

**DRAMA – MR. BERTELSEN**  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS/REQUIREMENTS**  
**2007 – 2008**

The course goals are as follows:

- to recognize and analyze the various components of theatrical production
- to apply the fundamentals of play analysis
- to recognize the major movements in theatre history

**Course Description:** This course is a language arts elective. Students will study the various components of theatrical production, basic play analysis, theatre history and acting. A project due at the end of the semester will be required (details to follow). Exams will be a combination of multiple choice/short essay.

**Material Covered:**

1. The Theatre – An Introduction to the Art Form
  - a. Organization/hierarchy of a theatre company
  - b. Job Opportunities
2. Theatre History
  - a. The ancient Greeks and Romans
  - b. The medieval theatre
  - c. The Renaissance in Italy and England
  - d. The Restoration
  - e. Modern American Theatre
3. Play Analysis
4. Design Elements
5. The Fundamentals of Acting
  - a. Relaxation/breathing
  - b. The voice
  - c. Improvisational Exercises
  - d. Monologues
  - e. Scene Study

**Projects:**

1. Two 1-2 page (typewritten) responses to plays you will have read from the reading list.
2. Oral Presentation – Important People in the Theatre (topics and due date TBA)
3. Make Up Project
4. Final Core Project (details to follow)

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**Reading List**

Tennessee Williams	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Arthur Miller	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
Lillian Hellman	<i>The Little Foxes</i>
Joseph Kesserling	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>
William Inge	<i>Bus Stop</i>
Edward Albee	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i>
Neil Simon	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>
Thornton Wilder	<i>Our Town</i>
James Goldman	<i>The Lion in Winter</i>
Jason Miller	<i>That Championship Season</i>

After reading the play, write a 1-2 page (typewritten, double-spaced, 12-pt. font) paper describing your reaction to the work. Questions to guide you as you write your paper may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Did you like it? Why or why not?
- What did you think of the characters? Was there a character that you particularly identified with, or disliked? Why?
- Was there anything in the play that was unclear or difficult to understand?
- What did you think of the writing style?
- Have you ever seen the play in performance? If so, what was the production like?
- If you were to direct this play, what would your vision of the production be?
- If you were to act in this play, what character(s) would you like to play? Why?

**Paper #1 – Due Monday, October 15**

**Paper #2 – Due Friday, December 14**

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### **ORAL PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Your presentation should be approximately 10 minutes in length. Visual aids and handouts are strongly encouraged.

You must use a minimum of two sources.

The following questions/topics should be addressed in your presentation:

- Biographical Information
- How did they come to a career in the theatre?
- What were their contributions to the art form?
- Describe the impact their work had on the art form.

What an oral presentation *ISN'T*: An oral presentation is NOT printing something off the Internet and reading it to the class. Your presentation should be thoroughly researched and **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

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**FINAL CORE PROJECT**

**Total Credit: 300 points**

Select a full-length play – one that you like well enough to work with all semester.  
Read it several times – once for enjoyment, second, third, fourth times for specific information.  
Identify the following on a separate sheet of paper:

- Title and playwright
  - Type of play
  - Number of acts and scenes
  - Number of characters – male/female
  - Setting – number of sets, set changes, any special problems
  - Lighting – special lighting, special effects lighting
  - Costumes – special requirements/problems
  - Props – list of, any special requirements/problems
  - Sound – any special requirements/problems
1. **Analysis** – at least 500 words
    - a. Type of play
    - b. Theme
    - c. Plot
    - d. Characters (to include one complete character sketch)
    - e. Quotations
  2. **Set Design**
    - a. Floor plan – to scale, done in pencil, on graph paper, with measurements for a stage 36' x 25'.
    - b. Must include an explanation of the set, furniture, wall coverings, and any special effects or set changes.
  3. **Costumes**
    - a. Three original designs, in color, on 8 ½ x 11 paper.
    - b. Each design must include a complete description of design, fabric, and accessories and support for your choices for that specific character.

**Project will be graded on its correctness, creativity, and neatness. Should be compiled in some type of folder.**