

Engl. 2307: Introduction to Drama  
Instructor: Natalie Stigall

This course is designed as a survey of drama and an introduction to critical thinking of dramatic texts through a literary, as well as dramaturgical, lens. We will read and discuss texts that span from ancient Greek to modern American, and that explore varying historical, cultural, and socio-political interests. In this course we will unite these seemingly dissimilar texts through the theme of gender and sexuality. We will discuss issues such as gender roles and relations, gender play, and queer sexuality in our texts, and, relatedly, the socio-political, cultural, and historical periods that produced and/or are reflected in these works. In exploring how each text inhabits, perpetuates, and reacts to the contemporary thought surrounding it, we will come to understand how these works – and drama itself – is both a product of and response to the environment that produces it. Each unit will end with a viewing of a cinematic or filmed stage production of a modern, culturally relevant work of drama to bring the issues and methods discussed into a twenty-first century light.

Students should expect to read a whole work or related scholarly text per week; a reading load of roughly 50-200 pages. In addition, students will complete one shorter essay (5 pages) and one longer, final research essay (8-10 pages), as well as weekly response writing (250+ words) via a class blog.

Required Books:

*The Norton Anthology of Drama*, Shorter Edition (W.W. Norton, 2009). J. Ellen Gainor, Stanton B. Garner Jr., & Martin Puchner, eds.