

Eng. 3630-10 (CRN 91043)  
American Drama I  
Robert Combs

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Aug.30 Introduction

Sep. 1 Royal Tyler, *The Contrast* (1787)

6 George L. Aiken, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852)

8 Dion Boucicault, *The Octoroon* (1859)

13 Charles Fechter, *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1883)

15 Edward Sheldon, *Salvation Nell* (1908)

20 Elmer Rice, *The Adding Machine* (1923)

22 Eugene O'Neill, *Desire Under the Elms* (1924)

27 Eugene O'Neill, *Strange Interlude* (1928)

29 Elmer Rice, *Street Scene* (1929)

Oct. 4 Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty* and *Awake and Sing* (1935)

6 Clare Boothe Luce, *The Women* (1937)

11 Mid-Term Exam

13 Thornton Wilder, *Our Town* (1938)

18 Eugene O'Neill, *The Iceman Cometh* (1946)

20 Eugene O'Neill, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (1947)

25 Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)

27 *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Nov. 1 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)

3 *Death of a Salesman*

8 Tennessee Williams, *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959)

10 Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)

15 William Inge, *Come Back, Little Sheba* (1950)

17 William Inge, *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* (1957)

22 No Class

24 No Class

29 Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night* (1956)

Dec. 1 *Long Day's Journey into Night*

6 Tennessee Williams, *The Night of the Iguana* (1961)

8 extra class period, if we need it

Texts: John Gassner, ed., *Best Plays of the American Theatre 1787-1911*

Eugene O'Neill 1) *Three Plays*

2) *Later Plays*

3) *The Iceman Cometh*

4) *Long Day's Journey into Night*

Thornton Wilder, *Three Plays*

William Inge, *Four Plays*

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Clare Booth Luce, *The Women*

Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty and Other Plays*

Elmer Rice, *Three Plays*

Requirements

Regular attendance and participation in class discussions. Assignments should be read in their entirety before each class. Each student will be asked to do two reports. Bring in a written version of your report to hand in when you present it, two and a half pages, typed, double-spaced. 25% of final grade.

Mid-Term Exam, Oct. 11, an essay exam, closed book. History of American Drama: themes, social issues, dramatic styles and structures. The exam will be evaluated according to how thoroughly and interestingly you use specific details from the texts to support your assertions. 25% of final grade.

Play attendance and essay/review. Each student is required to attend one performance of a production by the GW Theatre Department or a professional production in the Washington area during the fall semester and write a critical response to the production you saw. Your paper should include a brief description of the work, including some historical context, your own interpretation of the play's significance in terms of its major themes, and your evaluation of the realization of the play on stage, including the performances, direction, stage sets, music, etc. 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced. Due Thursday, Dec. 15, 5:00 pm. Place a hard copy in the plastic box on my office door (Rome 767). 25% of final grade.

One paper, 7-8 pages, serving as a take-home final exam. Due Thursday, Dec. 15, 5:00 pm. Place a hard copy in the plastic box on my office door (Rome 767). No e-mail submissions except by prior arrangement. Papers will be not accepted after Dec. 15. Topic(s) will be announced during the first week of November and will cover only works read since the mid-term. 25% of final grade.

Classroom etiquette: water and soft drinks are ok. Remember to remove containers when you leave. But, please, no eating during class. Please stay in the room for the full class period.

Attendance: 5 or more absences will lower your final grade by one letter; ten or more absences will result in an F in the class. But let me know by e-mail when you are out for good reasons like extended illness, religious observance, and play rehearsal. These absences will not be held against you. If I am absent because of illness or for whatever reason, please go ahead with the reports. One report giver will please circulate and collect a sign-in sheet **after** the reports. Class will end after the reports. Go on with the reading as assigned on the syllabus for the next class. We shall all try to be considerate of one another. Thanks.