

Spring 2021 Dramatic Literature Course Descriptions

Drama Department

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To: DRAMA-Undergrad Students, MUSIC THEATRE-All Students, Sender Custom Email List <zotmail@uci.edu>

Dear Drama majors,

Please find below the course descriptions for the dramatic literature course offerings for Spring 2021.

Drama 112W - Early Modern Theatre

This course samples the dramatic output of some of Shakespeare's contemporaries, focusing particularly on the emergence of the commercial theater as an important economic and cultural institution in early modern London.

Drama 118 - Healing Performance

Using performance to restore balance to ourselves and others, including using performance within conventional (allopathic) medical practice, and using traditional (alternative) healing techniques in performance as a basis for creation.

Drama 118 – Top Rated Shows!

As theatre artists it is important for us to see productions. In our current situation that is clearly impossible. This class is devised to help meet that critical need. The productions that are selected for this class represent a wide variety of genres and styles. The goal is to broaden our exposure to theatre and to take advantage of the exemplary work that is available to us even as we are experiencing physical isolation.

Each week students will view an assigned production to watch and critique.. After filing the response, teams of 5 students from the class will “meet”, and collaborate and create a brief presentation about the production. During Friday’s morning ZOOM class, each group makes their production presentation, leads a discussion and Q and A with the larger group.

This class will give us the opportunity to see some remarkable productions and have a lively conversation about them. Bring your coffee, tea or juice to the Friday morning class. This spring as a group saw at least 40 productions!

GENRE LIST:

Classics

Contemporary

Musicals

Shakespeare

Physical/Devised

Drama 118 - Afro Asia Perf

Using literary texts, scholarly texts, film, theater, dance, musical production, this course interrogates Afro Asian political, economic, and cultural junctures and ruptures.

Drama 123 - Multicultural Spring

A study of the history, aesthetics, practice, and tradition of various cultures as performance. The emphasis is to expand the definition of culture and performance, as well as to connect performing arts to the contemporary multicultural society.

Drama 126W - Af Am Drama Film

Using plays, screenplays, and scholarship texts, this course interrogates the work of playwright August Wilson in both theater and film.

Italian 150 – The Divine Comedy (approved as Dramatic Literature for Spring 2021 only)

This year's seminar will deal with the notion of covenant, or written agreement, more particularly, the ways in which God's covenants with man are reflected in Dante's covenant with his reader. God made two covenants with man: first the covenant with Noah that the world would never again be flooded: That covenant was sealed with the rainbow. The second covenant, requiring the sacrifice of Christ, was that Heaven would be opened to mankind. That covenant was sealed with the blood of the Word. Christ was understood by medieval Christianity as the writing of the Word when he dwelt in this world. Now Dante is carrying on Christ's task of returning the world to God, i.e., to happiness, perfect self-sufficient existence, by means of a written document which he often figures as a person. Sin, we shall see, is a disfrancare, a kind of unwriting of the soul/self/covenant to nonsense. Dante's poem is deeply covenantal, most obviously the fulfillment of a vow made to Beatrice, but, by its allegorical and figural force, that vow transcends itself to recognize God as the covenantee. The final moments of ecstasy at the end of the Paradiso are accordingly the fulfillment of that vow and the Pilgrim's enabling as Poet to write the poem.