

COURSE SYLLABUS
ENG 299A: Introduction to Theatre
Spring Semester 2012
Thursdays, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Department:	English	Instructor:	Keith Ramsdell
Credit Hours:	3.0 semester hours	Office:	MOT 3, Room 104
Prerequisites:	None	Phone:	419-517-8881
General Education:	N/A	Email:	kramsdell@lourdes.edu

Learning Outcomes: (I.B) Use knowledge, theories, or methods appropriate to the arts to understand their context and significance.

Office Hours: By appointment

I. Course Description: Provides an overview of the fundamental elements and collaborative nature of theatre. Examines the roles and responsibilities of the audience, the performers, the director, the playwright, and the designers. Considers historical perspectives of theatre, global theatre, and theatre of diversity, in addition to the relationship between theatre and society. Requires students to watch films in class and attend at least one live theatrical performance to provide context and real-world examples.

II. Purpose of the Course: The primary purpose of the course is to help students develop their knowledge of how theatre works, as well as their understanding of and appreciation for theatre as a performance art form.

III. College Learning Outcomes and Objectives:
(I.B) Use knowledge, theories, or methods appropriate to the arts to understand their context and significance.

IV. Program Learning Outcomes: Not applicable

V. Course Objectives:

Students will learn to –

1. Explain how the fundamental elements of theatre work and interact.
2. Analyze and discuss the fundamental elements of theatre logically and intelligently. (I.B)
3. Critique a theatrical performance using methods of criticism accepted within the discipline. (I.B)
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical significance of theatre and its role in society. (I.B)
5. Articulate the similarities and differences between theatre and the other fine arts.
6. Value and appreciate the effort that goes into producing a live theatrical event.

VI. Policies:

1. Emergency Response

In case of a tornado, we will proceed to the nearest shelter. For this course, the shelter is located in the basement of SCH. In case of a fire, we will proceed in a calm and efficient manner to the nearest exit. For this course, the nearest exit is down the hall to the left at the bottom of the stairway. Do not use the elevator. Do not block building entrances once you are outside.

2. Statement on Disabilities

If you have documented a disability with the Director of Disability Services, please discuss with your instructor

- the adaptations or accommodations you have established with the Director of Disability Services
- emergency medical information, and/or
- special arrangements to be implemented if the building must be evacuated

3. Statement on Academic Honesty

Refer to the "Academic Dishonesty" section in the Student Handbook.

4. Statement on Academic Grievance

Refer to the "Academic Grievance Policy" section in the Student Handbook.

5. Attendance/Participation

Regular attendance and participation in class are expected. Any student who misses three (3) or more class meetings without documentation of a reasonable excuse may be asked to withdraw from the course. It is the student's responsibility to obtain notes and assignments from a classmate when absent.

6. Course Evaluation

A letter grade will be assigned based upon a 300 point course maximum and the following requirements and point distributions:

A (280 pts.)	B+ (260 pts.)	C+ (230 pts.)	D+ (200 pts.)
A- (270 pts.)	B (250 pts.)	C (220 pts.)	D (190 pts.)
	B- (240 pts.)	C- (210 pts.)	D- (180 pts.)
			F (< 180 pts.)

Attendance:	15 points	5%
Quizzes:	60 points	20%
Midterm:	90 points	30%
Final Exam:	90 points	30%
Performance Critique:	<u>45 points</u>	<u>15%</u>
	300 points	100%

Tests: A series of quizzes, a midterm and a final exam will be given during the semester. The quizzes will only cover the assigned play for that specific week, while the midterm and the final exam will cover all reading assignments including textbook material as well as the assigned plays. Make up tests will only be given with an excused absence and must be taken within two weeks of the original test date. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor by e-mail or by phone to arrange for a make up test. Quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances; however, the lowest quiz grade for the semester will automatically be dropped.

Performance Critique: Students will write a critique of any live theatrical performance attended during the current semester. Topics may include any aspect of the theatre discussed in this course; however, *the paper should not be a synopsis of the play*. To earn full credit, the paper must be 800 to 1,000 words in length, typed and double-spaced. A cover page should include: student name, course number, production title, name of theatre company, and date attended. Papers must be uploaded to Sakai in Word format. Late papers will not be accepted!

7. Statement on Recording

Refer to the "Recording Policy" section in the Student Handbook.

VII. Required Text: Wilson, E. (2011). *The Theatre Experience*, New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Required Plays:

*The Man in a Case	by Wendy Wasserstein
Our Town	by Thornton Wilder
The Glass Menagerie	by Tennessee Williams
West Side Story	by Bernstein & Sondheim
A Raisin in the Sun	by Lorraine Hansberry
*The Sandbox	by Edward Albee
The Odd Couple	by Neil Simon

* Play provided by instructor

VIII. Course Schedule

DATE	TENTATIVE DISCUSSION TOPICS	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Thursday, Jan 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review syllabus Experiencing Theatre: Past and Present <i>The Man in a Case</i> 	
Thursday, Jan 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Audience: Its Role and Imagination Background and Expectations of the Audience <i>The Man in a Case</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapters 2, 3 <i>The Man in a Case</i>
Thursday, Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting <i>Our Town</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 5 <i>Our Town</i>
Thursday, Feb 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Director and the Producer <i>Our Town</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 6
Thursday, Feb 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating the World of the Play <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 7 <i>The Glass Menagerie</i>
Thursday, Feb 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dramatic Structure and Dramatic Characters <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 8
Thursday, Mar 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Midterm
Thursday, Mar 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Class - Spring Break 	
Thursday, Mar 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical Theatre <i>West Side Story</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 13 <i>West Side Story</i> (in class)
Thursday, Mar 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tragedy, Comedy, and Tragicomedy <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 9 <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
Thursday, Mar 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary American Theater <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 15
Thursday, Apr 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Class – Easter Break 	
Thursday, Apr 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Audience Views the Stage: Theatre Spaces <i>The Odd Couple</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 4 <i>The Odd Couple</i>
Thursday, Apr 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenery <i>The Odd Couple</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapter 10
Thursday, Apr 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Class 	
Thursday, May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage Costumes Lighting and Sound <i>The Sandbox</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Chapters 11, 12 <i>The Sandbox</i>
Thursday, May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Final Exam Performance Critique