ENGL 3348-W01: Drama: Staging Disability

Fall 2020
Online bb9.tamucc.edu

Instructor    Dr. Jarred Wiehe
Office        https://tamucc.webex.com/meet/jwiehe
Office Hours  M/W/F 1-3 online
Email         jarred.wiehe@tamucc.edu

* I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus, as the need arises.

Course Description
The irony is that disability has been central to drama, and yet drama (in performance, casting, and theatre history) seems to erase disability. Let’s explore that tension in Staging Disability. Whether disability gets picked up as a metaphor, used as a staging device, or actually explored by and through actors, playwrights, and directors with disabilities, the disabled body is a central way for drama, as a genre, to make meaning. Think about early modern disability, where Richard III’s curved spine becomes visible proof of his crooked morals. Or modern Broadway, staging the separation of conjoined twins set to song and dance in *Side Show*. And how many plays are about “mad” women? By centering disability (both cognitive and physical), this course will do several things: provide a survey of theatre from Greece to modern Broadway, consider the formal/mechanical/dramaturgical aspects of drama as a genre, and think about the stakes of performance and why drama matters, especially in representing and casting people with disabilities.

Required Texts

Course Goals
Students who successfully complete ENGL 2316 will be able to
- Recognize the formal features of drama such as plotting, staging, casting, doubling
- Place drama within its historical and social context
- Be attentive to how the formal features of drama shape meaning of the content
- Make use of drama to develop sustained arguments about literature and culture

Grading and Evaluation
All grades will be calculated according to the percentage formula below. No grades will be discussed over email. Please talk to me in person if you are concerned about your grade.
Final Grade Formula:
- Paper 1: 20%
- Paper 2: 25%
- Performance Theory: 15%
- Web Performances: 20%
- Engagement/Participation: 20%

**Paper 1:** A 2-3 page sustained close reading of a scene relying on evidence drawn from its formal features. A Specific prompt will be given in class.

**Paper 2:** A 3-4 page paper that will ask students to draw evidence from 2 different plays, placing them in conversation with each other. A specific prompt will be given in class.

**Performance Theory:** A 2-3 page paper that theorizes an adapted performance from one of our readings. A specific prompt will be given in class.

**Weekly Web Performances:** We will be making weekly performances in small groups or individually using recorded WebEx meetings. Specific prompt will be available on Blackboard.

**Engagement/Participation:** Participation doesn’t always look the same for every student, but thoughtful contribution is an essential part of this class, and you will need to be considerate of and attentive to others. It is your responsibility to keep up with the reading, to contribute to class in the form of analytical comments or questions, and to attend class regularly and on time.

**POLICIES**

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. *Please consult with your*
academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Thursday, November 5th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Participation
A student’s class participation is vastly hindered by said student not coming to class. Plan to attend every class. If you have a legitimate problem, I’m willing to try and work something out. However, you must, if at all possible, bring such problems to my attention before class. If you have mandatory absences (for sports or religious observances), they must be brought to my attention well in advance, but they will not count against you.

Late Papers
I love met deadlines. I will not accept late assignments—papers and Blackboard posts—simply because of the necessity of having those items for class activities. All papers and writing assignments must be ready to be turned in at the beginning of the class they are due. However, I am willing to talk about problems and see if we can come to a reasonable solution if you approach me in advance.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Statement of Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.)
In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Course Schedule** (please come to class having read and annotated the texts on the day listed; films are available on Blackboard, and you should come to class having watched them before class)

**Wk 1** 8/19: Intro, syllabus, Lennard J. Davis *Enforcing Normalcy*

**Wk 2** 8/25: *Oedipus*

8/27: *Oedipus* cont and “Narrative Prosthesis”

**Wk 3** 9/1: *Medea*

9/3: *Medea*

**Wk 4** 9/8: Shakespeare’s *Richard III* (1593)

9/10: *Richard III*

**Wk 5** 9/15: Collier, Butler, Durfey *The Fond Husband* (1678)

9/17: *Fond Husband*

**Wk 6** 9/22: Samuel Foote *Taste* (1752)

9/24: Foote *The Devil Upon Two Sticks* (1767)

**Wk 7** 9/29: Williams *The Glass Menagerie* (1944)

10/1: *The Glass Menagerie*

**Wk 8** 10/6: Beckett *Endgame* (1957)

10/8: William Gibson *The Miracle Worker* (1957)

**Wk 9** 10/13: Mark Medoff *Children of a Lesser God* (1979)
10/15: *Children*

**Wk 10** 10/20: August Wilson *Fences* (1985)

10/22: *Fences*

**Wk 11** 10/27: Cherie Moraga *Heroes and Saints*

10/29: *Heroes and Saints*

**Wk 12** 11/3: Margaret Edson *Wit*

11/5: Tony Kushner *Angles in America*

[11/5: Last day to drop a class]

**Wk 13** 11/10: *Angels in America*

11/12: *Angels*

**Wk 14** 11/17: Letts *August: Osage County*

11/19: *August*

**Wk 15** 11/24: Musicals! *Phantom, Side Show, Wicked*

Final Project due 12/3 by Midnight on Blackboard
Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- **Self-monitoring**—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**

- **Face Coverings**—**Face coverings** (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the [Face Covering policy](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/) and [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/) available on the Provost website.

- **Physical Distancing**—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.

- **Classroom Ingress/Egress**—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.

- **To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering** (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Student Conduct office for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.

### TAMU-CC Face Coverings

TAMUCC Face Coverings Policy and FAQs:

[https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/)

Rule and Procedure:

[https://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/34.99.99.c0.02_use_of_face_coverings.pdf](https://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/34.99.99.c0.02_use_of_face_coverings.pdf)