

LIT 3043 sec. 21969 Black Drama T 5-6 LIT 3043 sec. 21969 Black Drama T 5-6 (11:45-1:40), R5 (11:45-12:35) Spring 2021

Office HOURS ONLINE, Tuesday 1:55 – 2:45 PM and Thursday 1:55-2:45 PM by appointment only

What makes dramas written by Black American playwrights and theater collectives different from those written and or performed by such dramatists and collectives as Arthur Miller, Sam Shepard, Richard Foreman, Laurie Anderson, Judith Malina and Julian Beck's Living Theatre and Peter Brook's International Centre of Theater Research? Using recent theoretical and political debates on performance and the construction of identity, the class will trace the historical trajectory of African American theater from the 1950s to the present.

The course covers representative works from the Theater of the Black Experience, the Black Arts Movement, the Free Southern Theatre, and the African American avant-garde and experimental stage. Assigned readings may include works by Amiri Baraka, Ed Bullins, P. J. Gibson, Lorraine Hansberry, Langston Hughes, Adrienne Kennedy, Lynn Nottage, Suzan-Lori Parks, Stew, August Wilson, Tracey Scott Wilson, George C. Wolfe, and such performance artists as Fred Holland, Robbie McCauley, John O'Neal, Whoppi Goldberg, and Anna Deavere Smith.

In drafting the analytical group-paper **or** in the group-dramatic performance, student-groups must create a gumbo-like analysis/performance of the lived, imagined, and performed elements found in the assigned dramas.

1. **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Lorraine Hansberry A Raisin in the Sun (NY: Signet, 1959)

LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka). Dutchman and The Slave (NY: William Morrow, 1964)

Lynn Nottage. Crumbs From the Table of Joy and Other Plays (NY: Theatre Communications Group, 2004)

Ed Bullins, The Taking of Miss Janie (1975) in William B. Branch, Black Thunder: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Drama (NY: Penguin, 1992)

Anna Devere Smith. Fires in the Mirror (NY: Anchor/Doubleday, 1993)

Anna Devere Smith. Twilight: Los Angeles 1992 (NY: Anchor/Doubleday, 1994)

Stew. Passing Strange: The Complete Book and Lyrics of the Broadway Musical (NY: Applause Books, 2009)

James Baldwin. Blues for Mister Charlie: A Play (NY: Signet, 1964)

August Wilson. The Piano Lesson (NY: Penguin, 1990)

August Wilson. Fences (NY: Penguin, 1986)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

I.

1) Ten 2-page reaction papers on weekly readings as well as film(s) screened in the previous class 20 points@ 2pts. each) due every Monday at 8:00 am during Week 3 (25 January) – Week 13 (5 April). [20 points]

2) Two 5-minute oral presentation and 5 min Q&A. Instructor assigns each student their oral presentation that covers an assign reading. Due Week 3 (26 January) – Week 12 (1 April) @10 points each). [20 points]

On the day when a student delivers an oral presentation, they do not submit a reaction paper.

1. **Presentation Grade** is based on the following criteria:
2. The importance of the material presented to the class. Students must make brief references to primary scenes in a particular literary work (or film) to illustrate important issues and support their argument.
1. The clarity of the written and oral work. Here, "clarity" refers to smooth oral delivery, correct use of descriptive terminology and grammar.
2. The student's ability to pose important questions to the class at the end of their oral presentation. Students must introduce the argument/thesis of their oral presentation based on their assigned section.

III. Students are responsible for two typed 1-page outline of their 5-minute oral presentation. [20 points]

The outline is due on the day when the student presents her/his 5-minute discussion.

1. **MIDTERM EXAM THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 50MINS** [20 points]
2. **15-minute Group Dramatic Performance Tues. 13, Thurs. 15, 20 April (Weeks 14-15)** [20 points] 5-minute Q&A on the DRAMATIC PRESENTATION.
3. **ATTENDANCE**

The only excusable absence is one that results from an illness that is documented by a written and signed physician report. Two non-excused absences lower the student's cumulative grade by minus 10 points, Three non-excused absences give the student an E, a failing grade for the course.

LATE WORK

All written work and oral presentations are due **during** the class period. Students receive minus 2 points for EACH DAY (INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS) when any assignment is late. **NOTE:** A medical excuse **will not** be accepted to explain the late delivery of any written assignment or film/video project.

