



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2021 Summer Program

ENG 310 Dramatic Literature

Course Outline

Course Code: ENG 310

Instructor: Dr. Musa Gurnis

Home Institution: Washington University in St Louis

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: musa.gurnis@aol.com

Credit: 4

Course Description:

This course introduces students to foundational texts in Western drama, from the Greeks through Shakespeare to the present, as well to essential dramatic theory. Students will learn how to interpret the semiotics of a play, and to locate dramatic texts in their social contexts. The class also asks students to consider performance choices as textual interpretations with social stakes for living audiences, and to engage with the plays as creative interpreters imagining productions of their own.

Required Textbooks:

Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*

Euripedes, *Medea*



Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

York Mystery Cycle, *The Crucifixion* (pdf)

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*

Lolita Chakrabarti, *Red Velvet*

Short theoretical readings from Aristotle, Bertolt Brecht, and Augusto Boal (pdfs)

Grading & Evaluation:

Students will write a substantive, thoughtful paper each week (5-7 pages). Two of these will be analytical essays discussing the play's meaning, with attention both to the formal elements of the drama and its social context. The other two papers ask you to think like a director and make a detailed proposal for your own staging of the play, discussing the rationale behind specific choices in casting, costuming, set design, lighting, as well as concept. In other words, these papers ask you to discuss your own imagined production as a reading of the text. Each of these papers is worth 25% of your grade. Students are free to choose which kind of essay they write which week, but it is your responsibility to make sure that you write both two analytical pieces as well as two production proposals.

A+:4.3——95-100

A :4.0——87-94

A -:3.7——82-86

B+:3.3——78-81

B :3.0——75-77

B -:2.7——71-74

C+:2.3——68-70

C :2.0——65-67

C -:1.7——61-64



D :1.0——55-60

E :0.0——49-54

X :0.0——0

Course Schedule:

Week1

Monday: Introductions

Tuesday: Aeschylus, *The Oresteia: Agamemnon*

Wednesday: *The Oresteia: Libation Bearers*

Thursday: *The Oresteia: Eumenides*

Saturday: Paper 1 Due

Week2

Monday: Euripedes, *Medea*

Tuesday: Euripedes, *Medea*

Wednesday: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

Thursday: York Mystery Cycle, *The Crucifixion*

Saturday: Paper 2 Due

Week3

Monday: William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Tuesday: *Hamlet*

Wednesday: *Hamlet*

Thursday: *Hamlet*

Saturday: Paper 3 Due



Week4

Monday: John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*

Tuesday: *The Beggar's Opera*

Wednesday: Lolita Chakrabarti, *Red Velvet*

Thursday: Conclusions.

Saturday: Paper 4 Due

