

Instructor: Dr. Jack Ramsey

Office: Arena Theatre

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 11:15 – Noon
Mondays & Wednesdays 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)

Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden* (1991)

Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: Part One: Millennium 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

- Attend class regularly. If more than two unexcused absences occur, the final course grade will be lowered one full letter grade.
- Read all assigned plays and supplementary materials.
- Participate in all class activities.
- Summarize reading in Gomes and prepare discussion questions for class. Failure to complete this assignment adequately may lower the final grade by 0.33.
- Respond to all the plays and videos (250 words minimum per entry), except Brecht's *Good Woman of Setzuan*. E-mail your response to designated students and instructor no later than Noon on dates indicated in the "Calendar." Each response must include the total number of words indicated in square brackets [] at the end of the entry. Each response is worth fifteen points: 2 points – on time, 3 points – 250 words, 5 points – focus on a specific moral issue, and 5 points – depth of thought. (Total of 90 points) Submit in hard copy (on paper) the entire journal and an introduction (10 points) reflecting upon the entries and the process of maintaining and sharing the journal. (Due date: April 26th) [20% of final grade]
- Complete five quizzes covering Gomes and plays. The average of the five will determine 20% of final grade.
- Select a play from those listed under "Texts" to focus on a character or theme central to that play. Using a minimum of three critical essays that deal with your choice of character or theme, develop a 3-5 page paper. (Due date: March 29th) [20% of final grade]
- Present an analysis of the play under discussion, working in groups of three and using the format provided. (40 minutes) Submit a typed hard copy of the oral presentation. Do not read to the class – speak to the class. [20 % of final grade]
- 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 10 - 12 minutes. [20% 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. MLA format is to be used for all written assignments.

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 documentation and other honesty issues, ask the instructor.

Calendar

JAN	16 T	Introduction to the course	
	18 Th	No Class	
	23 T 25 Th	Reading & Discussion: Glaspell's <i>Trifles</i> Reading: Gomes [Introduction & Chapters 1 - 3]	
	30 T	Reading: Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> Activity: Play Analysis	
FEB	01 Th	Activity: Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 2/4
	06 T 08 Th	Activities: Visual Analyses Reading: Gomes [Chapters 4 - 5] & Quiz	
	13 T	Reading: Shaw's <i>Major Barbara</i> Activity: Play Analysis	
	15 Th	Activity: Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 2/18
	20 T 22 Th	Activities: Visual Analyses Reading: Gomes [Chapters 6 - 7] & Quiz	
	27 T	Reading: Brecht's <i>Good Woman of Setzuan</i> Activity: Play Analysis	
MAR	01 Th	Activities: Visual Analyses	
	13 T	Reading: Miller's <i>All My Sons</i> Activity: Play Analysis	
	15 Th	Activity: Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 3/18
	20 T 22 Th	Activities: Visual Analyses Reading: Gomes [Chapters 8 - 9] & Quiz	
	27 T	Reading: Fugard's " <i>Master Harold</i> " . . . <i>and the boys</i> Activities: Play Analysis	
	29 Th	Activities: Visual Analyses Research paper due	
APR	03 T 05 Th	Activity: Video Reading: Gomes [Chapters 10 – 11 & Conclusion] & Quiz	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 4/2
	10 T	Reading: Dorman's <i>Death and the Maiden</i> Activity: Play Analysis	
	12 Th	Activity: Video	Electronic journal entry due by Noon 4/15
	17 T 19 Th	Activities: Visual Analyses Reading: Kushner's <i>Angels in America: Part One: Millennium Approaches</i> Activity: Play Analysis	
	24 T 26 Th	Video & Quiz Journal due	