GRADING SCALE

A	100.00-90.00	20.00-18.00	10.00-09.00	2.00-1.80
A-	89.99-87.00	17.99-17.40	08.90-08.70	1.78-1.74
B+	86.99-84.00	17.20-16.80	08.69-08.40	1.72-1.68
B	83.99-80.00	16.60-16.00	08.39-08.00	1.66-1.60
B-	79.99-77.00	15.99-15.40	07.99-07.70	1.59-1.53
C+	76.99-74.00	15.20-14.80	07.69-07.40	1.52-1.48
C	73.99-70.00	14.79-14.00	07.39-07.00	1.47-1.40
C-	69.99-67.00	13.99-13.40	06.99-06.70	1.39-1.34

D+	66.99-64.00	13.39-12.80	06.69-06.40	1.33-1.28
D	63.99-60.00	12.79-12.00	06.39-06.00	1.27-1.20
D-	59.99-57.00	11.99-11.40	05.99-05.70	1.19-1.14
E	56.00-00.00	11.39-00.00	05.69-05.30	1.13-0.00

Cumulative

Midterm

2 Presentations
Performance & 2 Outlines
20pts each @10pts.each

10 Reactions @2pts.each

1. COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS:

READINGS LISTED ON A PARTICULAR DAY SHOULD BE READ **BEFORE** THAT CLASS MEETS. POP QUIZZES WILL COVER THESE ASSIGNED READINGS AS WELL AS ANY FILMS SCREENED IN THE LAST CLASS. **ALL READINGS FOR WEEK TWO MUST BE READ BEFORE CLASS MEETS**

**** Denotes that Readings are held on RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST AT CHECK OUT DESK OR ON ARES E-RESERVE AS DOWNLOADABLE 'PDFs' [ACROBAT READER FILES]***

WK 1

JAN 12 T-- **Course Introduction and INTEGRATIONIST DRAMAS WITH A WOMANIST TWIST**

- Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun (1959); Samuel A. Hay, African American Theatre, introduction and chap. 1. ***ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST***

JAN 14 R-- **NO CLASS VIEW IN LIBRARY** -: Woody King, Jr., *Black Theatre: The Making of A Movement* (1978) 114mins ***ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST***

WK 2 THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT

JAN 19 T-- **SCREEN:** Anthony Harvey, *Dutchman* (1967) 55mins LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka), Dutchman (1964), Scenes 1 and 2. ***ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST***

JAN 21 R-- Hay, *African American Theatre*, chap. 2. ***ON RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST*** and Leslie Catherine Sanders, *The Development of Black Theater in America*, chap. 3 (***ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST***, see ARES PDF file)

--- Analysis of Play and its screen adaptation. Dramatic Form and Politics of Production and Distribution

WK 3 THEATER OF THE BLACK FEMALE EXPERIENCE

JAN 26 T-- Lynn Nottage, *Crumbs From the Table of Joy and Other Plays*, Act 1, sc 1- 6

JAN 28 R.-- *Crumbs From the Table of Joy and Other Plays*, Act 2, sc. 1- 4 and epilogue

WK 4 MUSICAL DRAMA, AFRICAN AMERICAN EX-PAT & SELF-DISCOVERY

FEB 02 T-- Stew and Heidi Rodewald, *Passing Strange: The Complete Book and Lyrics of The Broadway Musical*

SCREEN: *PASSING STRANGE* (dir. Spike Lee, 2010) 135mins *ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST*

FEB 04 R-- SCREEN: *PASSING STRANGE* (dir. Spike Lee, 2010) 135mins remaining scenes

WK 5 *TELLING A BLACK STORY: 'THE BLOOD'S MEMORY' – JAMES BALDWIN*

FEB 09 T-- Baldwin, *Blues for Mister Charlie* (1964), pp. xiii- Act 1

FEB 11 R-- *Blues for Mister Charlie*, Act 2

WK 6

FEB 16 T-- *Blues for Mister Charlie*, Act 3

FEB 18 R--SCREEN:

WK 7 *TELLING A BLACK STORY: 'THE BLOOD'S MEMORY' – AUGUST WILSON*

FEB 23 T--August Wilson, *The Piano Lesson* (1987, Act 1, sc. 1 -2.

---SCREEN: *The Piano Lesson* (1995) 99 minutes. *ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST*

FEB 25 R-- *The Piano Lesson*, Act sc. 1 – 5. NO CLASS “Recharge Days”, February 25 and March 24.

WK 8 MIDTERM EXAMINATION (50mins, 20pts)

MAR 02 T—NO CLASS STUDY FOR MIDTERM EXAM

MAR 04 R—MIDTERM EXAMINATION (50mins, 20pts)

SCREEN: *A CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST WILSON* (1992) 22 minutes. August Wilson articles on E-RESERVE.

