

# LIT 3043 Modern Drama

Spring 2011

Dr. Valerie Lipscomb

TR 12:30-1:45, Rm. A217

Office: C258

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**TEXTS:** Lee A. Jacobus, *The Bedford Introduction to Drama*. Bedford/St. Martin's. Sixth ed, 2009. *There will be one more script, announced as soon as possible.*

**OVERVIEW and OBJECTIVES:** LIT 3043 explores developments in modern drama, from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. English majors will study European and American drama that continues to be produced on the U.S. stage, focusing on playwrights and plays that have contributed to the evolution of the form. Whenever possible, we will study drama in performance, since performance defines the genre. Students should improve their abilities to understand, appreciate, and analyze modern plays, as well as persuasively communicate their ideas verbally and in writing. To achieve these goals, students will analyze the assigned literature individually as well as in groups, through discussion and in informal and formal writing assignments. Moreover, students will improve their research, critical thinking, and leadership skills by helping lead class.

Each course in the literature major at USFSM is designed to help students improve their abilities to

**\*Demonstrate an understanding of literary texts in light of the various cultural contextual issues that may impact their creation and/or reception.**

**\*Demonstrate an understanding of literature as an art form, evidencing certain aesthetic principles, which are relative and dynamic.**

**\*Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical writers and texts in the British and American traditions, as well as efforts to "open" these canons.**

**\*Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the conduct of literary argument and the judicious use of primary and secondary textual support.**

**\*Write effective, correct scholarly prose, in accordance with MLA style.**

**COURSE WORK:** In addition to reading a broad spectrum of plays and criticism, students will participate in frequent full-class, smaller-group, and Blackboard discussions. They will complete in-class assignments, two essay exams, a class leadership/research project, and a critical analysis of 6-8 pages in length. Class participation is essential to success. Students who already have completed successful leadership projects in two of my classes may elect to write a 12-15-page research paper worth 200 points instead of the leadership project and critical analysis. Students also will attend a local play performance (details to come).

**GRADES:** Grades are based on 500 points, broken down as follows:

Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Research/leadership project	100 points
Critical analysis paper	100 points
Participation/attendance/short assns.	100 points

At the end of the term, all points are added and grades are assigned on a percentage scale: 90-93% A-, 94-97% A, 98-99% A+, etc. I do use plus/minus grading, and in borderline cases, I do consider improvement shown during the semester.

For each assignment, students who earn A grades will have demonstrated conspicuous excellence; those who earn Bs will have displayed superior skills; Cs are for competent skills; Ds for poor performance; and Fs for unacceptable work. For participation grades, the standard for a C is to attend all classes, complete all assignments in class and on Blackboard, contribute to group work, and add to full-class discussion once a week. (If you are too shy to participate, you may email me your comments and questions to help your participation grade.) The superior quality of the assignments may then merit a higher grade.

**ATTENDANCE:** Because this course is based on student involvement, your attendance and participation are mandatory. This requirement includes attending a performance of the play chosen for class. An absence may be excused for such reasons as a serious personal illness, serious illness or death of a family member, legal obligation, religious observance, or approved campus activity. Don't hesitate to confer with me about unusual circumstances. For an excused absence, please provide documentation such as physicians' notes, legal documents, or notices on USF letterhead. If you know about the absence in advance, so should I. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes. Unexcused absences will SIGNIFICANTLY affect your participation grade. Because we do so much work together in class, even excessive excused absences may adversely affect your grade.

If you can't make it to class on time, consider adjusting your schedule. Excessive tardiness or leaving class early will lower your participation grade.

**SCHEDULE:** The schedule you will be given is subject to change according to our progress. There will be short assignments and/or pop quizzes given in class. Therefore, if you must miss class, be sure to contact me or a classmate to confirm what is due for the next class. In the event of a university emergency, the USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information. You are urged to become familiar with USFSM's emergency plans: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Alpha/ready/EAP.pdf>

“In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor the Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.”

