

**ENGLISH/THEATRE 369:
MULTICULTURAL DRAMA OF THE UNITED STATES**

SPRING 2006

INSTRUCTOR: DR. BETTY DIAMOND
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REQUIRED TEXTS

FROM TEXTBOOK RENTAL:

The Roots of African American Drama

Out of the Fringe: Contemporary Latina/Latino Theatre and Performance

Asian American Drama

The Bedford Introduction to Drama (The third edition; beige cover; you won't be charged for these, and you will get to keep them.)

TO BE PURCHASED FROM THE UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE:

Philip Kan Gotanda, Yankee Dawg You Die

David Henry Hwang, M. Butterfly

Ntozake Shange, For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide....

August Wilson, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

George Wolfe, The Colored Museum

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Midterm Exam:	25%	Due: March 7 th
Term Paper: 2000 words	30%	Due: April 20 th
Final Exam:	25%	Due: May 11 th
Responses:	10%	Due: The first day a play is to be discussed
Participation and Projects:	10%	Due: Various

POLICIES

PARTICIPATION :

Participation is an important part of this course. Participation means more than merely speaking in class; it means speaking meaningfully in class and, above all, coming to class prepared. What being "prepared" means will vary: it may mean having read a play, having written something about the play, being ready to speak on a certain aspect of a play, or having rehearsed a scene from a play.

PROJECTS:

Students will either present scenes from the plays that we read at various points throughout the semester, present oral reports, or create videos about specific topics. If you are doing scenes, you are not expected to memorize lines, but you are expected to use costumes, props, and to rehearse and analyze the scenes before you present them to the class.

ATTENDANCE:

Since participation is such an important component of this course, you are expected to attend class regularly. Two absences are “safe” and will not affect your grade. More than that will. If you have three to four absences by the end of the semester, and you are between two grades, you will get the lower of the two. If you have five to six absences, your semester grade will be lowered one full grade. More than six absences: you can not expect to pass the course. If you become ill and must miss class for an extended period, I will be happy to sign a late drop form if you provide medical verification of your condition.

RESPONSES:

You will be asked to write a one-paged, typed response to each play that we will be reading. They are due the day we are to discuss a given play. Since responses are the basis for daily activity, no late responses will be accepted. Note: the responses are just that—they are due before we discuss the play in class and are your personal take on a particular play; there are no “wrong” responses. Responses must be a full page (about 250 words) and typed in order for them to be accepted.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is using another person’s work and indicating that it is your own. Everyone knows that plagiarism is using another person’s words without acknowledging the other person or without using quotation marks. But plagiarism is also using another person’s ideas without acknowledging the source. If you change the words, if you paraphrase, but you are still using ideas you got from someone else—whether it be from the Internet, a book, a magazine, The Evil House of Cheat.com, a fraternity file—that is plagiarism. If you plagiarize, you will receive an F for the course.

UNIVERSITY MANDATED STATEMENT:

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discriminations and Absence for University Sponsored Events. (For details, please refer to Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables, the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedure: [UWS Chapter 14]; and the “Students Nonacademic

Disciplinary Procedure” [UWS Chapter 17].

CLASS SCHEDULE

JAN. 17 T Introduction to course

19 R Introduction to African-American Drama

24 T DUE: Response to Escape
William Wells Brown, The Escape (in Roots, 38-95)

26 R DUE: Response to Chip Woman.
Willis Richardson, The Chip Woman’s Fortune (Roots, 152-158)

31 T DUE: Response to The Shining Town.
Owen Vincent Dodson, The Shining Town (Roots, 328-352)

FEB. 2 R Video: “That’s Black Entertainment”; time to work on projects.

7 T Projects.
Excerpts from Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun (in Bedford)

9 R DUE: Response to For Colored Girls....
Ntozake Shange, For Colored Girls

14 T Ntozake Shange, For Colored Girls
(Monologues, optional)

16 R DUE: Response to Ma Rainey.
August Wilson, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom

21 T Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom

23 R DUE: Response to The Colored Museum
George C. Wolfe, The Colored Museum

28 T The Colored Museum
Scenes

MAR. 2 DUE: Response to Twilight: Los Angeles (in Bedford)
Anna Deavere Smith, Twilight: Los Angeles
(Monologues, optional)

7 T DUE: Mid-term exam

9 R Introduction to Latino/Latina drama

MAR. 14 T DUE: Response to The Conduct of Life
Maria Irene Fornes, The Conduct of Life (in Bedford)

16R DUE: Response to Straight As A Line
Luis Alfaro, Straight As A Line (in Out of the Fringe)

21 T DUE: Response to “Los Vendidos”
Luis Valdez and El Teatro Campesino: “The Militants,” “Los Vendidos” (“Los Vendidos” is available on electronic reserve and regular reserve.)
Scenes

23 R Video: “Zoot Suit”

28 T-30 R SPRING BREAK

APR. 4 T DUE: Response to Alchemy of Desire
Caridad Svich, Alchemy of Desire/Dead Man’s Blues

6 R Introduction to Asian-American Drama

11 T DUE: Response to Yankee Dawg
Philip Kan Gotanda, Yankee Dawg You Die

13 R DUE: Response to Hiro
Denise Uyehara, Hiro (in Asian American Drama)

18 T DUE: Response to M. Butterfly
David Henry Hwang, M. Butterfly

20 R David Henry Hwang, M. Butterfly
DUE: TERM PAPER

25 T DUE: Response to Angels In America (in Bedford)
Not an Introduction to GLBT Drama
Tony Kushner, Angels In America

27 R Tony Kushner

MAY 2 T Tony Kushner

4 R LAST CLASS

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 11.