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**Syllabus for *Masterpieces in Performance***

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**Course Information**

Course Number/Section	DRAMA 3323.001
Course Title	Masterpieces in Performance
Term	Fall, 2010
Days & Times	Mondays 4:00 – 6:45 PM

**Professor Contact Information**

Professor	Fred Curchack
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Office Location	JO. 4.906
Office hours	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 a one-day loan. List is subject to change)

**Note: please use these editions and translations**

Sophocles	<u>The Three Theban Plays</u> – translated by Robert Fagles (Penguin Classics)
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William Shakespeare	<u>Hamlet</u>
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Anton Chekhov	<u>Chekhov: Four Plays</u> translated by Carol Rocamora
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Arthur Waley	<u>The Noh Plays of Japan</u> Entire Waley book is also available online at: <a href="http://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/npj/index.htm">http://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/npj/index.htm</a>
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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                      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 plays can also be  
purchased separately)

### **Textbooks for extra credit**

Euripides                      Bakkhai – translated by Reginald Gibbons  
(Oxford Press)

Bertolt Brecht                      The Threepenny Opera – translation by John Willett

Samuel Beckett                      Endgame

### **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

*The Gospel at Colonus* - DVD1793

*Oedipus Rex* - DVD1795

*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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 - VT0500

**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**

*Rosencrantz and Gilderstern are Dead* - DVD1796

**Rhinoceros**

*Rhinoceros* - DVD1794

**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](http://www.samuel-beckett.net/Waiting_for_Godot_Part1.html)

[www.samuel-beckett.net/Waiting\\_for\\_Godot\\_Part2.html](http://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 assignment. Students who are absent will be responsible for e-mailing the professor for the assignment and handouts.

Assignments may be either a written response to each play (three-pages) or an original work (in any medium) based on the play accompanied by a one-page paper about the project's relationship to the play.

Extra credit assignments should be a written response to the play (one-page). 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 (7-10 pages).

August 23 - Intro

August 30 – Read: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

September 6 – Labor Day (Holiday)

September 13 – Shakespeare paper/project due  
Read: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*  
Extra credit: Read Euripides, *Bakkhai*

September 20 – Euripides/Sophocles paper/project due  
Read: Chekhov, *The Seagull*

September 27 – Read: Chekhov, *Uncle Vanya*

October 4 – Chekhov papers/projects due  
Read: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*  
Extra credit: Read Beckett, *Endgame*

October 11 – Beckett paper/project due  
Read: Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

October 18 – Stoppard paper/project due  
Read Noh plays: *Kantan*, *Sotoba Komachi*, *The Birdcatcher in Hell*, *Shunkan*, *Hagoromo*. Read translations by Waley. Also read handout on Noh Theater.  
Extra credit: Compare Waley's translations to the adaptations (handouts) by Curchack of *Kantan*, *Sotoba Komachi*, and *Hagoromo*. Also read and compare online translations by both Pound and Tyler of *Sotoba Komachi* and *Hagoromo*.

October 25 – Noh plays paper/project due  
Read: Yeats, *At The Hawk's Well*, *The Only Jealousy of Emer*, *The Death of Cuchulain*, *The Cat and the Moon*, *Purgatory*.  
Also read handout on Yeats' plays.  
Proposals for final projects are due.

November 1 – Yeats paper/project due  
Read: Brecht, *Mother Courage and Her Children*  
Extra credit: Read Brecht, *The Threepenny Opera*

November 8 – Brecht paper/project due  
Read: Shepard, *True West*  
Extra credit: Read Ionesco, *Rhinoceros*

November 15 – Shepard paper/project due

November 22, 29 – Presentation of Final Papers and Projects

December 6 – Final Class

December 13 – 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.

**UTD Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

All students are required to read the UTD Syllabus Policies and Procedures website:

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>