

FIYS 194 - Playwrights & Performers: Considering Voice
Fall 2008

Instructor: **D. Ohlandt**

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TR 2:30pm - 3:50pm

Buchanan 200

office hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am

and by appointment

In this class, we'll consider and practice the skills we need to develop our own voices as members of an intellectual community— skills like confidence in public speaking, choosing language appropriate for different audiences and disciplines, structuring an analytic argument, physical and vocal range, using different kinds of evidence (textual, historical, and experiential) to support and illustrate claims, developing concentration and using imagination, and drafting and revising.

As we consider our own voices in writing and speaking, we'll also explore how the written voice of a playwright becomes the physical voice of a performer. Throughout theater history, actors and directors have developed performance techniques in response to the styles of new plays, and playwrights have developed new literary styles for the techniques of specific performers. We'll spend part of each unit in a "literature seminar" and the other part in a "studio session," working to complete a written assignment and a performance assignment. For each unit, we'll focus on a playwright and a performer who worked together and influenced each other's professional style and artistic voice.

Course Goals & Objectives:

Overall, to bridge the transition between the academic skills of high school and the academic skills of college.

- to identify and practice skills of critical academic writing (incl. thesis statements, argument structure, correct citation, and appropriate evidence)
- to identify and practice skills of critical academic thinking (incl. considering social and historical context, unfamiliar vocabulary, evaluating arguments and evidence, analysis)
- to practice identifying different audiences and using appropriate voices for different audiences
- to practice different types of thesis-based academic writing
- to practice different types of performance techniques
- to learn how to use our peers as a resource in refining our writing, thinking, and speaking, and how to be a resource for them
- to identify and connect to academic and co-curricular resources of Lake Forest College

Texts:

The following texts have been ordered through the Lake Forest College bookstore:

A Pocket Style Manual, 5th Edition, by Diana Hacker

All My Sons, by Arthur Miller (Dramatists Play Service)

Threepenny Opera, by Bertolt Brecht (Penguin Classics edition)

The Madwoman of Chaillot, by Jean Giraudoux (Dramatists Play Service)

The Voyage Inheritance, by Harley Granville-Barker, translated by David Mamet (Dramatists Play Service)

A Practical Handbook for the Actor, by Melissa Bruder, et al

Glengarry Glen Ross, by David Mamet (Grove Atlantic)

The Viewpoints Book, by Anne Bogart

Also, you should have already acquired for yourself the following text:

The Seagull, by Anton Chekov, translated by Michael Frayn (Methuen)

Additional readings will be posted or linked on Moodle; you should print these readings out for yourself and bring them to class on days that we are discussing them

Class Attendance Policy:

You are required to attend all class meetings, and to arrive on time, ready to work. Attendance will be taken every day (tardies will be noted). Excused absences will be granted for verifiable medical and family emergencies, as well as for observed religious holidays, if brought to my attention ahead of time. Unexcused absences or late arrivals will result in a lower participation grade for each unit.

When you are in class, you should be focused on class: please turn off cell phones, and refrain from writing or reading for other classes. *Please bring with you any texts under discussion that day and wear comfortable clothes that allow a range of movement.*

Field Trips:

Going to Chicago to see professional performance is a hallmark of the Theater curriculum at Lake Forest College, and an educational opportunity unmatched at other colleges. Field trips will take place on Thursday or Friday evenings and will not conflict with Theater department productions. *Please note: Your attendance is mandatory on class field trips.* Reasonable attempts will be made to avoid conflicts with Garrick Players events and other all-campus events, but I expect that you will adjust your schedule of non-College activities in order to attend these field trips. In the event that an unavoidable conflict arises with a class field trip, I may, at my discretion, agree to one of the following options for full credit:

- you may arrange at your own expense to attend the same event at a different time, as long as you do so in time to participate in class discussions and/or projects relating to the missed event
- you may propose an alternative event or project in line with the goals of the event, which (in my opinion) requires equal or greater work on your part, again to be completed in time to participate in class discussions and/or projects relating to the missed event

Special Accommodations:

Everyone is built a little differently, and it shouldn't be surprising that everyone has different needs when it comes to learning in the classroom. Please come and talk with me if I am not meeting your needs.

I am happy to provide large-print copies of any materials that I hand out, and I can also make available written outlines of the things that I have prepared to say in class. If differences in your ability to see, hear, or learn require more elaborate aids than this— if, for example, you need outlines of what everyone else says in class— then you will need to alert me early in the term, and you will also need to arrange for services through the college.

If you have concerns about mobility requirements for any assignment or physical access to the classroom, performance spaces, or any resources, please see me and we will work together to resolve the problem.

Assignments & Grading:

✓ unit writing assignments - 300 points

For each of the five units, we will have a writing assignment that will develop an aspect of voice in academic writing. All together, the five unit writing assignments will total 300 points. The specific grading scale for each assignment will be distributed with the assignment.

✓ unit performance assignments - 300 points

For each of the five units, we will have a performance assignment that will develop an aspect of voice in public speaking. All together, the five performance assignments will total 300 points. The specific grading scale for each assignment will be distributed with the assignment.

