

ENG 5307
American Contemporary Drama

SUMMER 1, 2021

Course: ENG 5307
Class meets in: online
Days:
Time:

Instructor: Rosemary Briseño, Ph.D.
Office: MAB 112-B
Office Hrs: by appt on Zoom
Office phone: 432-837-8152

Required texts

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller. ISBN: 978-0-14-048134-1

Glengarry Glen Ross by David Mamet. ISBN: 978-0-8021-3091-4

A Raisin in The Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. ISBN:978-0-679-75533-3

Required materials

In order to defray costs for students, I am not requiring that you purchase or rent the filmic versions of the plays (DVDs), as I own each of them. However, I am strongly suggesting that you watch the films during specific days/times; these dates will be determined. If you cannot make the designated times, then it would be advisable for you to rent the films on your own, **THOUGH IT IS NOT REQUIRED**. Reading the plays should be sufficient.

Course description

To understand and appreciate American theater various contexts, specifically history and culture, are important aspects when learning about contemporary American drama—in other words, it is not just about reading the play, it is about what inspired the plays in the first place, as it pertains to contemporary American life. Therefore, we will explore the ways in which theater and performance have contributed to the construction and deconstruction of an American identity. We will also examine the broad social, political, religious, and cultural contexts in which American theater and performance takes place. Students will also develop a vocabulary of key terms which will enable them to better discuss and explore selected plays. Finally, students will learn how to identify and analyze theatrical and literary devices employed in plays and productions, to better enable them to write about contemporary American drama.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

ENGLISH (GRADUATE)

Graduate students will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of major authors, literary works in different genres, and definitive literary movements in British and American literature

2. Explicate literary works representative of two periods or genres in British literature and two periods or genres in American literature
3. Employ methodology and terminology used in creative writing or linguistics
4. Conduct substantial research to support original interpretations of literary works, provide original applications of literary or linguistic theories, or present literature reviews of authors or genres that have inspired creative writing projects

Required Format for Turning in Assignments

When using Blackboard to turn in assignments, please turn in all of your assignments in either **Microsoft Word OR PDF formats. I will not accept work turned in using any other format.**

Discussion forum /participation In an online course, discussion boards are designed to compensate for the lack of the in-class discussion that is so valuable to scholarly inquiry in graduate seminars. Therefore, your timely and thoughtful participation in the assigned discussion boards is essential. You will have a minimum of three discussion-board assignments, for which you must provide **AT LEAST THREE** different **RESPONSES**: your initial response to the Discussion Board question or prompt, then an additional two more responses to someone else's reply---so make note of due dates. I suggest you plan to log onto the course each day, Monday through Friday. If you miss the deadline for the postings for any specific discussion board, you may not make up that work. **Once a discussion board is closed, it will not be re-opened.**

Discussion boards during the semester will usually be accompanied by specific content, length, and participation requirements (see above). In order to receive credit for discussion boards, you must post a minimum **AT LEAST** three separate times. Generally, your postings should be **approximately 500+ words or more** and must be comprised of statements that are on topic and of a depth and a scope sufficient to elicit thoughtful responses from your colleagues. Please end your initial posting with your name. Responses to other students must begin with that person's name; for example, a response might begin "Alexis, I agree that Voice of the Shuttle is a good place to go for critical theory resources, but I found a better source on the Internet at" Responses to the initial postings of other students that essentially say nothing but "I agree with Alexis" are unacceptable; be sure that your response adds to the discussion.

IMPORTANT: All postings must be in paragraph form, comprised of complete sentences, and couched in language that is courteous and respectful of others' opinions. Topics for discussion may be responses to specific assignments, discussion of each other's' papers, or responses to student questions about assignments.

Due Dates and Time

Unless otherwise notes, all assignments will be due on **SUNDAY** before 11: 59 pm. Do not email any work; submit only to Blackboard in PDF or Word doc **ONLY**.

Confirming Submission of Your Blackboard Assignments, Methods 1 and 2

METHOD 1:

Assignment Link

Click on the Assignment link to view the submission history for that assignment. If you are allowed to make more than one submission, you will also see a **Submission History** that will display all your submissions by *date and time. This is important to note especially when you are required to turn in your work by a specific deadline. If you dispute the day and time in which you claim you submitted your work, but Blackboard cites a different time/date (i.e. past the due date), you negate any possibility for any makeup work.

METHOD 2:

My Grades Tool

You can also confirm your Assignment submission by accessing the **My Grades** area of a course. A yellow circle with a white exclamation point in the center will appear next to any Assignment that has been successfully submitted. You can access the submission history page by clicking either the name of the assignment or the yellow circle/white exclamation point icon.

Tech Assistance

Not knowing how to upload your work properly via Blackboard is not an excuse for not turning in assignments late.

Who should I contact?

