summaries and the final paper should be typed and follow MLA format. You may not use the internet for more than one of the five sources. Each summary is worth 15 points and the final paper is worth 55 points.

[20% of final grade]

Character Analysis

Working in pairs, prepare an analysis of two major characters. Use the character analysis format provided, as well as what the character says, what the character does, what others say about the character and what the playwright says about the character, for an oral presentation, lasting no longer than 15 - 20 minutes. The presentation should include an interpretative reading of the characters from the play in support of your analysis. A two-paged, typed summary of the analysis should be submitted at the time of presentation.

[15% of final grade]

Visual Analysis of a Major Character

Use the "Character Analysis" format provided and Alexander Dean's "Effect of Composition on Audience Emotions" to analyze a major character in terms of line (path, width, continuity, sharpness, length, direction), color (hue, intensity value) mass (heaviness/lightness), form, and texture. After completing your verbal analysis, select a non-representational painting that visually illustrates this analysis of character. Bring the painting to class when you make your oral presentation to the class and submit a two paged, typed analysis (minimum). The oral presentation must run no longer than 15 minutes.

[15% of final grade]

Grades

The final grade will be computed according to the percentages noted in the course requirements. Late work will be penalized. Work that is handed in after the class period at which it is due will be penalized five points. Work that is more than one day late will be penalized ten points for each day of lateness. Similarly, since students are expected to attend class regularly, absences will be noted and will negatively affect a final grade. In addition to completing the course requirements, contributions such as discussion and reports will be considered in determining the final grade. [10% of final grade]

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D+	68
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65
A-	92	B-	82	C-	82	D-	62
						F	55

Academic Honesty

Refer to the statement on academic honesty at Moravian College in the current Student Handbook. Copies are available in the Academic Dean's file (acdean) on the Public (P:) Drive of the Moravian Intranet. You are responsible for keeping copies of all written work submitted to the instructor, as well as notes, drafts and materials used in preparing assignments. If in doubt about appropriate collaboration, proper documenta-tion and other honesty issues, ask the instructor.

Calendar

JAN	16 M	Introduction to the course	
	18 W	Reading: Glaspell's <i>Trifles</i>	
	23 M		
	25 W	Reading: Gomes [Introduction & Chapters 1 - 3]	
	30 M	Reading: Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> & character analysis due	
FEB	01 W	Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 2/4
	06 M	Visual Analyses due	
	08 W	Reading: Gomes [Chapters 4 - 5]	First summary due
	13 M	Reading: Shaw's <i>Major Barbara</i> & character analysis due	
	15 W	Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 2/18
	20 M	Visual analyses due	
	22 W	Reading: Gomes [Chapters 6 - 7]	
	27 M	Reading: Brecht's <i>Good Woman of Setzuan</i> & character analysis due	
MAR	01 W	Visual analyses due	Second summary due
	13 M	Reading: Miller's <i>All My Sons</i> & character analysis due	
	15 W	Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 3/18
	20 M	Visual analyses due	
	22 W	Reading: Gomes [Chapters 8 - 9]	Third summary due
	27 M	Reading: Fugard's " <i>Master Harold</i> " . . . <i>and the boys</i>	
			& character analysis due
	29 W	Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 4/1
APR	03 M	Visual analyses due	
	05 W	Reading: Churchill's <i>Top Girls</i> & character analysis due	
	10 M	Visual analyses due	
	12 W	Reading: Kushner's <i>Angels in America: Part One: Millennium Approaches</i> & Character analysis due	Research paper due
	17 M	Easter Break	
	19 W	Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 4/22
	24 M	Video	
	26 W	Reading: Gomes [Chapters 10 – 11 & Conclusion]	Journal due