

PM

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Winter Evening Program 1999
January 11 — March 20
Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Hawaii

COURSE: English 255: Drama and Poetry

TIME: Saturday, 0800 to 1210

INSTRUCTOR: Lynn Hodgson Park, B.A., J.D.
Tel.: 586-1075 (day); 486-5274 (eve)
e-mail: lynnhpark@aol.com

TEXT: Miller, Jordan Y. *The Heath Introduction to Drama*, Lexington: D. C. Heath and Co., 1996.

Arp, Thomas R. *Perrine's Sound and Sense*, Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1997.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Part of being educated, and specifically, part of being literate, is comprehension and appreciation of different forms of literature. In this course, you will become familiar with two specific types of literature: dramatic plays and poetry.

The purpose of both drama and poetry is to entertain. Drama entertains by telling stories onstage, gripping the audience with an artistic vision, be it tragic or humorous, classic, romantic, realistic, or stylized. This class will study both the written text, created by the dramatist, and its transformation to theater stage by cast and crew. Issues to be discussed include the creation of characters by both writer and performer, the language of dramatic dialogue, the logistics of mounting a production, and the interaction between performers and audience.

The second portion of this course is the study of poetry. Poetry is language which communicates experience and ideas in a condensed and concentrated manner; it is meant to stimulate intelligence, senses, emotions, and imagination. This class examines how poetry uses imagery, symbolism, realism, meaning, tone, rhyme, allusion, and other dimensions to convey information in an entertaining way.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

In Drama and Poetry, students will critically read and discuss selected poems and plays to:

1. recognize the elements of good drama, both in terms of written text and stage performance;
2. recognize the elements of good poetry, including sound (scansion) and sense (imagery);
3. become familiar with poems and plays which have acquired critical acceptance as great works of literature; and
4. fine-tune the ability to enjoy poetry and drama as interesting and stimulating forms of communication and entertainment.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Students are expected to attend class on time and prepared. Given the short, compact nature of the class, tardiness and absence will affect a student's final grade. Students who know they may miss one or more classes, or who wish to withdraw, must promptly inform the instructor.

Please prepare for writing exercises and class discussion by reading the assigned materials and completing homework assignments *in advance*. Class activities will include analysis of plays and poems in the texts, discussion of elements which make such works interesting, observation of videotaped (and live, if possible) performances of plays, and writing papers which analyze, interpret, and explicate issues concerning the works reviewed. Homework compositions are due at the beginning of the next class unless another date has been specified. Extra credit assignments are an option, but must be pre-arranged. Assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day of late submission.

The final grade will be based as follows:

1.	Class attendance, participation, and presentations	15%
2.	Essay #1	20%
3.	Essay #2	20%
4.	Essay #3	20%
4.	Essay #4 (Final Exam)	25%

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

59 (OH NO!!) and below = F

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR DRAMA AND POETRY

Jan. 16	Introduction to Drama and Poetry Oedipus Rex Nature of poetry; Reading the poem (Perrine Ch. 1, 2)
Jan. 23	Oedipus Rex Denotation and connotation; Imagery (Perrine Ch. 3, 4) (videotaped performance)
Jan. 30	Hamlet Figurative language (Perrine Ch. 5, 6) ESSAY #1 DUE
Feb. 6	Hamlet Figurative language; Allusion (Perrine Ch. 7, 8) (videotaped performance)
Feb. 13	A Doll's House Meaning and ideas; Tone (Perrine Ch. 9, 10) ESSAY #2 DUE
Feb. 20	A Doll's House Musical devices; Rhyme and meter (Perrine Ch. 11, 12) (videotaped performance)
Feb. 27	Major Barbara Sound and meaning; Pattern (Perrine Ch. 13, 14) ESSAY #3 DUE
March 6	Major Barbara Bad poetry and good; good poetry and great (Perrine Ch. 15, 16) (videotaped performance)
March 13	Death of a Salesman Selected poems
March 20	Death of a Salesman Selected poems (videotaped performance) FINAL EXAM: ESSAY # 4 DUE; IN-CLASS EXAM