

# **Cincinnati Christian University**

## **Foster School of Biblical Studies, Arts & Sciences**

### **GEN 330 01 Survey of Dramatic Literature**

Semester Credit Hours: 3      Meeting Times: TH 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.  
Location: PH 251              Semester: Spring 2019  
Instructor: Paul Friskney      Office: PH 262  
Office Phone: 244-8128      Email: paul.friskney@ccuniversity.edu

### **Course Rationale**

Written drama has been both a reflection of and an influence on culture since ancient times. As such, it offers students an opportunity to peer into the cultures and worldviews present in various countries and time periods. In addition, through its use of plot, character, and theme, drama allows students to consider various situations, choices, personality types, and ideas and to analyze their strengths, weaknesses, and outcomes. A class covering written drama from a variety of periods and cultures allows the widest possible examination of these areas. Such an examination offers important applications for people pursuing various endeavors: writers, actors, teachers of English, drama ministers, counselors, and others interested in understanding more about how people act and think.

### **Course Description**

Survey of Dramatic Literature is a period literature survey (from ancient Greece to contemporary America) with discussion of theater practices and theatrical figures as well as textual meaning. Emphasis is placed on student participation through responses to texts and presentation of period studies and semester projects. Prerequisites: ENGL 110, ENGL 111, ENGL 220 or their equivalents.

### **Arts & Sciences Departmental Outcomes**

CCU's Arts & Sciences program is designed to prepare students to

1. communicate effectively in both oral and written forms in a variety of rhetorical contexts, including Standard English,
2. adeptly utilize modern research and writing tools,
3. identify decisive events and ideas in the human experience and assess their influences on modern culture and thought,
4. employ critical and creative thinking and mathematic and scientific principles for problem solving, literary and socio-cultural analysis, intercultural understanding, and research in the sciences and humanities,
5. demonstrate the integration of academic insights and experiences by constructing and employing a personal framework in which ethical decisions can be made in light of societal values and a Christian worldview.

## Course Objectives

The student who satisfactorily completes this class should be able to

- 1) Analyze plot, character, and other aspects of written drama (connected to A&S outcome #4).
- 2) Recognize dominant themes in literature and develop responses to ideas related to those themes (A&S #4).
- 3) Demonstrate greater understanding of various periods of development in dramatic literature and performance (A&S #3 & 4).
- 4) Construct written and oral evaluations/responses to written and/or performed drama (A&S #1).

## Principal Text

*The Bedford Introduction to Drama*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Lee A. Jacobus.

*Introduction to Play Analysis*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Cal Pritner and Scott E. Walters.

## Grading Breakdown

Participation	- 20%
Question Responses	- 20%
Period Study	- 20%
Exam	- 20%
Project	- 20%

## Class Policies

- 1) A significant priority in the class is keeping up with the reading involved. Therefore, each student is expected to do daily reading and to consider reading questions mentioned in class. Question Responses will be used to monitor student reading. Also, the textbook should be brought to each class session.
- 2) As a rule, late work will not receive a passing grade. (Work is considered late if not submitted by 4 p.m. on the due date.) However, all required assignments must be submitted in order for a student to receive credit for the course.
- 3) Students must purchase the textbook and bring it to class each session. Students without textbooks will be considered absent.
- 4) If special circumstances make late submission necessary, the student should consult with the instructor before the due date to arrange an extension.
- 5) Each absence will result in a reduction in the participation grade. Five absences will result in dismissal from class. Three tardies equal an absence. Regardless of the reason for absence or lateness, each student is responsible for material covered in each class period and for all assignments made in each class period.

- 6) Students must take the initiative for receiving and returning the take-home test and for making up missed question responses. A valid reason for absence is required for a makeup to be allowed.
- 7) Students should be prepared to take the initiative in clearing up any confusion they have about class discussion or assignments.
- 8) Cell phones should be turned off during class. Laptop computers may be used for taking notes, but if students use them for inappropriate purposes, those students will lose the privilege of having them in the classroom.
- 9) **Accommodations:** Students who require academic accommodations due to a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability may request assistance from the Student Services Department. Students are encouraged to complete this process within the first two weeks of the semester. The Student Services Department is located on the upper level of Presidents Hall. You may also contact the office by phone at 244-8150. Tutoring services in various subjects are also available.
- 10) The professor reserves the right to amend or alter this course plan as he deems necessary.

## Course Agenda

(Special circumstances may require changes in the agenda. Also, changes in the reading assignments may be made at the discretion of the professor but will be distributed in writing at least two class periods before the reading is due.)

January	22	Course Introduction; Period Assignment <b>Reading:</b> Jacobus, 1 – 17; Pritner & Walters, 1 – 7
	24	Types & Elements of Drama <b>Reading:</b> Jacobus, 17 – 32; Pritner & Walters, 11 – 22
	29	Dramatic Discovery <b>Reading:</b> Pritner & Walters, 25 – 62
	31	Dramatic Interpretation <b>Reading:</b> Pritner & Walters, 65 – 93
February	5	Dramatic Response <b>Reading:</b> Pritner & Walters, 97 – 107; Jacobus, 1770 – 1781

## Greek Drama

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|--|----|---|
|  | 7  | <b>Reading:</b> Overview (Jacobus, 33 – 45) and <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (Jacobus, 77 – 93) |
|  | 12 | <b>Reading:</b> <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (Jacobus, 93 – 114)                                |
|  | 14 | <b>Reading:</b> <i>Lysistrata</i> (Jacobus, 161 – 182)                                |

## Medieval Drama

- 19 **Reading:** Overview & *Dulcitius* (Jacobus, 202 – 221)  
21 **Reading:** *The Second Shepherd's Pageant & Everyman*  
(Jacobus, 222 – 251)

## Renaissance Drama

- 26 **Reading:** Overview & *Doctor Faustus*(Jacobus, 252 – 299)  
28 **Reading:** *Hamlet* (Jacobus, 339 – 380)
- March 5 **Reading:** *Hamlet* (Jacobus, 380 – 410; P & W, 109 – 126)

## Late-Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Drama

- 7 **Reading:** Overview and *Tartuffe* (Jacobus, 443 – 485)

[Spring Break – No Class March 12 & 14]

\*All readings after Spring Break are from Jacobus.

## Nineteenth-Century Drama through the Turn of the Twentieth Century

- 19 **Reading:** Overview and *A Doll's House* (594 – 627)  
21 **Reading:** *A Doll's House* (627 – 648)
- 26 **Reading:** *Importance of Being Earnest* (672 – 702)  
28 **Reading:** *Pygmalion* (732 – 777)
- April 2 **Reading:** “The ‘Woman Question’” (778 – 796)  
Discussion of Projects

## Drama in the Early and Mid-Twentieth Century

- April 4 **Reading:** Overview (797 – 814) and  
*Desire Under the Elms* (897 – 911)
- 9 **Reading:** *Desire Under the Elms* (911 – 927)  
11 **Community Service Day (No Class)**

16 **Reading:** *Death of a Salesman* (1021 – 1093)

**Contemporary Drama**

18 **Reading:** Overview (1200 – 1223)

23 **Reading:** “*MASTER HAROLD*” . . . *and the boys*  
(1373 – 1398)

25 **Reading:** *Fences* (1399 – 1451)

30 **Reading:** *Angels in America* (1452 – 1468)

May 2 **Reading:** *Angels in America* (1468 – 1491)

7 **DUE: Presentation of Projects**

9 **DUE: Written Portion of Project**

Take-Home Exam Distributed

14/16 **DUE: Take-Home Exam**