KAP THEATER: DRAM 111: INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATER SYLLABUS
2014-2015
Laurel School, Shaker Heights OH
Instructor: Leighann DeLorenzo

Below is the curricular progression of the course as covered through lectures, assigned readings, in-class readings, assigned problems, theatrical events, performance works as well as a critical writing component.

Due dates will be announced as each assignment is presented. Timeline for each content piece is fluid. This is the first year for this course at Laurel School and as such we will discover the time needed for time on task together. Additional essays, problems and plays will be forthcoming as we reconvene for **second semester**.

CONTENT/ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS
- Introduction. Assign Problem 1
- Poetics 7-11
- Essay, Michael, "Introduction,"
- THE PIANO LESSON
- Perform Problem 1. Written work due.
- A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
- Artaud, "Metaphysics and the Mise en Scene"
  WHAT IS A PLAY?
- Poetics 1-6
- Langer, "The Dramatic Illusion."
- CHARACTER/ACTING SIN
- Mamet, "He's The Kind of Guy Who"
- Individual meetings to discuss Problem 2
- Perform Problem 2. Written work due.
- Perform Problem 2. Assign Problem 3
- STORY AND PLOT OEDIPUS REX;
- Poetics 15-18
- Wilder, "Some Thoughts on Playwrighting."
- Attend fall production of Lorca's The House of Bernarda Alba
- Written work for production assigned
- Perform problem 3. Written work due.

KENYON AP THEATER COURSE DESCRIPTION/NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTOR: Leighann DeLorenzo

Regular class hours are Dream and Dare weeks: First Period 8:26-9:14AM, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. First and second semester.

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines how theater differs from other arts and how theatrical artists go about their jobs in bringing a play to life on stage. This examination is accomplished through a series of performance or creative assignments. The class will meet for eight periods over a ten day rotation. Plays, problems, and exercises are performed and discussed in this time frame as well as for lectures and demonstrations. The course explores what a play is and how it is structured. Assignments consist of a series of playwriting problems and one acting problem, which students perform in class working in teams. In addition, students read at least seven plays and a series of essays about the theory and practice of the theater, complete a series of brief written assignments, and take written examinations. As a culmination of the work, each student writes, directs, and presents to the class a final short play, working with fellow students. Any student with a general interest in the theater will find this a challenging course, regardless of previous experience. Because this course is an introduction to the arts of the theater, it has no prerequisite, but it is a prerequisite to many of the other courses in the Kenyon College theatre department.

II. **TEXT AND SUPPLIES**

POETICS, Aristotle
THE PIANO LESSON, August Wilson
THE OEDIPUS CYCLE, Sophocles
SIN, Wendy McLeod
MISS JULIE, August Strindberg
MEASURE FOR MEASURE, William Shakespeare
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, William Shakespeare
2nd sem: SLOWGIRL by Greg Pierce, MOTHER COURAGE, Bertolt Brecht

III. CLASS ATTENDANCE

In this course there will be many performance exercises, which by their nature will require an audience and /or your comments and participation. If you do not attend class regularly, your grade will be lowered per instructor's discretion. Please contact me via email if you are ill and will not be in attendance for more than one class meeting.

IV. ATTENDANCE

You are required to attend both of the Laurel School Performing Arts productions. Class discussions make use of these experiences; examinations questions may be based on these productions.

V. MANUSCRIPT FORM

All written work must be typed or word processed.
All scripts for problems must be presented in proper play manuscript form. A sample will be included in Problem 1. This will be helpful for many reasons, among them judging the time it will take to perform your text.

VI. DEADLINES

You must present your work on the day it has been assigned. You are responsible for all the actors in your group. An absent or tardy actor is not an excuse for late work.

VII. GRADING

Your course grade will be based on exercises and problems, a mid-term examination and a final examination. Grading is the subjective evaluation of your work based on structural understanding, the originality of your voice, the inherent theatricality of your work; each piece of work will be rated on the standard College scale. If you do average work, you will receive an average grade which is a C+.

A+ , A   Outstanding   A-, B+ B   Above average
B-, C+, C Satisfactory   C-, D+, D Unsatisfactory
D-, F   Inadequate

Your preliminary grade for the semester will be determined according to the following formula:

Problems 1-3: 30%
Problem 4: 20%
Final Exam: 30%
Participation: 20%

Because the emphasis on this course is on "doing," performance and practical problems will weigh more heavily in grading than will written work. Unless otherwise indicated, such will count twice as much as the written assignments.

There will be a final examination each semester.

Your instructor may adjust your final grade based on the quality of your participation and contribution to class discussion. Some exercises will involve working in groups or pairs. If you fail to live up to this responsibility, your grade will be lowered. Every student is to appear in at least 5 projects over the duration of the course. If you do not meet this minimum expectation, your grade will be lowered.

VIII. **ACADEMIC HONESTY**
The rules of both Kenyon College and Laurel School regarding academic honesty apply to all work done for this course. There is a very fine and indistinct line between the legitimate "borrowing" of source material for theatrical use, and the illegal plagiarizing of the original work of other artists.
If you base your work for this course on any external source, cite that source or any written work you submit, and orally when you present in the class.