

THTR 529a – Textual Studies for Performance

63188D/Units: 4

Fall 2019 — WED, FRI — 12:00-1:50

Location: VKC 261

Instructor: Boni B. Alvarez

Office: MCC 214

Office Hours: WED, FRI - by appointment

Contact Info: bbalvare@usc.edu

(I will reply as soon as I can, but please allow 36 hours for a response.)

Course Description

We will read a selection of plays from the classical canon, examining various structures, subjects, and styles. In tandem, we will read contemporary adaptations of the classic plays. These close readings of dramatic texts will serve as a fundamental tool for rehearsal and performance.

Learning Objectives

The course will mirror a professional rehearsal room. Students will approach texts as performers' first days of rehearsals, breaking down the plays via critical table work. This course cultivates the students' abilities for dramatic analysis and literacy.

Key points of investigation: the world of the play; the author's intentions – in the overall writing of the play, language, with their characters, and with each individual scene; what the play is attempting to accomplish and overall impact.

By studying play adaptations in tandem with the source materials, we will investigate how contemporary playwrights are adapting/appropriating/manipulating/in conversation with/revising the canon.

Required Readings – Texts marked with an asterisk (*) can be purchased through the USC Bookstore or online. All other texts will be distributed electronically or as hard copies.

- Alfaro, Luis. *Mojada*
- Brecht, Bertolt. *Mother Courage*
- Buchner, Georg. *Woyzeck*
- Chekhov, Anton. *The Seagull*
- Euripides. *Medea*
- Fuchs, Elinor, "Visit to a Small Planet: Some Questions to Ask a Play"
- *Nottage, Lynn. *Ruined*. Theater Communications Group, 2009
- *Park, Jiehae. *Peerless*. Samuel French, 2017
- *Posner, Aaron. *Stupid Fucking Bird*. Dramatists Play Service, 2016
- Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Table Work – 30%

Students must actively participate in the readings and analysis of plays. Assigned ancillary materials should be read as required. Many ideas, questions, and opinions will arise; students should be respectful and professional, and employ active listening in the ensuing dialogue.

Dramatic Analysis Forms (3) – 13% each

DA Forms serve as a dramaturgical tool in preparation for rehearsal and performance. The forms pose questions on the play's arc, themes, setting, and characters to bring the actor closer to the world of the play.

Adaptation Assignment – 20%

A creative and presentational GROUP assignment - groups will present a pitch for an adaptation of Buchner's *Woyzeck*. A more detailed prompt will be distributed.

Final Paper – 11%

A written essay utilizing Fuchs' 'Visit to a Small Planet' as a launching pad for a play analysis from the lens of a specific character. A more specific prompt will be distributed.

Grading Breakdown

ASSIGNMENT	% of grade
Table Work	30
Dramatic Analysis (3)	39
Adaptation	20
Final Paper	11
TOTAL	100

Grading Scale for SDA: **A** indicates work of excellent quality; **B** of good quality; **C** of average quality; **D** of below average quality; and **F** indicates inadequate work.

A+: 100-98	A: 97-94	A-: 93-90
B+: 89-87	B: 86-84	B-: 83-80
C+: 79-77	C: 76-74	C-: 73-70 (failing grade for graduate credit)
D+: 69-67	D: 66-64	D-: 63-60

Assignment Submission Policy

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Additional Policies

Attendance is compulsory. Unexcused absences will affect your grade adversely – if you are not in class, you are not contributing to the table work. There will be no make-up assignments.

Technology - Please be respectful of the class and your colleagues - CELL PHONE USE IS PROHIBITED. NO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ON LAPTOPS/TABLETS, ETC.

<u>WK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEEKLY SCHEDULE</u>	
1	WED 8/28 <u>FRI 8/30</u>	Introductions; Fuchs' 'Visit to a Small Planet' <u>Euripides' <i>Medea</i></u>	
2	WED 9/4 <u>FRI 9/6</u>	Euripides' <i>Medea</i> <u>Alfaro's <i>Mojada</i></u>	
3	WED 9/11 <u>FRI 9/13</u>	Alfaro's <i>Mojada</i> <u>Alfaro's <i>Mojada</i></u>	
4	WED 9/18 <u>FRI 9/20</u>	Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> <u>Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i></u>	
5	WED 9/25 <u>FRI 9/27</u>	Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> <u>Park's <i>Peerless</i></u>	
6	WED 10/2 <u>FRI 10/4</u>	Park's <i>Peerless</i> <u>Park's <i>Peerless</i></u>	DRAMATIC ANALYSIS FORM DUE
7	WED 10/9 <u>FRI 10/11</u>	Buchner's <i>Woyzeck</i> <u>Buchner's <i>Woyzeck</i></u>	
8	WED 10/16 <u>FRI 10/18</u>	TBD <u>NO CLASS – FALL RECESS</u>	
9	WED 10/23 <u>FRI 10/25</u>	Chekhov's <i>The Seagull</i> <u>Chekhov's <i>The Seagull</i></u>	
10	WED 10/30 <u>FRI 11/1</u>	Posner's <i>Stupid Fucking Bird</i> <u>Posner's <i>Stupid Fucking Bird</i></u>	DRAMATIC ANALYSIS FORM DUE
11	WED 11/6 <u>FRI 11/8</u>	Brecht's <i>Mother Courage</i> <u>Brecht's <i>Mother Courage</i></u>	
12	WED 11/13 <u>FRI 11/15</u>	Brecht's <i>Mother Courage</i> <u>Nottage's <i>Ruined</i></u>	DRAMATIC ANALYSIS FORM DUE
13	WED 11/20 <u>FRI 11/22</u>	Nottage's <i>Ruined</i> <u>Nottage's <i>Ruined</i></u>	
14	WED 11/27 <u>FRI 11/29</u>	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY <u>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</u>	
15	WED 12/4 <u>FRI 12/6</u>	Adaptation Presentations <u>Adaptation Presentations</u>	
FINAL	FRI 12/13	11am-1pm	FINAL PAPER DUE

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university’s site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ss

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu