

**CEDAR CREST COLLEGE**  
**THS 231 Fall 2008 MWF 10-10:50**  
**THEATRE HISTORY- Ancient Greeks to Spanish Golden Age**

**Instructor:** Professor Roxanne Amico  
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**Office Hours: by appointment**

**Course Description**

**THS 231-**A survey of dramatic literature and historical influences from Ancient Greece to the Spanish Golden Age including a major writing component.  
(3 credits- no prerequisite)

**Course Format:**

The course format is lecture/discussion. Students will be evaluated regularly on their understanding of the historical periods, influence and play structures. This course supports the WRI-2 and ARTS requirements as well as IHE and the Arts in Society theme ( old curriculum).

**Course Objective:**

The student will become familiar with a large body of dramatic literature from the history of theatre and be able to identify and write about major societal influences on drama, play structures and genres. Dramatic literature is a mirror of society and reflects not only history, but also cultural and social mores that have influenced our beliefs and truths in the western world.

**Course Outcomes**

**OUTCOME # 1**

Students will demonstrate their basic understanding of the themes and content of thirteen plays as assigned which are representative of important influential works from dramatic literature from Ancient Greece to the Spanish Golden Age.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students will be quizzed on each of 13 plays.  
Students will participate in class discussion

**OUTCOME #2**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the works read through tests and discussion.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students will have a final exam on all terminology

**OUTCOME #3**

Students will demonstrate good analytical writing.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students will write 3 papers, and 2 play critiques ( approx 25 pages total including rewrites) on a theme utilizing material from research, the assigned dramatic works, class lecture, play attendance and discussion. Students will submit drafts and re-writes of all writing. A writing rubric is used.

**Texts:** ( DO NOT DOWNLOAD THE PLAYS FROM ONLINE UNLESS YOU USE YOUR OWN PAPER)

*Classical Tragedy -Greek and Roman*  
*Medieval and Tudor Plays*  
*Classical Comedy- Greek and Roman*  
*Life is a Dream and Other Spanish Classics*  
*Midsummer Night's Dream*  
*Hamlet*  
*Dr. Faustus*

## Attendance Policy

Class participation during discussion is expected. A sign in sheet will be passed around daily. You will receive credit for class participation. You have to be present to be evaluated. Attendance is expected as the class moves through a large amount of material each week.

Quizzes are given during many class periods. **No make-up quizzes are allowed.** You may drop the three lowest grades.

You are responsible for reading all of the plays listed on the syllabus. **You must bring your play book to class every class period and have paper and a writing instrument to take notes every period.** You are expected to take notes and use them for study. **If you miss class, get the notes from a friend. There will be handouts.**

## Honor Code; Academic Dishonesty;

You are required to abide by the **Academic Policies** of this college. This information can be found in the 2008-2009 Cedar Crest College online catalog.

## Classroom Protocol at Cedar Crest College

Understand that certain behaviors are disruptive to the educational process. Generally, disruptive behavior in the classroom is any behavior that interferes with the process of learning. At Cedar Crest College, it is the right of every student and faculty member to engage in a classroom experience free from disruptive behavior. Please be considerate of others when arriving late. Turn off all cell phones before class starts- no text messaging during class at all. You may bring food and drink to class, but dispose of trash in appropriate places and sit at the back of the room if you have to eat during class.

**The following is a short list of disruptive behavior.**

- Persistent speaking out of turn
- Any use of electronic devices, cell phones or pagers
- Threats or harassment of any kind directed at instructor or other students
- Poor personal hygiene
- Revealing clothing
- Working on homework for another class ( I'm serious; this really bugs me)
- Inappropriate personal disclosures
- Sleeping in class
- Enter late or leaving early without permission
- Physical disruptions or altercations

Additionally, classroom participants should note that basic human courtesy is an expectation when interacting with faculty members, staff, and other students in person, over email, or online.

## Documentation of Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center. See the Student Handbook for complete information

## Evaluation:

- 60% 3 play analysis papers ( 4 -5 pages)
- 10% 2 play critiques ( 2 pages each) ( *Eurydice* and *Unveiled Truths*)
- 20% Average of 10 of 13 Quizzes – (drop 3 lowest grades)
- 10% Final Exam ( date to be announced by the Registrar's Office)

**NOTE: No quizzes may be made up for any reason.** You may drop the 3 lowest quiz grades.  
**Plan accordingly.**

## NOTES ABOUT GRADING

**Class participation** includes thoughtful comments or questions about the literature or history of the periods being studied. It does not include outbursts, rudeness, unrelated comments or mere attendance at class. I will consider class participation in the final grading. If the final calculated grade is a borderline grade, I will consider increasing the final grade based on class participation.

