

# English 131

Jo Ann Dadisman, ENGL 131, Fall 2003, Introduction to Poetry and Drama

## English 131/002 Poetry and Drama Fall Semester 2003

12:30-13:20 306 Armstrong Hall

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T-R 1:00-2:00

and by special appointment

### Textbooks:

Greenwald, Michael, et.al. *Anthology of Drama and Theater: A Global Perspective* (Compact Edition). New York: Longman, 2002.

Greenwald, Michael. *Evaluating a Performance*. New York: Longman, 2002.

Kennedy, X.J. *An Introduction to Poetry*. New York: Longman, 2002.

### Supplies and Materials:

Students are expected to maintain a 3-ring binder with loose leaf paper. Some daily assignments will be collected from the notebook and graded as quizzes. Students will keep a writer's log on the readings for the class to be used for class discussion, possible writing assignments and study for exams.

## Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments\*\*

### Week #1: August 18-22

8/18: course introduction

8/20: course introduction; read Chapter I (3-22); bring in masks or pictures of masks

8/22: discussion of readings; preparing to write an evaluation (read text)

### Week #2: August 25-29

8/25: **Jury of Her Peers** (film), Wise Library; *evaluation due Sept. 3*; reading assignment: Chapter 2 (23-53); watch an episode from a television show/analyze for elements of drama and structure of plot or use of stock characters **or** gather newspaper clippings on "tragedy" from current events (due 8/29)

8/27: discussion of readings; q/a concerning first writing assignment

8/29: class activities; reading assignment: Chapter 3 (53-98)

### Week #3: September 1-5

9/1: No class (Labor Day recess)

9/3: **Evaluation #1 due**; discussion of Chapter 3

9/5: **Oedipus the King**

### Week #4: September 8-12

9/8: *Exam #1*; reading assignment: Chapter 4 (102-116)

9/10: discussion of readings

9/12: **The Brome Play of Abraham and Isaac**; read European Renaissance (132-142) and England (144-213)

### Week #5: September 1-19

9/15: **Hamlet**; read pages 214-217

9/17: **Hamlet, Prince of Denmark** (film), Wise Library; **write an evaluation of any production of Hamlet** (due Sept. 26); reading assignment: Spain (218-223) and the Late 17th and 18th Centuries (264-272)

9/19: discussion of readings; reading assignment: Chapter 5 (274-322)

### Week #6: September 22-26

9/22: discussion of readings, including **A Doll's House**

9/24: **A Doll's House** (film), Wise Library; **write an evaluation of any production of A Doll's House** (due October 8)

9/26: **Hamlet** evaluation due; reading assignment: Chapter chosen by class

**Week #7: September 29-October 3**

9/29: tba

10/01: tba

10/03: *Exam #2*; reading assignment: Chapter 1 (5-20), including Writing Assignment (20)

**Week #8: October 6-10**

10/06: Discussion of readings; reading assignment: Chapter 2 (21-53)

10/08: Discussion of readings; formation of small groups; reading

assignment: Chapter 5 (96-118); **writing assignment**: see p 48 (due

10/17)

10/10: Individual work day

**Week #9: October 13-17**

10/13: Discussion of readings; reading assignment: Chapter 7

10/15: Small group presentations on songs as poetry

10/17: Small group presentations on songs as poetry; submit *writing assignment #4*

**Week #10: October 20-24**

10/20: *Exam #3*; reading assignment: Chapter 6

10/22: Discussion of readings

10/24: Small group presentation on figures of speech (in song); reading assignment: Chapter 9

**Week #11: October 27-31**

10/27: Discussion of readings

10/29: Small group presentations on rhythm in songs; reading assignment:

Chapter 10

10/31: Discussion of readings; *writing assignment #5*: Analyzing the

Poems of Dickinson, Hughes (see Chapters 18, 21 and 22) or  
student's choice

(submit 1 paragraph proposal on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>); final draft due Dec. 1

reading assignment: Chapter 11

**Week #12: November 3-7**

11/3: Discussion of readings; reading assignment: Chapter 14

11/5: Discussion of readings

11/7: Small group presentations on personal identity and poetry

**Week #13: November 10-14**

11/10: Personal workday

11/12: Exploration of myth and narration (Chapter 13); reading  
assignment: finish chapter

11/14: Discussion of readings

**Week #14: November 17-21**

11/17: Small group conferences

11/19: Small group conferences

11/21: Personal work day

**Week #15: November 24-28**

**No class: Thanksgiving break**

**Week #16: December 1-5**

12/1: final paper due

12/3: review and final discussions

12/5: review and final discussions

### **Week #17: Finals Week**

Test #4: date tba

\* The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course schedule as deemed appropriate for the benefit of the class.

### **Writing Assignments:**

Students are expected to submit 2 short papers on the evaluation of plays, either filmed or live performances. Three have been identified. Students may choose between **Hamlet** and **Doll's House**. All students are expected to complete the assignment for **Jury of Her Peers**. Two short poetry papers are to be written during the second half of the semester. Students may choose either Dickinson, Hughes or another poet who is of special interest to them. The first drama and poetry papers are worth 10 points each; the second papers are worth 15 points each.

### **Grace Day:**

Once during the semester, students can take advantage of the "grace day" policy, which is a 24-hour extension without penalty. All other late submissions will cost half a grade cut for each day.

### **Extra Credit Opportunities:**

Students are encouraged to attend either professional or amateur performances during the semester. Attendance is worth 3 points of extra credit. If the student writes an evaluation similar to the assignment on **Jury of Her Peers**, 6 points can be earned. The maximum number of extra credit points is 10. All students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Grades:**

Course grades will be determined by the following: **(100 points\*)**

Test #1: **10 points**

Test #2: **15 points**

Test #3: **10 points**

Test #4: **15 points**

Writing assignment #1: **5 points**

Writing assignment #2: **10 points**

Writing assignment #3: **5 points**

**Writing assignment #4: 10 points**

**In class activities: 20 points**

These points will be earned by regular unannounced quizzes/in-class work (10) and small group presentations (10).

\*Students must complete 4 writing assignments and 4 exams in order to PASS the class, despite the total number of points earned through other means.

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings because in-class activities and assignments can not be made up. It is crucial that regular attendance be a goal for both the instructor and the students, if this class is to be successful. Students are encouraged to discuss rare special needs with the instructor at the time of the emergency, either by phone or email. If you perceive the need to miss more than Just two or three classes, I strongly recommend that you drop this class.

WVU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect and nondiscrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodations in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

I look forward to a challenging but rewarding semester as we together explore the worlds of drama and poetry