
Syllabus for *Masterpieces in Performance*

Course Information

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	DRAMA 3323.001
<i>Course Title</i>	Masterpieces in Performance
<i>Term</i>	Fall, 2009
<i>Days & Times</i>	Mondays 3:30 – 6:15 PM

Professor Contact Information

<i>Professor</i>	Fred Curchack
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<i>Email Address</i>	curchack@utdallas.edu
<i>Office Location</i>	JO. 4.906
<i>Office hours</i>	Tuesdays 6:00 – 7:00 PM or by appointment

Course Description

We will read and discuss plays and criticism and view videos. Techniques for analyzing and performing plays will be studied.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. To develop skills in analyzing and interpreting dramatic texts and performances.
2. To gain deeper understanding of theater art through comparing texts, productions on film and scholarly interpretations.
3. To learn about the craft of producing and performing plays.

Required Textbooks (All in paperback. Available at Off Campus Books and the UTD Bookstore. Often available at a discount online. Some are on reserve at UTD Library for two-hour loan. List is subject to change)

Note: please use these editions and translations

Euripides	<u>Bakkhai</u> – translated by Reginald Gibbons (Oxford Press)
Sophocles	<u>The Three Theban Plays</u> – translated by Robert Fagles (Penguin Classics)
William Shakespeare	<u>Hamlet (Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism)</u> Edited by Susanne L. Wofford (OR editions by Folger, Oxford, Arden, Riverside)
Anton Chekhov	<u>Chekhov: Four Plays</u> translated by Carol Rocamora
Arthur Waley	<u>The Noh Plays of Japan</u>

Entire Waley book is also available online at:

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/npj/index.htm>

Variant translations of Noh plays, Sotoba Komachi and Hagoromo by Ezra Pound, Arthur Waley, and Royall Tyler are available online at:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/japanese/noh/>

Bertolt Brecht The Threepenny Opera – translation by John Willett
Mother Courage and Her Children – trans. by John Willett

Sam Shepard Sam Shepard: Seven Plays (True West)

Harold Clurman (Editor) Nine Plays of the Modern Theater (Grove Press)
(Including: Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett; Rhinoceros by Eugene Ionesco;
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead by Tom Stoppard. Note: These three plays can
also be purchased separately)

Videos available at the UTD Media Library (optional):

Hamlet

Hamlet / directed by Kenneth Branagh (Hamlet) - DVD1575 or VT3279

Hamlet / directed by Laurence Olivier (Hamlet) - DVD1349

Hamlet / directed by Franco Zeffirelli with Mel Gibson (Hamlet) - VT3113

Hamlet / adapted and directed by Campbell Scott and Eric Simonson with Campbell
Scott (Hamlet) - DVD0074

Hamlet / adaptation and directed by Michael Almereyda with Ethan Hawke (Hamlet) -
DVD0387

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark / director, Rodney Bennett with Derek Jacobi (Hamlet),
Claire Bloom, Patrick Stewart - DVD1265

Hamlet / by Sir John Gielgud ; with Richard Burton (Hamlet) - DVD0271

Shakespeare's Hamlet / Tony Richardson ; With Nicol Williamson (Hamlet) - VT3393

Hamlet: Carnal, Bloody, & Unnatural Acts / Created and Performed by Fred Curchack

Oedipus

Oedipus the King - VT0651

Oedipus Rex / director and writer, Pier Paolo Pasolini - VT2047

Martha Graham / ("Night Journey" dance of Jocasta's death) - DVD0963

Bakkhai

Bakkhai / Directed by Fred Curchack at UTD

Dionysos Does Dallas / Written and Performed by Fred Curchack

Uncle Vanya

Uncle Vanya with Laurence Olivier and Michael Redgrave - VT2650

Vanya on 42nd Street / *Uncle Vanya* directed by Andre Gregory & Louis Malle - VT1357

Waiting for Godot

Waiting for Godot / directed by Walter D. Asmus - VT2869

Beckett on Film - DVD0249

Contemporary Theatre / director, Alan Schneider with Zero Mostel & Burgess Meredith - VT0500

True West

True West / with John Malkovich and Gary Sinise - VT0642

Waiting For Godot script online at:

www.samuel-beckett.net/Waiting_for_Godot_Part1.html

www.samuel-beckett.net/Waiting_for_Godot_Part2.html

Alternate translations of Uncle Vanya (for comparison) online at:

<http://www.enotes.com/uncle-vanya-text>

<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/1/7/5/1756/1756.txt>

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Assignments are subject to change. Additional readings and creative projects will be assigned. Students will be responsible for the weekly updates of each of the assignments. Students who are absent will be responsible for e-mailing the professor for the assignment and handouts.

A paper (1-2 pages) will be written for each play.
Email papers will not be accepted.

Final project may be either:

1. A performance with a (3-5 page) paper.
2. An original work (in any medium) with a (3-5 page) paper.
3. A research paper (minimum 10-pages).

August 24 - Intro

August 31 – Read: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

September 7 – Labor Day

September 14 – Shakespeare paper due (1 page).

Read: Euripides, *Bakkhai* and Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*

September 21 – Euripides/Sophocles paper due (2 pages)

Read: Chekhov, *The Seagull*

September 28 – Read: Chekhov, *Uncle Vanya*

October 5 – Chekhov paper due (2 pages)

Read: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

- October 12 – Beckett paper due (1 page)
Read: Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*
- October 19 – Stoppard paper due (1 page)
Read Noh plays: *Kantan, Sotoba Komachi, The Birdcatcher in Hell, Shunkan, Hagoromo* (Read handout versions and all five plays in Waley and compare online translations by both Pound and Tyler of *Sotoba Komachi* and *Hagoromo*)
- Friday, October 23 – Attend performance of *Great Eastern Sun Trilogy* at UTD Theater.
- October 26 – Noh plays paper due (2 pages)
Read: Yeats, *On Baile's Strand, At The Hawk's Well, The Only Jealousy of Emer, The Death of Cuchulain, The Cat and the Moon, Purgatory*
Proposals for final projects are due.
- November 2 – Yeats paper due (1 page)
Read: Brecht, *The Threepenny Opera, Mother Courage and Her Children*
- November 9 – Brecht paper due (2 pages)
Read: Ionesco, *Rhinoceros* and Shepard, *True West*
- November 16 – Ionesco and Shepard paper due (2 pages)
- November 23, 30 – Final Projects
- December 7 – Final Class
- December 14 – Scheduled Final (subject to change)

Grading Policy

Grading will be based on papers, artistic projects and presentations, participation in discussions and exercises, response to readings, final project and paper, attendance and punctuality.

Late papers and project are not accepted without approval of the professor.

E-mailed papers will generally not be accepted.

After two absences, the final grade will be lowered with each subsequent absence. If students are absent, they are responsible for e-mailing the professor for the assignment and for getting handouts.

The following is standard policy of UTD:

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work

has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized

for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. (http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm)

These descriptions and timelines are subject