### Testing

The Quiz format will change from time to time depending on the play materials. You may be asked to explain the significance of a particular quote in a play or explain the structure of the play and its significance. Some quizzes may be open book tests so always bring your play to class. You are expected to read the actual play text not an abridged version or synopsis.. This is college. It's your last chance to not waste your education on shortcuts. The final exam will cover information discussed in class including films, PPTs and plays.

## NOTES ABOUT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to write scholarly papers on at least 3 of the plays read for class this term. As part of the college-wide WRI-2 requirement, you are expected to submit 25 pages of **original** writing during the course of this semester including drafts, rewrites and play critiques. You will have the opportunity to edit your writing. I do not average the grades of edited work, so you always have the chance to drastically improve your grade **if you submit your work on time**. You may divide the writing up into papers of not less than 4 pages in length. Play reviews must be at least two typed pages and **may not** be a plot synopsis.

All papers must be typed in 12pt font with 1" margins. All scholarly papers must have a significant second research source other than the play script. A dictionary definition does not count as a significant second source. Some internet sources( like Wikipedia) are also not significant sources. All internet data base sources will be looked up during grading. The library has an excellent collection of scholarly material on theatre. Do not under any circumstances download or copy a paper from the Internet. It is ridiculously easy to detect this type of dishonesty. A paper with significantly undocumented sources or obviously plagiarized material will receive an F. Minor infractions which could be construed as plagiarism will be noted as draft errors and you are expected to clarify sources on the rewrite.

### EVALUATION OF WRITING

First drafts of papers and essays will be graded on the following elements:  
20% introduction and thesis or claim,  
60% development and research,  
20% grammar, style, mechanics, organization

First drafts of papers will be graded on elements of grammar, style, content, and completeness( i.e. coverage of topic, sources, ect.)

**Second drafts will be graded on incorporation of changes and editing. The first draft must accompany the second draft submission.** Paper clip it to the edited submission.

1. An essay with numerous grammar and mechanical errors will not receive an A. Please take the time to read your paper aloud to a friend after you run spell and grammar check for mistakes. A paper that is submitted without running the spell check will be returned without a grade.
2. An essay with a weak thesis or claim will not receive a grade higher than a B-

3. An essay which does not develop and support or prove the claim will be a failing paper. The essay must be a scholarly analysis, not a summary of the play or a random collection of information about the play or author. The paper has to have a point to prove.

4. Second drafts will be graded on incorporation of changes and editing as suggested by the instructor. Each portion of the essay will be evaluated and re-graded with the possibility of improving the final grade. The timely submission of your paper will ensure that you have time to make adequate revisions in subsequent drafts. **Rewrites are due within one week AFTER the return of the original submission. Rewrites will be accepted after that time, but will not receive a grade higher than B. All rewrites must be accompanied by the original draft versions when submitted or the rewrites will not be accepted or graded.**

5. You may use two plays in the same paper as your two sources and develop a significant comparison and contrast essay. Plays are considered significant sources. You still have to write three separate papers though. **You may not write one long paper for this course.**

6. Do not use a paper from the Internet. This is plagiarism and is easily detectable. I am interested in your ideas and ability to pull together an argument. Please understand the rules regarding plagiarism. You may not submit a paper which has been submitted for another class at any time. You may not cite and string together the words or ideas of another author. You may not submit work which does not credit the words or ideas of another author.

### **Format for Papers**

(minimum 4 pages not including bibliography). The argument or claim must be significant enough to support at least 4 pages of writing.

The paper must be typed in 12pt font and double-spaced with 1" margins.

Use MLA or APA in formatting your paper. I am more interested in your ideas and ability to make and support a claim that I am in any particular style or format. Be consistent within the paper.

Each paper must have at least **TWO sources in addition** to the play about which you are writing. Cite all sources in a bibliography. Your writing **must include an analysis of the play and topic, not a synopsis of the play. Submit HARD COPIES to me directly.**

**No emailed papers will be accepted or graded unless approved in advance by the instructor.**

**NO FIRST DRAFT PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER Nov 25.**

## Daily Assignments for THS 231

You will be expected to have read the assigned play for class discussion. Your oral observations are expected. This course involves extensive reading and writing. Keep up.