<p>Online Support Desk</p> <p>☎ 888.837.6055 ✉ blackboardsupport@sulross.edu</p> <p>Available: 24/7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging into Blackboard • Questions about Blackboard tools/software • Trouble with tests/quizzes/assignments • Error messages on Blackboard • Online course video problems 	<p>Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)</p> <p>☎ 888.837.2882 ✉ techassist@sulross.edu</p> <p>Available: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging into your mySRSU/Banner/SRSU email • Campus computer, computer lab, or campus Wi-Fi issues • Security concerns with your SRSU or VPN account • Questions about Office 365 or OneDrive
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Absences

Sul Ross State University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor drops a student for excessive absences. **In this online course, "excessive absences" is defined as non-participation in the course for three (3) weeks or more. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an F in the course.**

To avoid being dropped, you must participate regularly. Participation in the course is defined as

- logging in to the course to check activities and to read discussion boards,
- gaining access to and using supplemental materials,
- posting on discussion boards as scheduled, and
- turning in assignments in a timely manner.

Professor e-communication

I will communicate with the class through Announcements and by e-mail, so be sure to log in daily to check for announcements on the course home page and to check your Sul Ross e-mail account regularly. You will find specific assignment details, due dates, and times in Tentative Assignments.

Responsibility

It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your email/Announcements frequently! I leave detailed instructions and details in the Announcements/email feature in Blackboard; it's up to you to check in and find out what's due, when, and how to turn in assignments.

Online Classroom Expectations

DAILY, FREQUENT CHECK-INS: You must check into Blackboard 9 frequently/daily. I write detailed summaries of objectives for the day/week under the Announcements/email feature in Blackboard 9; it is your responsibility to read them. I will not review any assignment/lecture materials AFTER the due date.

REASONABLE TIME CHECKS: What this means is, don't contact me *late in the evenings* and expect me to respond. I have two sons (ages 11 and 7 years old), so I am in bed early and get up early,. It's best to contact me via email early in the morning, or during any appointed times we have previously agreed upon. I will always email you in a timely fashion, so look for my response as soon as you contact me. If you need to speak with me, call me during office hours, and/or leave a message.

Community decorum: In respecting others opinions, we will cultivate a virtual classroom environment that fosters communal learning. No one is allowed to bully, intimidate, or make disparaging comments/remarks. Everyone is expected to maintain a level of respect which fosters a sense of community and equable learning. If you cannot maintain common decency, you will be barred from participating in online discussion for that session. If you continue disrespecting others, you will be barred from the course entirely, and you will earn an "F" for the course.

Individual decorum: Online courses do share some characteristics of traditional classroom environments, but are still quite unique in their operations, especially in that success in online courses depends on individual responsibility, more so than in a traditional face-to-face classroom. You are required to master time management, as well as make a conscious decision to CHECK IN DAILY. In order to achieve success in this course, please ensure you do the following:

- read assignments as they are assigned. Keeping up with the reading schedule is **absolutely vital to your success in this course**. If you do not consider the reading schedule a priority, your grade will suffer because quizzes, assignments, and major papers, revolve around the reading schedule
- turn in assignments by the due dates
- check your email/ Blackboard Announcements on a *daily* basis
- participate respectfully during forums. Your input, thoughts, and ideas relative to course readings and other course materials, are an important part of this course.
- DO NOT interfere with others' ability to learn; this means, you cannot monopolize the online classroom conversation, rudely interrupt others, shame or intimidate others, or otherwise prohibit or interrupt the learning process with disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior.

Makeup Work

Opportunities to make up assignments are available only in extreme, urgent circumstances, because I make every effort to post assignments in advance, even though this is not a self-paced course. It is your responsibility to turn in your work on or before the deadline (or revised deadline, whichever has been approved). If the assignment is not turned in by the deadline, work MIGHT be accepted but ONE WHOLE LETTER grade (10 points) will be deducted *per day* the assignment is late, weekends count. *Makeup work is granted at the professor's discretion.* To be eligible for possible makeup work, you MUST contact me in a reasonable time BEFORE the deadline (not an hour before the deadline, not five mins before, and certainly not AFTER the deadline).

If you contact me after the deadline, you will not be considered eligible to makeup that assignment, so don't ask.

No Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted for any reason due to **student negligence** (forgetting to turn in an assignment, forgetting to log in, not knowing how to use Blackboard , etc).

Student integrity and responsibility

Web-delivered courses are similar to face-to-face courses in that students are expected to exhibit academic integrity by respecting the discussion of their colleagues in the class, presenting as their own work only content that they have generated, scrupulously attributing and documenting all outside sources in their papers and discussion, and, in general, adhering to the ethical standards of scholars. I expect you to be responsible for your own learning.

Academic Honesty

At the beginning of the semester, you will sign an **Academic Integrity Policy Statement**, which explains that the University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. The policy form will represent that the student understands that they are solely responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the university, and will not be tolerated. You will find this form in its own tab titled **Academic Integrity Policy**. Students must also check the box which reads "**I agree to submit my paper to the Global Reference Database.**" No essay/assignment will be graded unless this box is also checked.