WK 9 *TELLING A BLACK STORY: 'THE BLOOD'S MEMORY' – AUGUST WILSON*

MAR 09 T—August Wilson, *Fences* (1985), Act 1, sc. 1 – 4.

MAR 11 R—August Wilson, *Fences* (1985), Act 2, sc. 1 - 5.

WK 10 THE SIXTIES

MAR 16 T—Read *The Whole Play* --Ed Bullins, *The Taking of Miss Janie* (1975) in William B. Branch, *Black Thunder* and Leslie Catherine Sanders, *The Development of Black Theater in America*, ch. 4 (*ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST*).

MAR 18 R—DISSUSION: *The Taking of Miss Janie* and Leslie Catherine Sanders, *The Development of Black Theater in America*, ch. 4 (*ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST*)

WK 11

MAR 23 T-- Anna Deavere Smith, *Fires in the Mirror*, pp. 1-87, and articles on Anna Deavere Smith (ARES).

MAR 25 R-- *Fires in the Mirror*, pp. 88-139

WK 12 *BLACK PERFORMANCE*

MAR 30 T-- -Anna Deavere Smith, *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* , pp. 1-89 and articles on Smith (ARES).

APR 01 R— *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, pp. 90-162.

WK 13

APR 06 T— *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, pp. 163-226.

APR 08 R-- — *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, pp. 227-265.

WK 14

APR 13 T—NO CLASS -- GROUPS MEET IN CLASSROOM TO PREPARE THE FINAL DRAMATIC PROJECT

APR 15 R—**10-MINUTE GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND 5-MINUTE Q & A (20PTS)**

GRP1: STUDENTS: _____

GRP2: STUDENTS: _____

GRP3: STUDENTS: _____

GRP4: STUDENTS:

WK 15

APR 20 T-- **10-MINUTE GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND 5-MINUTE Q & A (20PTS)**

GRP5: STUDENTS: _____

LIT3043 Black Drama First or Last Semester English Major (circle one)

Name _____ UFID#: _____

Address: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____ Year: _____

1) What other undergraduate performance, film, ethnic, women, and gender study courses have you taken?

2) Why are you taking this course?

3) What are your expectations?

4) What is/are your major area(s) of studies?

5) What do you intend to do after receiving your BA/BS degree?

6) Do you have any other comments that you wish to share?

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Tue Jan 12, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 1	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Jan 14, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 1	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Jan 19, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 2	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Jan 21, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 2	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Jan 26, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 3	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Jan 28, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 3	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Feb 2, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 4	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Feb 4, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 4	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Feb 9, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 5	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Feb 11, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 5	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Feb 16, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 6	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Feb 18, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 6	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Feb 23, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 7	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Feb 25, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 7	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Mar 2, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 8	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Mar 4, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 8	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Mar 9, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 9	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Mar 11, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 9	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Mar 16, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 10	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Mar 18, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 10	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Mar 23, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 11	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Mar 25, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 11	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Mar 30, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 12	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Apr 1, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 12	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Apr 6, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 13	11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Apr 8, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 13	1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Apr 13, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 14	11:45am to 1:40pm

Date	Details
Thu Apr 15, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 14 1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Apr 20, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 15 11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Apr 22, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 15 1:55pm to 2:45pm
Tue Apr 27, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 16 11:45am to 1:40pm
Thu Apr 29, 2021	Calendar Event LIT3043-BLACK DRAMA 16 1:55pm to 2:45pm

December 2020

Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 November 2020 29 Previous month	30 November 2020 30 Previous month	1 December 2020 1	2 December 2020 2	3 December 2020 3	4 December 2020 4	5 December 2020 5
6 December 2020 6	7 December 2020 7	8 December 2020 8	9 December 2020 9	10 December 2020 10	11 December 2020 11	12 December 2020 12
13 December 2020 13	14 December 2020 14 Today	15 December 2020 15	16 December 2020 16	17 December 2020 17	18 December 2020 18	19 December 2020 19
20 December 2020 20	21 December 2020 21	22 December 2020 22	23 December 2020 23	24 December 2020 24	25 December 2020 25	26 December 2020 26
27 December 2020 27	28 December 2020 28	29 December 2020 29	30 December 2020 30	31 December 2020 31	1 January 2021 1 Next month	2 January 2021 2 Next month
3 January 2021 Next month	4 January 2021 Next month	5 January 2021 5 Next month	6 January 2021 6 Next month	7 January 2021 7 Next month	8 January 2021 8 Next month	9 January 2021 9 Next month

Course assignments are not weighted.