

## Syllabus: HNRS 122, Reading through the Arts, 3 Credits, Spring 2017

Sections: 004, 003

Instructor: Chuck Leonard

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Section	Class location:	Time:	Class Meeting Days
004	Innovation 323	9:30-10:45	Tuesdays and Thursdays
003	West 1008	1:30-2:45	Tuesdays and Thursdays

Office Hours: 12-1 on M/T/W/R, others by appointment

Office location: Mason Hall D203H

Phone: 703 993-4290 (office)

Email is my preferred means of first contact. You are also welcome to drop by my office.

**Text:** The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama, 6th Ed. by Lee A. Jacobus

\*\*\*Note-The 6<sup>th</sup> edition is not the most current, but is the edition I want you to get.

If the 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. Is not available and you use the 7<sup>th</sup> Ed., you will also need the following plays, purchased separately:

The Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams. Reading Edition. New Directions, 1999. Intro by Robert Bray.  
ISBN: 9780811214049

The Clean House, Sarah Ruhl. Samuel French.  
ISBN: 9780573633980

### Course description

This course focuses on the literature and production of theater by studying drama as a mirror of society. The development of drama in most cultures has a distinct relationship to changing social, political, historical, technological, and psychological issues of the time. We will explore theater's role as a banner indicating change, as well as being a vehicle for change. Our purpose is to develop new ways of seeing theater and gain new insights into the world by reading and seeing theater.

Student involvement includes critical thinking, analysis, and class discussion. Additional readings may also be made available through Blackboard.

### Course requirements and grade percentages

- Homework and in-class assignments (**15% total**)
- Exams (**15% each**): Two exams testing knowledge of lectures, readings, and terms, performances, and class discussion.
- Group presentations (**10%**): Group projects requiring involvement from all individuals (generally groups of 5). Topics chosen from suggested subjects list must be approved. The format of your presentation is open to creativity and can include anything from lecture to performance of an original piece, but must also

be approved. It will be graded by evaluation of your organization, clarity of presentation, thoroughness of research, and creativity.

- Production critiques (**10% each**): Two typed critiques submitted to Blackboard as a Word.doc, approximately 3 pages in length (double-spaced), of productions seen during the semester. The first is on The Fantasticks and is due on 3/9.
- The second critique compares two other shows of your choice (not The Fantasticks) from the season's productions listed on Blackboard, due 4/27. There may be costs associated with plays you will be required to see.
- Final Exam (**20%**): Cumulative exam weighted more heavily on the final section of the semester, but including the info learned from the earlier sections, as well.
- Participation (**5%**): Respectful engagement and contribution to the class is expected. Attendance and timeliness is reflected in participation.

<b>Grading</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>60-69</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>93-100</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>83-86</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>73-76</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>&lt; 60</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-92</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70-72</b>		

### Course policies

- Attendance is expected at all classes and is reflected in the grade for class participation.
- Unless required by the instructor, laptops and cell phones should be off during class time. If an emergency requires that you are accessible via cellphone, speak to the instructor before the class.
- Students will need to have access to Blackboard and Mason email and are responsible for checking it regularly for class assignments and information.
- Privacy and security is important for faculty and student digital communication. For that reason, please use your Mason email when communicating with me or classmates about the class.
- George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, pregnancy status or genetic information.
- George Mason University recognizes that individuals with disabilities may need reasonable accommodations to have equally effective opportunities to participate in or benefit from university educational programs. It is the responsibility of the student who requires accommodations to provide the faculty member with a letter from the Office of Disability Services to determine the best ways to support the student.

### Academic Integrity

- The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others,

including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

- As in many classes, a number of projects in this class are designed to be completed within your study group. With collaborative work, names of all the participants should appear on the work. Collaborative projects may be divided up so that individual group members complete portions of the whole, provided that group members take sufficient steps to ensure that the pieces conceptually fit together in the end product. Other projects are designed to be undertaken independently. In the latter case, you may discuss your ideas with others and conference with peers on drafts of the work; however, it is not appropriate to give your paper to someone else to revise. You are responsible for making certain that there is no question that the work you hand in is your own. If only your name appears on an assignment, your professor has the right to expect that you have done the work yourself, fully and independently.
- Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

### Student Support Resources

George Mason University has a number of resources to help student's achieve success. They include Counseling and Psychological Services, Learning Services, University Career Services, the Writing Center, etc.

### Important dates Spring 2017

<b>First day of classes;</b> last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed	Mon Jan 23
<b>Last day to add classes</b> —all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	Mon Jan 30
<b>Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty</b>	Mon Feb 13
<b>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</b>	Fri Feb 24

Immunization Record Deadline	Wed Mar 1
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via <a href="#">Patriot Web</a>	Mon Feb 20 – Fri Mar 24
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	Mon Feb 27 – Fri Mar 31
Spring Break	Mon Mar 13 – Sun Mar 19
<b>Incomplete work from Fall 2016 due to Instructor</b>	<b>Fri March 31</b>
<b>Incomplete grade changes from Fall 2016 due to Registrar</b>	<b>Fri April 7</b>
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri May 5
<b>Last day of classes</b>	Sat May 6
<b>Reading Days</b> Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.	Mon May 8 – Tue May 9

