

English 232 Art of the Theatre

Instructor: Dr. Jack Ramsey

Office: Arena Theatre

**Office Hours by Appointment: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:15 - Noon
Thursdays 10 - Noon**

Texts

Downs, William Missouri, Lou Anne Wright, and Erik Ramsey. *Experiencing the Art of Theatre*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2007.

Gardner, Janet, ed. *12 Plays: A Portable Anthology*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003.

Objectives of the Course

To translate the literary estimate of plays into theatrical reality through the analysis of given circumstances, dramatic action, characters, language, idea and spectacle

To identify and to correlate the physical elements of play production: theater spaces, scenery, costumes, lighting and sound

To understand the primary responsibilities of participants in play production: playwrights, performers, directors, and designers

To recognize the essential historical and aesthetic developments in drama and theater from the Greeks to the present

To express an informed, independent judgement of live theatre performances in a clear and cogent manner

Attendance

Students are expected to participate in class activities and contribute to class discussion. More than two unexcused absences will lower the final grade in the course one-letter grade. In case of illness, see that the work reaches the instructor by the class period it is due. In other words do not wait until the day before an assignment is due to begin work on that assignment.

Grades

The criteria for grades include clarity of purpose, organization, quality of material, expression, and mechanics. The final grade in the course will be the average of the graded projects outlined in "Requirements of the Course." All written assignments submitted for grades must be typed. Any work that is received after the class period it is due will be penalized six points.

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D+	68
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72	D-	62

Students should expect to work four to six hours per week outside of class to complete the "Requirements of the Course." Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion

Academic Honesty Policy

Please consult the Student Handbook concerning College academic honesty standards. Copies are available in the Academic Dean's file (acdean) on the Public (P) Drive of the Moravian Intranet. Keep 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 documentation and other honesty issues, ask the instructor.

Requirements of the Course

15%	Average of the best three of five unannounced quizzes
15%	Oral response to chapter discussion questions & typed copy
20%	Play analysis & typed copy
15%	Character analysis & typed copy
15%	Theater review (typed copy due by Monday, November 29)
20%	Mood Collage / Trash Fashion (oral analysis, visual & typed copy)

*Students who satisfactorily complete 50 hours working on the production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* may have their lowest two grades for projects receiving 15% credit changed to A or B, depending upon the quality of the work.

Calendar

August

28 M Activities: Distribute syllabus
 Preview assignments

30 W Reading: Chapters 1, 2 & 3 [1 – 77]
 Activities: Lecture/Discussion

September

4 M Labor Day No class

6 W Activities: Chapters 3, 4 & 5 [78 – 131]

11 M Reading: Chapter 10: “Theatre’s Beginnings” [238 – 271]
 Activities: Discussion

13 W Reading: *Oedipus Rex*
 Activities: Play Analysis

25 M Activities: Character Analyses / Video

27 W Reading: Chapter 6: “The Playwright and the Script” [132 - 157]
 Activities: Discussion

October

2 M Reading: *Endgame*
 Activities: Play Analysis

4 W Activities: Character Analyses / Video

9 M Fall Break – No class

11 W Reading: Chapter 11: “Theatre’s Revival in Europe” [272 - 305]
 Activities: Discussion

16 M Reading: *Hamlet*
 Activities: Play Analysis

18 W Activities: Character Analyses / Video

23 M Reading: Chapter 7: “The Art of Acting” [158 – 183]

Activities: Discussion

25 W *The Diary of Anne Frank* at the Ice House No Class

30 M Reading: *The Cherry Orchard*
Activities: Character Analyses / Video

November

1 W Activities: Play analysis

6 M Reading: Chapter 9: "The Art of Design" [210 - 237]
Activities: Lecture - Assign Mood Collage / Trash Fashion

8 W Reading: Chapter 12: "Modern Theatre" [306 - 339]
Activities: Discussion

13 M Reading: *Death of a Salesman*
Activities: Play Analysis

15 W Activities: Character Analyses / Video

20 M Reading: Chapter 8: "The Art of Directing" [184 - 209]
Activities: Discussion

22 W Thanksgiving Break No class

27 M Reading: *The Piano Lesson*
Activities: Play Analysis

29 W Activities: Character Analyses / Video

December

4 M Activities: Mood Collage / Trash Fashion

6 W Activities: Mood Collage / Trash Fashion

11 M Activities: Mood Collage / Trash Fashion