### THS 231 Daily Assignments and Reading Week #

- |    |          |  |
|----|----------|--|
| 1  | Aug. 25  | Discuss syllabus; writing and topics   |
|    | 27       | video - <i>Origins of Theatre</i>  |
|    | 29       | Introduction to the Greeks;  |
| 2. | Sept. 3  | discussion of Greek play structure and Aeschylus   |
|    | 5        | Read and discuss <b><i>Oresteia</i></b> – <b>QUIZ 1</b> ; discussion of themes   |
| 3  | Sept. 8  | video clips from- <i>Agamemnon &amp; Troy</i>  |
|    | 10       | discuss Greek theatre architecture and Sophocles   |
|    | 12       | Read and discuss <b><i>Oedipus Rex</i></b> – <b>QUIZ 2</b>   |
| 4  | Sept 15  | ( video clips from- <i>Oedipus the King</i> )  |
|    | 17       | Discuss Euripides and <b><i>Medea</i></b> ; <b>QUIZ 3</b>  |
|    | 19       | <b>video (<i>Medea</i>)</b> ;  |
| 5  | Sept 22  | Discuss Aristophanes and comic style ;   |
|    | 24       | <b><i>Lysistrata</i></b> ; <b>QUIZ 4</b> ;   |
|    | 26       | Greek Paper # 1- claim/thesis statement due- peer review in-class  |
| 6  | Sept. 29 | Intro to Roman theatre   |
|    | 1        | <b>Discuss Roman theatre architecture ;</b>  |
|    | 3        | <b>Read <i>The Menaechmi</i> QUIZ 5</b> ; Roman comedy   |
| 7  | Oct. 6   | <b>PAPER 1 DUE-Greeks</b> ; Intro to medieval theatre; video : <i>From Sanctuary to Stage</i>                              |
|    | 8        | <b>Read</b> play by Hrosvitha in class; discuss ( bring medieval and tudor play book)                                      |
|    | 10       | Read <b><i>Everyman</i></b> <b>QUIZ 6</b> ;  |
| 8  | Oct 13   | ( <i>Break</i> ) <b>NO CLASS</b>   |
|    | 15       | <b><i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i></b> <b>QUIZ 7</b> ;Video- <i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i> ;                         |
|    | 17       | Intro to Italian Renaissance; discuss writing a play critique  |
| 9  | Oct. 20  | <b>In class reading and staging of- <i>The Red Hat</i>( Quiz # 8 credit for participation)</b>                             |
|    | 22       | Italian Renaissance and theatre architecture; staging <b><i>The Red Hat</i></b>  |
|    | 24       | ( <b>Medieval Paper#2 claim/thesis statement due</b> ; peer review in-class<br>( <b>SEE <i>Eurydice</i> THIS WEEKEND</b> ) |

- 10 Oct 27 Intro to Elizabethan Theatre;  
 29 video *Theatre in Shakespeare's Time*; **PAPER 2 DUE – Medieval**  
 31 Elizabethan theatre architecture
- 11 Nov 3 Read *Dr. Faustus* **QUIZ 9**; video clips *Dr. Faustus*  
 5 Read *Midsummer Night's Dream* **QUIZ 10-**  
 7 video clips on MSND ( play critique due for *Eurydice*)
- 12 Nov 10 Read *Hamlet* **QUIZ 11**; Discussion  
 12 video clips – *Hamlet* ( *Laurence Olivier*)  
 14 video clips *Hamlet* ( *Mel Gibson*) ;video clips *Hamlet*- Kenneth Branagh
- 13 Nov 17 discussion of three approaches to *Hamlet*  
 19 video *Shakespeare in Love*  
 21 video *Shakespeare in Love*  
 ( SEE *Unveiled Truths* THIS WEEKEND)
14. Nov. 24 ( Elizabethan **Paper #3 claim/ thesis statement due**); discuss *Unveiled Truths*  
 Peer review theses for Paper #3 in class.
- 15 Dec 1 Intro to Spanish Theatre ; Play critique for *Unveiled Truths* due  
 3 **Read *Life is a Dream* QUIZ 12 ; PAPER 3 DUE**  
 8 **Read *Fuente Ovejuna* Quiz 13;**
- Dec 15 **Last day to submit final rewrites for essays ;**

**FINAL EXAM ( week of Dec 9-15)- date to be announced by the Registrar**

**THS 231 Fall 2008      Evaluation of Play Analysis Paper**

Name of Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Writer \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the paper on the achievement of each element using the scale below.  
1 through 5 ( 5 being the highest score)

**1. Introduction:** Effectively draws the reader into the subject of the paper by using a specific illustration, a question, a quotation or other means of focusing the reader's attention.

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Thesis/Claim:** Claim is clear and specific. Claim matches the content of the paper. Claim is narrow and interesting enough to be proven in the length of the paper.

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Body paragraphs:** Each paragraph helps to prove the claim and is necessary to the paper. Each paragraph contains a sub- thesis statement specific to that paragraph.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Arguments and examples:** are clear and specifically support claim, are relevant to the main idea or opinions expressed in the paper and are evidentiary; examples are from credible sources

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Organization:** Clearly connected paragraphs, well placed transitions

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Grammar, Mechanics and Style:** appropriate language and style; avoids spelling errors, misuse of comas, wrong word usage, improper use of apostrophes, misplaced modifiers

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Overall Appeal of the Paper:** sustains interest and teaches you something; does not state the obvious; arguments are believable and you could be persuaded by them.

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS:**