

Playwrights' Voices: Contemporary Women
MLS 6040/6740

Instructor: Holly Monsos

Contact Information:

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Email: Please use the email within the course only.

About the course:

This course will look at eight contemporary female playwrights from Great Britain and North America. We will consider their work, their lives, and the cultures from which they write. The course will touch on play analysis, dramatic theory, feminism, and contemporary culture, as and when they apply to the works being studied.

Course Requirements:

Papers: In addition to reading two plays by each of the six selected playwrights, you will identify two additional playwrights you wish to read on your own, and read at least two plays by each one. There will be two 10 - 15 page research papers required, one on each of your chosen playwrights. (50%)

Discussion: The class will be heavily weighted toward discussion, and your constant and consistent presence on the message boards (or lack thereof) will figure significantly in your final grade. (30%)

Journal: You will also be required to keep a reading journal. This journal will need to be kept digitally so that you can submit sample pages at various points in the semester. This journal can take a variety of forms – you can find an example of one possible way to keep it on the Reading Journal assignment page. (20%)

Discussion:

Please stay on topic in the discussion postings. Should you forget, I will privately recommend any off-topic personal discussions be moved to another forum. I can and will remove any inappropriate postings, when necessary.

I do expect all discussions to be held politely and thoughtfully. **THINK BEFORE YOU TYPE!** Given the subject matter in many of the plays we will be reading, personal stories that relate to the subject may well be shared. Respect your classmates, and respect their stories. Yelling, flaming, political invective – these are inappropriate tactics in the process of academic discussion.

If you are not familiar with proper "netiquette" please take some time to browse any of these sites:

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

http://www.onlinenetiquette.com/netiquette_101.html

<http://www.learnthenet.com/english/html/09netiq.htm>

Academic Dishonesty:

While it is perfectly acceptable to discuss your ideas about a production with someone else, **it is never acceptable to copy any part of your paper from any other source without attribution.** Nor is it acceptable to copy from an online reviewer, although you may say things such as: “The reviewer thought thus and such, but I disagree **because....**” or “I agree with the reviewer about thus and such **because.....**” It is not only direct quotes that must be attributed; **even rephrasing someone else’s idea** should result in your giving that other writer proper credit. If you have questions about how to properly cite sources, consult:

<http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>

or

<http://www1.law.umkc.edu/academic/LWP/plagiarism-2000.htm>.

Plagiarism WILL result in a failing grade for the paper and MAY result in failure of the course entirely.

Required books:

Testimonies/Four Plays by Emily Mann

The America Play and other works by Suzan-Lori Parker

Topdog/Underdog by Suzan-Lori Parker

Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl

In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play) by Sarah Ruhl

Fragile Land by Tanika Gupta

Plays: 1 by Sarah Daniels

Poor Beck by Joanna Laurens

Five Gold Rings by Joanna Laurens