I expect each student to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations regarding academic pursuits. The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

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http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records_srsu/handbook_2012-2013-complete.pdf

1. "Cheating" includes:

- a. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
- b. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- c. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- e. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
- f. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- g. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- h. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in ones own written work offered for credit.
- i. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.
- j. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
- k. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Plagiarism Policy

As a simple guideline, if you submit your own work, you will avoid all serious types of plagiarism. Nevertheless, a responsible student should also consider the less obvious variants of plagiarism, especially when writing research papers that require citations.

Instances of plagiarism, such as submitting an essay with sentences or passages cut and pasted from an online source, or a paper obtained from an online "paper mill," students in this course will automatically fail the assignment, receive a final grade of F, and be recommended for dismissal from the university. There is no excuse for serious plagiarism. I will also regard unattributed citations – verbatim copying of another's person's work without some indication of the source – as a serious form of plagiarism. In other words, don't insert any text in a paper that is not your own without also noting the source. You can email me with a question before an assignment is due, stop by my office during my office hours, or even parenthetically raise the question in your paper. *It's your responsibility to comply with principles of academic honesty; it's my responsibility to see that every student receives a fair and accurate grade.* Here is my policy on plagiarism for this course:



The *first offense* of plagiarism, in part or in whole, will result in a failing course grade of "F." and the student will be recommended for dismissal from the university. The student has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final.

ADA Accommodation

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Rebecca Wren in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P. O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. The telephone number is 432-837-8203.

Graded course requirements

Discussion Boards (two total)	20%
Two Short Essays (8-10 pgs)	40%
Final Essay with PowerPoint--may resubmit Essay 1 or 2 (revised)	40%

Grades

- A 90-100:** Outstanding performance in mastering of the subject. Achievement of superior quality. (4 grade : points per credit hour)
- B 80-89:** Consistent performance in achievement beyond the usual requirements of the course. Achievement of high quality. (3 grade points per credit hour)
- C 70-79:** Performance of a satisfactory nature. Achievement demonstrating an understanding of the subject sufficient for continued study in the discipline. (2 grade points per credit hour)
- D 60-69:** Minimally acceptable performance. Achievement demonstrating below average understanding of the basic elements of the course. (1 grade point per credit hour)
- F 50-59:** Achievement at a level insufficient to demonstrate understanding of the basic elements of the course. (0 grade points)

Incomplete grade(I):The grade of "I" is given by the instructor upon consultation with the student. The work to be completed and deadline for completion must be specified on the grade report to the Director of Records and Registration. A student may have a maximum of one academic year in which to remove an I during which time the "I" will not be calculated in the student's grade point average. If the work is not completed by the deadline set by the instructor, the "I" will be converted to an "F" and will be calculated in the student's grade point average for the semester in which the "I" was given. Normally, an incomplete grade will be awarded only for situations such as illness, family emergencies, or unusual circumstances which prevent a student from completing a course in a semester or summer term. Incomplete grades must be removed prior to graduation.

Withdrawal grade (W): The grade of "W" is given for courses dropped after the 12th/4th class days through the last day to drop a course with a "W" as published in the University's calendar. Students who wait until the published deadline must have complied with the class attendance policy of this catalog. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a "W" for a class if excessive absences have occurred. Students will not be permitted to drop a course or withdraw from the University after the published deadline.

Final Note

It's worth noting that there's a predictable and positive correlation between careful time management and academic success. I encourage you to make a wise decision as to what kind of student you will be early on and to plan accordingly. *No extra points, no extra credit work will be assigned, so don't ask.* **You are completely responsible for meeting all deadlines and keeping track of any changes made to the course schedule.** You have several resources made available to you to ensure your success in this course, so I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change at any moment in the semester)

Week 1

6/2-6/6: Intro to course. Review syllabus, course procedures, protocols, etc. Intro to American contemporary drama. *Death of A Salesman*. **Discussion Board #1** DUE 6/6 @11:59 pm. Student **Academic Integrity Policy** DUE, Sun 6/6@11:59 pm.

Weeks 2-3

6/17-6/17: Midterm (i.e. **Short Essay #1**, DUE Th, 6/17 @11:59 pm). *GlenGarry Glen Ross*. **Discussion Board #2** DUE T, 6/22 @11:59 pm.

Weeks 3-5

6/18-7/2

6/22: Discussion Board #2 DUE, T, @11:59 pm

7/2: Essay #2 DUE F, @ 11:59 pm

7/5: HOLIDAY. NO CLASSES.

7/6: Final paper and PowerPoint DUE @11:59 pm.

7/7: Wednesday, 7/7 final grades DUE to university Registrar by 12 noon.

----END OF SUMMER 1, 2021----
