

ENGL 4453.001: Contemporary Drama

9:40-11:05 Tuesday/Thursday

Dr. L. Menson-Furr

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Course Description

This course explores the evolution of American, African American, British, and European drama from 1950 to the present. The primary purpose of the course is to introduce scholars to the various forms of drama that have shaped the contemporary theater, including theater of the absurd, black comedy, existential drama, metatheater, ritualistic drama, and anti-theater. Scholars will utilize both printed play texts and recorded theatrical productions as they study these seminal works.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- ✓ Demonstrate knowledge of the major forms of drama that have shaped the contemporary theater since about 1950.
- ✓ Engage in original analysis of major plays written during the second half of the twentieth century.
- ✓ Explain the important historical and cultural trends that have influenced the way drama has evolved since about 1950.
- ✓ Discuss the major motifs in American, African American, British, and European drama during the last half of the twentieth century.
- ✓ Utilize dramatic, performance, and literary theory in verbal and written discussions of dramatic literature.

Required Texts (Note: This list may expand.)

Churchill, Caryl. *Cloud Nine*. ISBN: 1559360992

Fugard, Athol. *MASTER HAROLD . . . and the boys*. ISBN: 0307475204

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Les Blancs* (scanned text). ISBN: 0679755330

Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches*. ISBN: 1559360615

Nottage, Lynn. *Intimate Apparel*. ISBN: 184842437X

Parks, Suzan-Lori. *The America Play*. ISBN: 1559360925

Soyinka, Wole. *Death and the King's Horseman*. ISBN: 978-0393322996

Vogel, Paula. *How I to Learned Drive*. ISBN: 1559361441

Wilson, August. *Fences* (film text) and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. ISBN: ISBN: 0452260092

Required Assignments

- Theatre production attendance (U of M Theatre program's production of *Intimate Apparel*)
- Theatre Review
- Weekly quizzes (essay, short answer, web-based and in-class)
- Response essays
- Mid-Term Examination
- Final Examination