

Crn	Subj	Crs	Seq	Hrs	Title	Begin	End	Rm	Day(s)
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13111	ENGL	478	201	5.00	Drama: The Abbey Theatre	06:15PM	10:00PM	119	MW
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English 478  
Drama: The Abbey Theatre

**Required Texts:**

*Modern Irish Drama*. Ed. John P. Harrington. New York:  
Norton, 2002.

*Course Packet from Copy House (2749 W. Ave L, Lancaster, CA  
93551. 722-3916).*

In this course we will focus on the drama written for the National Theatre of Ireland from the final years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through about the first half of the twentieth century. We will especially focus on the early material written by authors such as W.B. Yeats, Lady Gregory, John Millington Synge, and Sean O'Casey; we will seek to contextualize the drama within its historical and political setting, and we will explore how the drama of this time and place reflected and sometimes helped to shape cultural and social changes that were occurring in Ireland.

I will lecture very rarely; the course will be centered on class discussion, group work, and readings from the plays. You will be graded in this class, in part, for your participation in the discussions and "performances" we will be having. You will also have to do quite a bit of writing; in fact, you will be required to turn in some sort of paper every week. You will write short papers on a regular basis and you will write one longer paper (7-10 pages which will be an elaboration upon one or more of your shorter papers) as well as an annotated bibliography on one of the dramatists.

I will be giving pop-quizzes every now and again. The quizzes are to make sure that you have kept up with the reading and the one page papers are to make sure that you've taken the time to think about what you've read and are willing and able to organize your thoughts on paper. I'll also give you a midterm and a final. Near the end of term, you will collect all your assignments together in a portfolio, as I will outline below.

For every reading that we do in this class be sure to choose lines or sentences that you find to be especially striking. Be prepared to read these lines in class and to explain what it is about the lines that you find significant. (For next class you should choose lines from *The Countess Cathleen* by W.B. Yeats or *The Heather Field* by Edward Martyn). You will also be required to memorize and perform as a member of a group a part in one scene of one. Finally, you will be required to present a short oral presentation on your research topic to the class during the term.

**Goals and Objectives:** by the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify major writers of and plays of the Abbey Theatre
2. Explain some of the most important historical and cultural contexts to be associated with those writers and/or plays.
3. In oral and written argument, analyze, interpret, and compare the stylistic and thematic characteristics of two or more playwrights and/or plays.
4. Identify along reasonably broad lines the relationship of the drama with social conditions in Ireland.
5. Demonstrate an understanding in your writing of the importance of revision, an ability to use various rhetorical forms, and a mastery of American English.
6. Define and apply dramatic terminology

**Portfolios:**

Your class portfolio will be due on the first day of finals week. It must include:

1. Table of contents providing page numbers and headings.
2. All of the written assignments IN ORDER. You must turn in the copy of your writing that has my comments, grade, or check on it. This includes in-class writing, take-home papers, midterm, the annotated bibliography, and your final paper. I am interested in your writing as it was the week it was assigned, so only turn in that copy. The longer essay should be revised.
3. A discussion of the part you memorized for the class.

Attendance in this course is more than required; it is vital. You are responsible for arranging a drop from the registration office. If you do not drop the class through the registration office and your name appears on the final grade sheet, I will give you an F.

**Course Requirements:**

Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Portfolio	20%
Response papers, quizzes, and participation	20%
Annotated Bibliography and presentation	20%

