

## THR 215 – Dramatic Literature

Location: FAC - Theatre 101 (Green Room)

Credits: 3.0

Time: M/W/F 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Prerequisites: ENGL F111X or concurrent enrollment, or permission of instructor

**Instructor**: Dr. Brian Cook

Office: FAC – Theatre 104

Email: bcook25@alaska.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. or by appointment

Office phone: (907) 474-5253

### Required texts

1. *Norton Anthology of Drama Second Shorter Edition*, J. Ellen Gainor, Stanton Garner, Jr., Martin

Puchner, eds. [Please make sure you are getting the right edition, on a]

4. The majority of the scripts will be found in the Norton anthology; additional plays will be provided either through short-term checkout in the library or on Blackboard.
  5. Additional in-class readings will be provided.
  6. Students should be prepared to utilize various online technologies, including Blackboard and (possibly) Facebook for this course.
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<b>F Oct. 17</b> – Performances and discussion for <i>The Good Woman of Setzuan</i>
<b>M Oct. 20</b> - Midterm Review
<b>W Oct. 22</b> - Midterm Exam
<b>F Oct. 24</b> - <b>Beckett</b> shorts / On Reviewing Theatre (In Class)
<b>DUE: Sunday, Oct. 26 – 11:59 p.m.</b> <b>Preliminary Program Notes due via email</b>
<b>M Oct. 27</b> – READ: <b>Tennessee Williams</b> , <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (Norton, p. 1193-1262) ** Presentations:
<b>W Oct. 29</b> – Continue discussion of <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
<b>F Oct. 31</b> – READ: <b>George Brandt</b> , <i>Grounded</i> (Blackboard)** Presentations:
<b>M Nov. 3</b> – Continue discussion of <i>Grounded</i>
<b>W Nov. 5</b> – Performances and discussion of <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> and <i>Grounded</i>
<b>F Nov. 7</b> – READ:

500-475 = A	349-325 = C
474-450 = A-	324-300 = C- *
449-425 = B+	299-275 = D
424-400 = B	274

## **Explanation of Graded Items**

*Grades for all assignments are absolute and are not subject to a curve.*

### **Participation (40 days @ 5 points per day = 200 points)**

1. Students will be assessed daily in their participation in class. Points will be deducted for not engaging in discussions, using technology inappropriately (i.e. – sending text messages, checking Facebook), tardiness, etc.

### **Notecards (13 @ 5 points each = 65 points)**

1. Students should come to class (on days noted in the course calendar) with at least TWO burning questions or thoughts about the readings and/or other topics related to the class written on a 3x5 notecard. For full credit, these questions should be both dramaturgical and probing. There are 14 opportunities to turn in notecards, you must do so on at least 13 occasions. Each notecard is worth 5 points.

### **Midterm Exam and Quizzes (70 points and 8 quizzes at 5 points each = 40 points)**

1. The midterm exam will assess students halfway through the term on the history, plays, and dramatic conventions studied over the first 6 weeks of the semester.
2. Eight quizzes will be given at random across the semester to verify that students are completing their reading assignments.

### **Dramaturgy Book (75 points – plus 25 points for Rough Draft items)**

1. Students will undertake a term-length research and script analysis project of one of the following plays:
  - a. *Grounded*
  - b. *A Streetcar Named Desire*
  - c. *Ruined*
  - d. *Cloud Nine*
  - e. *Fences*
  - f. *Almighty Voice and His Wife*
  - g. *Angels in America*
  - h. *Next to Normal*
2. Students will assemble, throughout the term, an organized binder with the following elements:
  - a. A list of words, people, historical events which are unfamiliar, with definitions
  - b. Photographs related to the play (as many as necessary, but at least 10)
  - c. Bibliography of articles, books, reviews, etc. that discuss the play or its playwright
  - d. Annotations of at least 3 items from your bibliography (i.e. – read and summarize their contents)
  - e. At least 5 newspaper reviews of previous productions
  - f. At least 3 photographs from different prior productions
  - g. A character analysis of one of the MAIN characters
  - h. A script breakdown by scene/character
  - i. Dramaturg's program notes
3. Early drafts of elements a, c/d, g, h, and i will be turned in throughout the term to receive instructor feedback. Each is worth 5 points.
4. A detailed assignment sheet will be provided to students during the second week of classes.

### **In-Class Presentation (25 points)**

5. Each student also will do an in-class presentation on the day their play is read for class.

## **Support Services/Writing Center**

UAF Student Support Services office is located in 514 Gruening Building, phone number 474-6844, website: <http://www.uaf.edu/sss> and e-mail: [trio.sss@uaf.edu](mailto:trio.sss@uaf.edu)

The UAF Writing Center is in 801 Gruening Building, phone number 474-5314, website: <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writingcenter>. It offers one-on-one writing tutorials for any piece of writing

that a student brings in. Even if you are in the brainstorming phase of the writing process, tutors will work with you to begin developing ideas to turn into a fully-formed text. They also offer easy computer use and free printing.

### **Disability Services**

The Office of Disability Services is located in Room 208 Whitaker Building, phone number 474-5655. Disability services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and ensures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with Disabilities Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, though students should make arrangements early in the semester for any accommodations they require.