**PAPER FORMAT:** I urge you to do all work on computer; this is required for your major assignments. Short assignments should be legible with ample margins, at the least. Whenever you use an outside source, cite it in MLA style. **You don't need to provide a full bib. citation for our textbooks, but you should cite pages. I recommend buying the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook* for use in all English courses.**

**DEADLINES:** Deadlines are a fact of life; meeting them gives you good experience for your future profession. For an excused absence, we will determine a makeup schedule. Unexcused short assignments turned in late receive no credit; however, I will evaluate them and record that you handed them in, so late is better than never. An unexcused late major assignment is docked one letter grade.

**ACADEMIC ETHICS:** All individual work must be your own and must be done specifically for this class. You are encouraged to seek info and advice from others, just as professionals do, but you must do your own research, writing, etc. Material taken from another source must be properly cited. I will use Blackboard's Safe

Assignment feature to assess possible plagiarism. You are urged to consult the USF policy on plagiarism, [www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm) A student who commits plagiarism may receive a course grade of "FF," failure for academic dishonesty. This grade may not be removed through grade forgiveness and remains on the student's record forever. This course assumes you have studied plagiarism; see me if you are in doubt as to what constitutes it or whether you are citing a source correctly. I'm happy to help you with documentation issues.

**BLACKBOARD:** We will use the Blackboard course site as an integral part of the learning experience, as it offers students maximum flexibility for managing course work -- and saves paper, too. Some assignments will be conducted entirely on Blackboard. Get your Net ID, then become familiar with Blackboard immediately and log in often. If you need help using it, tutorials can be accessed:

[http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/CampusComputing/Documents/CC\\_Student\\_Resources.php](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/CampusComputing/Documents/CC_Student_Resources.php)

Technical assistance is available by phone or online: 866-974-1222

<http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/usfsupport.cfg/php/enduser/chat.php>

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION:** Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Pat Lakey, Coordinator, 941-359-4714, [plakey@sar.usf.edu](mailto:plakey@sar.usf.edu), [www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/)

**ACADEMIC DISRUPTION:** USF does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. Please consult university policy: [www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm).

**ASSISTANCE:** I will do everything I can to help you reach your academic goals. Please don't hesitate to call, email, or come to my office. I look forward to working with you.

## **LIT 3043 SCHEDULE**

**Spring 2011**

**This schedule is subject to change according to our progress. Short assignments will be given in class. Always read any background material as well as the literature. Assignments are listed by the day they are DUE.**

T Jan. 11 Intro to course  
R Jan. 13 Intro to Drama p. 1, 19<sup>th</sup> century intro p. 644  
T Jan. 18 Ibsen  
R Jan. 20 Ibsen  
T Jan. 25 Strindberg  
R Jan. 27 Strindberg, Shaw  
T Feb. 1 Shaw  
R Feb. 3 cont. Shaw, Woman Question Casebook  
T Feb. 8 Early 20<sup>th</sup> century intro, Pirandello  
R Feb. 10 Pirandello  
T Feb. 15 O'Neill  
R Feb. 17 O'Neill  
T Feb. 22 Brecht  
R Feb. 24 Brecht  
T Mar. 1 Williams  
R Mar. 3 Williams\*  
T Mar. 8 **Midterm Exam**  
R Mar. 10 **Midterm continued** leadership groups meet  
Mar. 15, 17 Spring break!  
T Mar. 22 Miller  
R Mar. 24 Miller, casebook  
T Mar. 29 Contemporary drama, Pinter  
R Mar. 31 Pinter  
T Apr. 5 Albee **Paper topic due**  
R Apr. 7 Albee\*  
T Apr. 12 Mamet **Paper draft due**  
R Apr. 14 Mamet  
T Apr. 19 Wilson **Peer review due**  
R Apr. 21 Wilson\*  
T Apr. 26 Vogel **Paper due**  
R Apr. 28 Vogel  
T May 3 12:30-2:30 **Final exam Note extended time**

\*Possible days to be replaced with play we choose to attend and additional play to be determined by class.