**Tentative Reading Schedule:**

- 1/6 Read over syllabus. Introductory lecture and discussion on Abbey Theatre. Class reading of *The Countess Cathleen*.
- 1/13 *The Countess Cathleen* by W.B. Yeats, and *The Heather Field* by Edward Martyn. (In course packet)
- 1/20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Classes not in session
- 1/27 *The Twisting of the Rope* by Douglas Hyde (in packet) and all the W.B Yeats plays in the textbook *Modern Irish Drama (MID)*.
- 2/3 All plays and criticism in *MID* by Lady Gregory
- 2/10 All plays and criticism in *MID* by J.M. Synge
- 2/17 Midterm. All plays and criticism in *MID* by Bernard Shaw
- 2/24 All plays and criticism in *MID* by Sean O'Casey
- 3/3 All plays and criticism in *MID* by Brendan Behan
- 3/10 All plays and criticism in *MID* by Samuel Beckett and Brian Friel
- 3/17 Final Exam and all portfolios due

**Be sure to read the Backgrounds and Criticism section of Modern Irish Drama for the relevant plays and writers each week.**

For the annotated bibliography and presentation, each students will do research on one of the playwrights of the Abbey Theatre (not necessarily one on the reading list or in the textbook). During the week that we read a play by the author you have chosen, you will give a short presentation on your work in progress, and help to lead the class discussion. I will distribute further information about the annotated bibliographies and portfolios next week.

#### Winter Quarter, 2003

Oct 28–Nov 08	<b>Academic Advising</b> for Continuing Students (for Winter Quarter)
October 31	<b>Orientation</b> and Advising for All Students (for Winter Quarter)
November 02	<b>Orientation</b> and Advising for Antelope Valley Students (for Winter Quarter)
Nov 04 - 15	<b>Registration</b> for Continuing Students (for Winter Quarter)
December 04	<b>Fees Due</b> (for Winter Quarter)
December 16	<b>Late Registration</b> Begins (for Winter Quarter) (\$25 fee)
December 20	Last Day of <b>Late Registration</b> (for Winter Quarter) (\$25 fee)
January 01	<b>HOLIDAY</b> - New Year's Day – Campus Closed
January 02	<b>Late Registration</b> Begins (for Winter Quarter) (\$25 fee)
January 03	<b>ALL FACULTY DUE ON CAMPUS</b>
January 03	<b>Orientation</b> and Advising for All Students (for Winter Quarter)
January 04	<b>Orientation</b> and Advising for Antelope Valley Students (for Winter Quarter)
January 06	<b>First Day of Classes</b>
January 13	Last day to <b>Add</b> classes
January 13	Last day to <b>change</b> between audit and letter grading
January 13	Last Day of <b>Late Registration</b> (for Winter Quarter) (\$25 fee)
January 17	Last day to apply for <b>Winter Graduation</b>
January 20	<b>HOLIDAY</b> - Martin Luther King Day – Campus Closed
January 21	Deadline to apply for <b>refundable</b> part of Student Services fees
January 27	<b>Census Day</b>
January 27	Last day to <b>change</b> between credit/no-credit and letter grading
January 27	Last day to <b>withdraw</b> from classes without a "W" being recorded; withdrawals from classes after this date and continuing through the next four-week period will be permitted only for serious and compelling reasons and require written approval by the dean or department chair
omitted	Campus-wide Emergency Evacuation Day
Feb 03 - 14	<b>Academic Advising</b> for Continuing Students (for Spring Quarter)
Feb 10 - 21	<b>Registration</b> for Continuing Students (for Spring Quarter)
February 17	Washington's Birthday - <b>Regular Classes Scheduled</b>
February 24	Last day to <b>withdraw</b> from classes for a serious and compelling reason
Feb 24 - 28	<b>SOCI Week</b>
March 10	<b>Fees Due</b> (for Spring Quarter)
March 15	<b>Orientation</b> and Advising for Antelope Valley Students (for Spring Quarter)
March 17	<b>Last Day of Classes</b>
March 17	Last day to submit completed <b>Master's Thesis</b> to Graduate Studies and Research
March 18	<b>Study / Reading Day</b>
Mar 19 - 22	<b>Examination</b> Period
March 24	<b>Grades Due</b>
March 24	<b>Late Registration</b> Begins (for Spring Quarter) (\$25 fee)

Spring Break: March 25 – March 31, 2003