

THR 3735: Modern Theatre History and Literature

Spring 2018

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Office hours: M 2:30-3:30, T 3:00-5:00 and by appointment

TEXTS

REQUIRED RENTAL

Wadsworth Anthology of Drama. 6th ed. Ed. W.B. Worthen. Boston: Wadsworth, 2011.

REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE

Roger, J.T. *Oslo*. Any edition.

Nottage, Lynn. *Sweat*. Any edition.

OPTIONAL PURCHASES

Brockett, Oscar and Franklin Hildy. *History of the Theatre*. Any edition 5th edition or later. Available from online booksellers.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

THR 3735 Modern Theatre History and Literature

This course explores the history, literature, and criticism of the theatre in the modern period through today. The course will focus predominantly on American and European theatre, but will also include studies of some African, South American, and Asian theatre.

COURSE OVERVIEW, FORMAT, AND METHODOLOGY

We will have two guiding questions for this course:

“What is Theatre Capable Of?”

One of the distinctive features of the theatre styles we are studying from the modern period is that most of the theatre artists who worked in those styles were striving to achieve something with theatre beyond entertaining and moving audiences. While these are fundamental and important functions of theatre performance, modern theatre artists were also interested in discovering what

else theatre is capable of. In this class, we will explore what theatre can achieve by analyzing the work of these theatre artists.

“Why This Play Now?”

As we study plays, we will repeatedly ask this question, posed by Michael Mark Chemers in his book *Ghost Light: An Introductory Handbook for Dramaturgy*. Sometimes the “now” will be the past—why did the artists who worked on the first production of this play decide it was important to produce in that historical moment? And sometimes the “now” will be today—why should (or shouldn’t) we be reading or producing this play at this historical moment?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is a requirement for all theatre majors and addresses the following learning outcomes for B.A. degrees in Theatre:

- 1.A. Analyze scripts and other texts using methods suitable to purpose and audience
- 1.B. Evaluate how an individual or group’s personal, historical, and cultural perspectives affect how they perceive and respond to creative products
- 1.C. Interpret forms of creative expression within various historical and contemporary contexts and theoretical frameworks

This course is also the General Education Junior Writing in the Major course for theatre majors and addresses the following learning outcomes related to General Education Program goals one and two:

- 1. Thinking Critically and Creatively
 - Demonstrate the ability to analyze theatre texts
 - Evaluate how your own perspectives affect how you perceive and respond to creative products
- 2. Communicating Effectively
 - Demonstrate the ability to write in theatre-related genres
 - Reflect upon your own academic writing
 - Document sources in a format appropriate to each writing situation

This course also addresses the following QEP learning outcome:

- 3.D. Identify some of the ethical and moral questions that underlie a given transaction between countries

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a lecture and discussion centered class, so most of the learning takes place in the classroom. You must come to class in order to effectively learn the material. **For every absence beyond the third your final grade will drop by half a letter grade.** I make no distinction between excused or unexcused absences--you can miss class for whatever reason, but if you miss more than three, you lose points. If you need to miss

class for an official university-sponsored event (such as a field trip or game if you are involved in a sport), you will still be counted absent but I will give you an opportunity to make up the points you lose for the absence. Bring me a letter (on letterhead) from the supervising faculty or staff member stating why you will miss class and I'll give you a makeup assignment worth 35 points. If you are going to miss a day when you are scheduled to take an exam and you inform me that you will be absent **before** the class meeting, I may reschedule your exam or presentation. Also, please don't be late--you disrupt the class. **Three tardies equals an absence**, so lateness can affect your final grade. If you are late, it is your responsibility to inform me of your presence at the end of class; if you fail to do so, you may be counted absent that day.

TURNING IN WORK

I will not give you any credit for work that you turn in late (this includes work turned in after the class period on the due date). You must turn in assignments in on AsULearn before class on the day they are due. The only exception is if you are sick or have an emergency and you contact me BEFORE the class and explain your situation—then I may allow you to turn in that day's assignment late.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY

All ASU students are allowed a minimum of two absences per year for religious observances. Up to two absences for such observances will be excused, without penalty to the student, provided that the student has informed the instructor in the manner specified in the syllabus. Notice must be given by the student to the instructor before the absence occurs and no later than three weeks after the start of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. Arrangements will be made to make up work missed by these religious observances, without penalty to the student. For the purposes of this policy, ASU defines the term "religious observance" to include religious holidays, holy days, or similar observances associated with a student's faith that require absence from class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE

I. Introduction

Appalachian State University's Academic Integrity Code is designed to create an atmosphere of trust, respect, fairness, honesty, and responsibility. The Academic Integrity Code outlines "user-friendly" procedures and mechanisms for resolving alleged violations of academic integrity. The Academic Integrity Code is the result of cooperation among Appalachian's faculty, students, and administrators, and promotes a campus dialogue

about academic integrity. All members of the Appalachian State University community are responsible for promoting an ethical learning environment.

II. The Academic Integrity Code

(http://studentconduct.appstate.edu/index.php?module=pagesmith&uop=view_page&id=2)

Students attending Appalachian State University agree to abide by the following Code:

- o Students will not lie, cheat, or steal to gain academic advantage.
- o Students will oppose every instance of academic dishonesty.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Appalachian is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you have a disability and may need reasonable accommodations in order to have equal access to the University's courses, programs and activities, please contact the Office of Disability Services (828.262.3056 or www.ods.appstate.edu). Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WITH COURSES

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at "providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers" as well as "maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students." Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

THEATRE AND DANCE LISTSERV

TADA@list.appstate.edu - You can receive weekly departmental news and happenings from this list. Sign up for TADA online at <http://www.theatre.appstate.edu/current-students>. Post to TADA by emailing **ready-to-publish text** to asutheatre@appstate.edu by Fridays at noon.

GRADING

Style analyses (13/14)	325
Individual reflections (4)	100

Final reflection	100
Group presentation	100
Paper proposal	40
Paper self-assessment	10
Final paper	150
Season play proposal	30
Season play presentation	25
<u>Exams (2)</u>	<u>120</u>
TOTAL	1000 points

A	930-1000
A-	900-929
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
F	0-599

ASSIGNMENTS

Details of all assignments are on the course AsULearn site.