✓ unit participation grades - 30 points per unit, 150 points total

For each of the five units, you will earn a participation grade based on your attendance in class and on field trips, contributions to class discussions, preparation for class, and any preparatory assignments or in-class quizzes that we do.

grading scale for participation grades:

30 = perfect attendance for the unit; obvious all reading done and extra effort made to understand concepts before class; perfect scores on quizzes and excellent feedback preparatory assignments; always an enthusiastic attitude; frequent, thoughtful and respectful contributions to discussion

28-29 = perfect attendance for the unit; obvious all reading done; some effort made to understand concepts before class; very good scores on quizzes and very good feedback on preparatory assignments; usually an enthusiastic attitude; good number of thoughtful and respectful contributions to discussion

25-27 = one absence or tardy in the unit; usually obvious that all reading has been done; some effort made to understand concepts before class; often an enthusiastic attitude; middling scores on quizzes and some improvement needed on preparatory assignments; too little contribution to discussions, or contributions are superficial

22-24 = multiple tardies or two absences in the unit; unclear whether or not reading has been done; uneven effort to understand concepts before class; poor or failing score on quizzes or considerable improvement needed on preparatory exercises; neutral or uneven attitude

18-21 = considerable improvement needed in participation and attitude; contributions to class are disrespectful

17 or below = failing grade in participation

✓ summer assignment - 50 points

If you completed all three parts of the summer assignment on time and followed the directions, you have already earned 50 points for this class!

✓ attendance at the ACE/Interact Series - 100 points

This series of workshops and presentations on key academic survival skills is designed to help first-year students get the most out of their college experience. The series is co-sponsored by the Department of Physical Education and the Learning & Teaching Center. All sessions are held in McCormick Auditorium on Sunday evenings, from 7:30-8:30pm. Refreshments are provided at each session. You are strongly encouraged to attend the ACE/Interact Series.

- If you attend all five sessions, you will earn 100 points for this class.
- If you attend four of the five sessions, you will earn 75 points for this class.
- If you attend three or fewer of the sessions, you will still gain a lot of valuable insights, but you will earn 0 points for this class.

✓ experience Lake Forest - 100 points

Lake Forest College offers you a world of resources. You can earn up to 100 points for this class just by "experiencing Lake Forest." Here's how – below is a list of ten things I believe students should experience at Lake Forest. When you complete any 6 of the 10, you earn 60 points; you then earn 10 points for each additional task on the list that you complete.

- 1) use I-Share, and bring me the result
- 2) submit an assignment to me via Moodle
- 3) make an appointment at the Career Center and ask your counselor to send me an email
- 4) attend a concert of one of the music department ensembles that you aren't playing or singing in; bring me a program and write a few paragraphs describing what you thought of it
- 5) attend a performance by the theater department or the Garrick Players of a show you aren't performing in or working backstage for; bring me a program and write a few paragraphs describing what you thought of it
- 6) attend an art exhibit opening on campus and write a few paragraphs about the piece that you found most compelling (include its title, artist, and location)
- 7) attend a lecture or workshop given by an expert visiting campus; bring me a photocopy of your handwritten notes
- 8) attend an athletic contest of a Lake Forest College team that you don't play for; take 2-3 photographs and write up a few paragraphs describing the highlights
- 9) attend an event in the town of Lake Forest and bring me your description of the event and your description of where it was held
- 10) go to something in Chicago without a class; bring me a short description of where you went, how you got there, and what you did

Overall Grading:

There are 1000 possible points you can earn in this class. Final letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

920 - 1000 = A	820 - 879 = B	720 - 779 = C	620 - 679 = D
900 - 919 = A-	800 - 819 = B-	700 - 719 = C-	600 - 619 = D-
880 - 899 = B+	780 - 799 = C+	680 - 699 = D+	below 599 = F

Professor Ohlandt's requirements for written work:

Written work is due in class on the date it is due. If you choose to submit your final written assignment for the unit electronically, it must be sent or uploaded before class begins that day. Late papers will have points deducted (depending on the grading scale for that paper) once class begins on that day, then further points deducted at midnight that night and each midnight thereafter.

Written work must be in MLA format, using MLA standards for citation, and be printed double-spaced in 11- or 12- pt font, with 1" margins. Your pages must be numbered, and the first page should have a header that includes a title, the course number, the date the paper was turned in, semester and year, and your name, in whatever arrangement you find aesthetically pleasing, *as long as the information is clear and logical*.

You should use parenthetical citations in the body of your paper, and you must include a works cited page with bibliographic entries at the end, under its own heading. *Your works cited page does not count towards your total page count!*

All ideas that are not your own must be cited (parenthetical citations are appropriate here), even if you do not quote them directly.

If you choose to submit your papers in hard copy, you may print on both sides of the page—*however*, if your last page is printed on both sides, please staple a blank page on the end for me to write my comments. You must staple your pages together if you submit a hard copy—paper clips are not acceptable.

Grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors will absolutely lower your grade. *If it seems that you have not proofread your paper at all, I will return it to you for proofreading and accept it again within 24 hours for half credit.*

Submitting written work via email or Moodle

UNIT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

I encourage you to submit your final written assignments for each unit to me in electronic form at ohlandt@lakeforest.edu or via our class webpage on Moodle. Written work submitted electronically MUST be uploaded as an attachment. The following formats are acceptable: 1) .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) - preferred, 2) WordPerfect, 3) MS Word. (I probably can't open any other formats!)

On receipt, I will convert your file to a .pdf document, and I will mark/grade it using a stylus input, so it will look like handwriting. I will save the marked paper as a different .pdf and return it to you in that format. You should be able to print .pdf files on any computer with the free Adobe reader installed.

If you choose to submit your papers electronically, the same formatting and citation standards apply.

PREPARATORY ASSIGNMENTS

Some of our preparatory assignments we will be using in class, so you will have to bring hard copies. Occasionally there will be a preparatory assignment that you can submit to me via email— I will let you know in the schedule of assignments if and when this is the case.