

ENG 4934 Senior Seminar

Spring 2012

Dr. Valerie Lipscomb

TR 11-12:15 A217

Office: C258

Office hours: T 10-11, 2-3, R 2-3, and by appointment.

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Please call between 9 and 6 only; weekends are fine.

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TEXTS: Lee A. Jacobus, *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama*. 6th ed., 2009, Bedford/St. Martin's.
Yasmina Reza, *The God of Carnage*.

OVERVIEW and OBJECTIVES: The Senior Seminar is designed as the capstone course for literature majors. Students will be encouraged to develop and synthesize the knowledge and skills gained in the English literature major. Our focus in this seminar is Tragedy and Comedy: Conventions and Innovations. We will study foundational dramatic texts as well as how modern plays draw on and react to tragic and comic conventions. Students should 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 plays and critical commentaries, students will analyze literature through frequent full-class, smaller-group, and Blackboard discussions. They will complete short assignments, a comprehensive final exam, and a 12-15 page research paper. Class participation is essential to success.

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

Final Exam	200 points
Research paper	200 points
Participation/attendance/short assns.	100 points

The 100 points for participation/attendance/shorter assignments are distributed as follows:

Summarize a critical article on a foundational play (on Blackboard).	10 pts
Write a Blackboard response to one classmate's summary.	10 pts
Submit an annotated bibliography of sources to be used for the paper.	10 pts
Submit first and second drafts of the research paper.	10 pts
Complete a helpful peer review of a classmate's draft.	10 pts
Complete in-class activities, including faculty-created quizzes.	10 pts
Be a discussion leader for a play on the syllabus.	20 pts
Attend class/participate actively in class discussion.	20 pts

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 performance; 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 on time in class and on Blackboard, contribute to group work, and add substantially to full-class discussion once a week. 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. 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. 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 tend toward tardiness, you will need to adjust 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.

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 list of works cited when you are citing ONLY our textbooks, but you should cite pages parenthetically. I recommend buying the 7th 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. 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 before you hand in an assignment to be graded.

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. Some assignments will be conducted entirely on Blackboard. Get your Net ID, then become familiar with Blackboard. Tutorials for students: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/DE/current_students.php Technical assistance: Dale Drees, 941-359-4215 or ddrees@sar.usf.edu. Toll-free help: 866-974-1222. Live online help: http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/app/chat/chat_launch

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. Moreover, I recommend that you consult USFSM's Writing Resource Center to improve your writing skills: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/academics/cas/writingctr.php>

I look forward to working with you.

(Please also see USFSM policies attached.)

USF Sarasota-Manatee Policies and Procedures

Religious Observances

The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. 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.

<http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/policies-and-procedures/pdfs/policy-10-045.pdf>

Disabilities

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.

www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/

Contact Information: Pat Lakey, Coordinator 941-359-4714
plakey@sar.usf.edu

Accommodation

Academic Dishonesty

The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university's policy in the catalog, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

Undergraduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

Graduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

USF Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88>

Academic Disruption

The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

Undergraduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

Graduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

USF Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88>

Contingency Plans

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM 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 Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness

It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan on the Safety Preparedness site <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php>

Fire Alarm Instructions

At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

ENG 4934 Senior Seminar Schedule

Spring 2012

Assignments are listed by the day they are **due**. This schedule is subject to change according to our progress. Additional assignments will be given in class.

- Wk 1 Jan. 10 Intro to course
Jan. 12 Read intro to drama, p. 1
- Wk 2 Jan. 17 Intro to Greek drama, *Oedipus Rex*
Jan. 19 Contin. *Oedipus*
- Wk 3 Jan. 24 *Lysistrata*
Jan. 26 Cont. *Lysistrata*
- Wk 4 Jan. 31 *God of Carnage*
Feb. 2 Intro to Roman drama/Medieval drama *Dulcitius*
- Wk 5 Feb. 7 Intro to Renaissance drama *Othello*
Feb. 9 Cont. *Othello*
- Wk 6 Feb. 14 Intro to 17th/18th cent. drama *The Rover*
Feb. 16 Intro to 19th cent. drama *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- Wk 7 Feb. 21 *The Cherry Orchard*
Feb. 23 Intro to early 20th cent. drama *Death of a Salesman*
- Wk 8 Feb. 28 *Krapp's Last Tape*
Mar. 1 Intro to contemporary drama *Far Away* **Article summary due**
- Wk 9 Mar. 6 *Clean House* **Article summary response due**
Mar. 8 *365 Days/365 Plays* **Paper topic due**
- Mar. 12-16 Happy Spring Break
- Wk 10 Mar. 20 Greek drama research/discussion **Annotated bib due**
Mar. 22 Greek drama research/discussion
(Mar. 24: Last day to drop with a W)
- Wk 11 Mar. 27 up through Renaissance/Restoration drama research/discussion
Mar. 29 Thesis session – **post statement online**
- Wk 12 Apr. 3 Renaissance/Restoration research/discussion **First draft due online**
Apr. 5 19th century research/discussion **Peer review due online**
- Wk 13 Apr. 10 20th century research/discussion
Apr. 12 20th century research/discussion **Paper due in class**
- Wk 14 Apr. 17 paper conferences
Apr. 19 paper conferences
- Wk 15 Apr. 24 finish up research/discussion. **Abstracts due** -- present abstracts
Apr. 26 finish up abstracts /review **Revisions due**
- Thurs. May 3 **Final exam**