ENGL 10123.065 – Introduction to Drama

TR 3:30-4:50    RH 103

Professor Karen Steele

Office: Reed Hall 222  
Office Phone: 257-6255  
Email: k.steele@tcu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 (by appointment only – sign up on door)  
Thursdays 1-3 (drop in hours)

Required Texts:
- John Harrington, ed., *Modern Irish Drama*
- Anne Devlin, *Ourselves Alone*
- Marie Jones, *Stones in His Pockets*

Assessment
A basic requirement of this class is to come to class with your text, prepared and ready to discuss the day’s readings. Many of these plays are quite short; still, you will not be adequately prepared for quizzes and discussion unless you read the plays more than once and consider the background commentary and discussion on E-College (discussion board). In order to receive a passing grade for this course, you must satisfactorily complete all major assignments (four major exams; postings on discussion board) on time with a cumulative passing average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (4)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Writing</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes / In-class writings</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance: Because this class places a tremendous importance on student interaction, your presence and participation are crucial to the well-being of the class as a whole. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss five minutes or more of a class, either at the beginning or at the end, that counts as an unexcused absence. I reserve the right to lower your final grade by 5 points (half letter grade) for each absence after your fourth absence when, in my judgment, absences have been unwarranted. If extenuating circumstances exist that may warrant a modification of the policy, please alert me. Please note that it is possible to fail this course by absences alone.

Email Notification: Only the official TCU student email address will be used for all course notification. It is your responsibility to check your TCU email on a regular basis.

Participation: I put a premium on the active participation of every student. Each of you should internalize the responsibility for keeping the discussion going, for testing your ideas, and for sharpening your verbal skills. An added incentive: for those who consistently and intelligently contribute, I will add discretionary points to your quiz grade.
Quizzes: During the semester you will take approximately eleven short reading quizzes to ensure that you have read and thought about the material for that day. Contextual readings, E-College discussion and background postings, and the plays are all fair game for quizzes. Some of the quizzes will be open book in order to reward those of you who heavily annotate and take notes in the margins of your texts. In-class quizzes will always be given at the beginning of class, and there will be no make-up quizzes held for those who are absent or late on a day when a quiz is given. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest quiz grades when tabulating your quiz average.

Online Writing: To supplement our work in class, we will participate in online discussions of major texts. The discussion schedule will be provided in a separate document. Our website is available at <http://www.tcuglobal.edu>.

Exams: Examinations will test your ability to work intelligently with information and issues examined in the course; they will require you to move beyond regurgitation of facts and ask you to think seriously and critically about what you have read and then write about it. You will be expected to connect IIDs, critically analyze authors and their ideas, and write a well-organized, argumentative essay investigating major themes in the plays.

Grade questions: While I am always happy to discuss and explain my grading of assignments, quizzes, and exams, I will only do so after you have had at least 24 hours to examine and read through comments. If you would like for me to reconsider an evaluation, the exam must be resubmitted with a letter detailing the reasons (with examples and references to the grading rubric) you feel the work has not been graded accurately.

Academic Misconduct: The Department of English expects students to adhere to the university’s code of student conduct, especially as it pertains to academic conduct, as described on page 39 of the TCU Student Calendar and Official Handbook. The following examples are intended to help you interpret the university’s code as it applies to work in English classes:

- Plagiarism: The appropriation, theft, purchase, or obtaining by any means another’s work, and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of that work as one’s own offered for credit. Appropriation includes the quoting or paraphrasing of another’s work without giving proper credit.
- Collusion: The unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work offered for credit.
- Fabrication and falsification: Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves altering information for use in any academic exercise. Fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- Multiple submission: The submission by the same individual of substantial portions of the same academic work (including oral reports) for credit more than once in the same or another class without authorization.
- Complicity in academic misconduct: Helping another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

Accommodation of Learning Differences: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please speak to me after the first class meeting. Since I need to make special arrangements for extra time needs, you are obligated to inform me of special testing requirements at least two weeks in advance of the exam date.
Schedule

8/28  Introductions: Drama as literary genre, a sprint through Irish history, and short demonstration of E-College

8/31  Plays: W. B. Yeats [and Augusta Gregory], *Cathleen Ni Houlihan*

Context: Excerpts on Irish national theatre by Gregory, Eglington, Yeats, and Fay (377-394)

Background terms for E-Discussion: United Irishman Uprising; Fenians and the Irish Republican Brotherhood

9/2  Play: Augusta Gregory, *Rising of the Moon*

9/7  Play: W. B. Yeats, *On Baile’s Strand*

Context: Flannery (420-3); Marcus (408-14)

Background terms for E-Discussion: Cuchulain

9/9  Play: W. B. Yeats, *Purgatory*

Context: Torchiana (423-30); Yeats, Intro (406-8)

Background terms for E-Discussion: Ascendancy class / Anglo-Irish

9/14  Play: Gregory, *Spreading the News*

Context: Saddlemyer (433-36); Murphy (436-441)

Background terms for E-Discussion: Aristotle on tragedy and comedy

9/16  Review for exam 1

9/21  **Exam 1**

9/23  Play: J. M. Synge, *Riders to the Sea*

Context: Skelton (447-50)

Background terms for E-Discussion: dramatic irony; epic

9/28  Play: J. M. Synge, *Playboy of the Western World*

Context: Synge, Preface (451-60); Yeats, Controversy (460-2); Grene (466-70)

Background terms for E-Discussion: Aran Islands; patricide

9/30  Continue to discuss *Playboy*

10/5  Play: Bernard Shaw, *John Bull’s Other Island*

Background terms for E-Discussion: John Bull; stage Irishman

10/7  Context: Shaw, Preface (471-8); Krause (488-92)

10/12  Play: Sean O’Casey, *Juno and the Paycock*

Background terms for E-Discussion: Irish Civil War; Trade Union; Irregular / Irish Republican Army

10/14  Context: Gregory, Journal (497-99); Krause (504-9)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Review for exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td><strong>Play:</strong> Brendan Behan, <em>The Quare Fellow</em>&lt;br&gt;Background terms for E-Discussion: Kilmainham and Mountjoy Jails; music hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td><strong>Context:</strong> Kearney (521-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td><strong>Play:</strong> Brian Friel, <em>Translations</em>&lt;br&gt;Background terms: hedge schools; National Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td><strong>Context:</strong> Program Notes (551-4); Binnie (564-70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/9</td>
<td><strong>Play:</strong> Anne Devlin, <em>Ourselves Alone</em>&lt;br&gt;Background terms for E-Discussion: Sinn Fein, hunger strike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Continue discussion of <em>Ourselves Alone</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Review for exam 3 (essay only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Film screening of <em>The Quiet Man</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>No E-Discussion this week</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>No class: Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td><strong>Play:</strong> Marie Jones, <em>Stones in His Pockets</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>No E-Discussion this week</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Review for exam 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td><strong>Exam 4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>