

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

3/0/3

EN 2079 CITIZEN ON THE STAGE: DRAMATIC EXPLORATIONS OF IDENTITY AND BELONGING
(SUMMER 2022)

PREREQUISITE:	None
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	This course explores Citizenship through the lens of drama; selection of plays from the ancient to the contemporary stage.
RATIONALE:	Through study of select plays, the course focuses on the question of citizenship and how citizenship intersects with other categories of identity and belonging such as nation, ethnicity, race, gender and sexuality. Can theater deepen understanding of citizenship struggles, and how does it develop awareness of new forms of identity, belonging, and social life? This course helps students explore these questions through study of a number of thematically linked plays that represent different nations, dramatic forms, and periods.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss thematic treatments of citizenship in select plays; 2. Display understanding of the ways in which stage performance affects audiences in reflecting on dilemmas and struggles related to questions of citizenship and belonging; 3. Analyze the ways in which citizenship relates to questions of gender, race, ethnicity and sexuality; 4. Discuss the relevance of cultural and social contexts in treatments of and responses to questions of citizenship, belonging, and identity.
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textual analysis, class discussion, and workshop-style pair work and group work during class meetings; • Film and performance screenings; • Active student-centered teaching approach; • Individual student presentations; • Additional print and audiovisual educational material posted on the Blackboard course template; • Extensive and timely instructor feedback on presentations and essays; • Individualized assistance during office hours for further discussion of lecture material, additional reading, presentations and essays; • Additional educational material placed on reserve in the library.
ASSESSMENT:	<p>20% Attendance & Participation (Contribution to class discussion and preparedness to discuss material; participation in in-class activities)</p> <p>10% Oral Presentation (tests LOs 2 and 3)</p> <p>40% Essay- 2,000 words (tests LOs 1 and 2)</p> <p>30% Final Examination -1,500 words/take home, open-book (tests LOs 1, 3, and 4)</p>

INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: No set textbook</p> <p>Selection of readings from the following:</p> <p>LITERARY TEXTS Aidoo, Ama Ata. <i>The Dilemma of a Ghost</i> [play] Euripides. <i>Medea</i> [play] Fugard, Athol. <i>The Island</i> [play] Kureishi, Hanif. <i>My Beautiful Launderette</i> [play] Smith, Anna Deavere. <i>Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992</i> [play] Sophocles. <i>Antigone</i> [play] Weiss, Peter. <i>The Investigation: Oratorio in 11 Cantos</i> [play]</p> <p>CRITICAL/THEORETICAL SOURCES Arendt, Hannah. "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man" [article] Aristotle. <i>Politics</i> [excerpts] "Declaration of the Rights of Man" (France) [article/pamphlet] "Second Constitution of Haiti" May 20, 1805 [article/pamphlet] Pericles. "The Democratic Citizen" [excerpts from study]</p> <p>FILMS Fassbinder, Rainer Werner (et all). <i>Germany in Autumn</i> [excerpts from film] Friars, Stephen. <i>My Beautiful Launderette</i> [film] Lanzmann, Claude. <i>Shoah</i>. [excerpts from film]</p> <p>OTHER -"The Play is a call to Action: Interviews of Anna Deavere Smith & the cast of Twilight" [video] - "The Island" [selection of videos]</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Varies according to thematic units chosen (see under Indicative Content).</p>
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INDICATIVE MATERIAL: <i>(e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</i>	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: Varies according to thematic units chosen.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: Varies according to thematic units chosen.</p>
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	All written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to MLA guidelines for manuscript format and documentation.
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Word, Blackboard
WWW RESOURCES:	Varies according to thematic units chosen (see under Indicative Content).

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

The course will cover at least two of the following units

Discussions will be structured around thematically interrelated units, each unit dealing with a specific theme in relation to Citizenship. In each unit representative texts will engage students with a specific theme in relation to citizenship struggles.

Unit 1. Foundations of Citizenship

Traditions of Citizenship

- Pericles, "The Democratic Citizen" [excerpts from study]
- Aristotle, " Politics" [excerpts from study]
- Hannah Arendt, "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man" [article]
- "Declaration of the Rights of Man" (France) [excerpts from study]
- "Second Constitution of Haiti" May 20, 1805 [excerpts from study]

Unit 2. Dissident Citizens & the State

Civic Disobedience

- Sophocles, *Antigone* [play]
- Cornelius Castoriadis, "The Greek Polis and the Creation of Democracy" [article]
- Fassbinder Rainer Werner, et all. *Germany in Autumn* [film, extract]

Insurgent Invisible Citizens

- Smith, Anna Deavere. *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* [play]
- Wynter, Sylvia. "No Humans Involved." [article]
- "The Play is a call to Action: Interviews of Anna Deavere Smith & the cast of Twilight" [video]

Unit 3. Transgressive Citizens: the Immigrant, the Diasporic & the Queer subject

(En)Gendering the Barbarian

- Euripides, *Medea* [play]

Diaspora and the Haunting of History

- Aidoo, Ama Ata. *The Dilemma of a Ghost* [play]
- Caruth, Cathy. *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, History* [excerpts from study]

Queer Fantasies of National Union

- Hanif, Kureishi. *My Beautiful Laundrette* [play]
- Friars, Stephen. *My Beautiful Laundrette* [video]

Unit 4. The Production of Non-Citizens

The Apartheid Prison

- Athol Fugard. *The Island* [play]
- "The Island" [video extracts of various productions]

The Camp & The Courtroom

- Weiss, Peter. *The Investigation: Oratorio in 11 Cantos* [play]
- Arendt, Hannah. "Postscript", from *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* [excerpts from study]
- Lanzmann, Claude. *Shoah*. [film; extract]

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