Dr. Biling Chen

Introduction to Drama, fall 2017

Office: IRBY314

Office Hours: MWF 10:50-11:50; MW 1:00-4:00 PM

F 1:00-2:00 PM

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**Required Text: The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama** (seventh edition)

**Course Description and Objectives: T**his course offers an introduction to the development of Western drama from the ancient time to the contemporary era. The reading assignments are form-specific and theme-based. Students are expected to gain knowledge about the stylistic differences among Greek tragedy, Renaissance romance, nineteenth-century realistic play, satiric comedy, modern and contemporary experimental theatre, in addition to **the moral and ethical values different eras hold towards scoundrels, rebels, damsels and dames**.

**Grading System:**

1. 100 points: class attendance, active participation, and courtesy

2. 100 points: quizzes and group discussions

3. 200 points: first oral presentation (3 minutes); first paper (2-3 pages).

4. 200 points: second oral presentation; (3 minutes); second paper (2-3 pages).

5. 200 points: midterm exam

6. 200 points: final exam

**Final Grades:**

900-1000 points: A

800-899 points: B

700-799 points: C

600-699 points: D

**Class Policies:**

1. You are expected to buy, borrow, or co-own the textbooks, because reading the assignments is essential. I sympathize but do not accept such excuses as your parents’ inability or unwillingness to help you financially; or the Financial Aid Office’s failure to give you a loan on time, etc.
2. Before class begins, please turn off your cell-phone, beeper, iPod, or any other electronic devices; or use the restroom. Disruptive behavior, including tardiness, cheating during the exams, chatting or leaving the class in the mid of my lecture or your classmates’ presentations, will not be tolerated. **Each of the** **violations will cost you 10 points of your attendance and participation grade.**
3. Quizzes will be given before, during, or after my lecture. I will not repeat the questions or extend the time if you cannot finish the quiz because of your own tardiness. Any missed in-class activities, for example, quizzes and group discussions **cannot be made up**.
4. You can make up your missed oral presentations and exams **within a week only if you present proofs**, such as a program of the funeral you attended, a doctor’s note on the hospital’s letterhead, a receipt from the garage to which you sent your car to be repaired, etc.
5. I take attendance every class period. You should also keep track of your own absences. You are allowed to miss 4 classes without penalty—there is no need to inform me of your absences within this limit, no matter whether you have any valid excuses. Missing 5 classes will lead to your final grade one letter lower. (In other words, if the average grade of your written, verbal, and other performances is B, you will receive C instead.) Y**ou will not pass this course if you miss 6 or more classes.**
6. It is your responsibility to borrow notes from others if you are absent. Please do not email me to request that I fill you in what you have missed.
7. Plagiarism is a crime. Use MLA documentation format if you consult secondary sources for your papers. A plagiarized paper receives an F.
8. I do not accept late papers or email versions of them. If you get sick, make sure that you find someone to bring your paper to me on the due day before 4:00 P.M.
9. I will deduct **5 points** from your **unstapled paper**. Please do not ask me for staples.
10. The final exam will take place in the time slot that the registrar assigns the class. **Please do not request an earlier final exam**.
11. If you have learning disability and need extra time writing your exams, please visit UCA Office of Disability Services (TEL: 450-3613) and have them mail me the proper documentation to demonstrate your special need before 9/8.
12. Check the Student Handbook regarding Sexual Harassment and Academic Policies.
13. The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the University’s Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy.
14. Student evaluations of a course and its professor are a crucial element in helping faculty achieve excellence in the classroom and the institution in demonstrating that students are gaining knowledge. Students may evaluate courses they are taking starting on the Monday of the twelfth week of instruction [insert date] through the end of finals week by logging in to myUCA and clicking on the Evals button on the top right.
15. Check the electronic version of this syllabus for UCA’s emergency policies. Go to the website of the English Department, click on Faculty and Staff, find my name, scroll down, and you will find the syllabus there.
16. **Title IX disclosure**: If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to “student-on-student” or “employee-on-student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved.  Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation.  Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances.  The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator.  For further information, please visit:  <https://uca.edu/titleix>.  *\*Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.*

# Syllabus

8/25 Introduction: **defining rebels, scoundrels, damsels and dames**

**Humankind, Natural Law, and Divine Law**

8/28 Sophocles: Oedipus Rex, prologue & scene I

8/30 Scene II

9/1 Scenes III& IV

9/4 Labor Day

9/6 Shakespeare: The Tempest, Act I

9/8 Act II

9/11 Act III

9/13 Act IV

9/15 Act V

**Gender Gap and Perceptions of Justice**

9/18 Ibsen, A Doll House, Act I

9/20 Act II

9/22 Act III

**Identity as Performance, Performance as Identity**

9/25 Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest, Act I

9/27 Act II

9/29 Act III

10/2 optional one-on-one conferences in my office, Irby 314

10/4 first oral presentations

10/6 continue

10/9 first paper due; Chekhov, The Cherry Orchard, Act I

10/11 Act II

10/13 Act III & IV

10/16 midterm exam review game

10/18 midterm exam

10/20 fall break

**Striving for the American Dream**

10/23 Miller: Death of a Salesman, Act I, 672-680

10/25 Act I, 680-688

10/27 Act II, 688-696

10/30 Act II, 696-707; Requiem 707-708

**War and Peace**

11/1 Brecht: Mother Courage and Her Children, Scenes 1-3

11/3 Scenes 4-6

11/6 Scenes 7-9

11/8 Scenes 10-12

11/10 optional one-on-one conferences in Irby 314

11/13 second oral presentations

11/15 continue

**Social and Mental Apartheid**

11/17 Fugard: Master Harold and the Boys, 869-877

11/20 878-886

11/22; 11/24 Thanksgiving

**The Brave New World?**

11/27 second paper due; Churchill, Cloud Nine, Act I, Scenes 1,2

11/29 Act I, Scenes 3,4,5

12/1 Act II, Scenes 1,2

12/4 Act II, Scenes 3,4

12/6 final exam review game

12/11 final exam 8:00-10:00 AM (10:00 class), the same classroom

12/13 final exam 2:00-4:00 PM (9:00 class), the same classroom