Course Description and Goals:
We will make ourselves acquainted with some of the greatest works from three of the
great flowerings of European drama: Athens ca. 500-406 BCE, England ca. 1576-1660
AD and Ireland ca. 1904-1983. Along the way we will discuss how certain playwrights
put their feelings of alienation on the stage and thus used the stage as a vehicle for social
commentary. Skills will include: how to read for meaning, including such poetic and
theatrical devices as characterization, irony, motive, and structure; how to write lucid
English prose, including such reasoning devices as organization, handling of evidence,
grammar and usage; and how to recite, including such skills as interpretation, empathy,
and the overcoming of stage fright.

Required Texts:
1. The Oresteia translated by David Grene and Richmond Lattimore (ISBN: 978-
0199753635)
3. Henry IV, part 1 by Wm. Shakespeare (Required; Arden Shakespeare edition
preferred) (ISBN: 9781904271352)
5. Life is a Dream by Pedro Calderon de la Barca (Dover edition; Bilingual also
7. The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

All books available at Stony Brook Bookstore. There will also be additional reading
assignments you will need to download from Blackboard. Hard copies of all readings are
required for each class.

Jewish Holidays
It has been the policy of Stony Brook for just over a year now not to cancel classes on
major Jewish Holidays. I hope not to be cancelling for all of them; I be able to hire a
substitute from among my peers at the Grad School. Stay tuned.

Class Policies

Attendance and Lateness:
Attendance is taken at each class, and after the second absence you will lose a point from your final grade for each absence. Late arrivals and early departures will count as half an absence. Excused absences will be granted only with a doctor’s note.

Electronic Equipment: Laptops, iPads, tablets, e-readers, and other electronic distractions will not be welcome in class.

Blackboard:
Some assignments and some additional material will be posted on Blackboard so you may access it at any time. To access Blackboard, go to http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu and follow the guidelines posted on that page for logging in. You will need a Net ID Username and Password to log into Blackboard. If you do not know this information, you will need to:
1. Log Into SOLAR:  http://www.stonybrook.edu/solarsystem
2. Click on "Set Your Net ID Password"
3. Follow the directions on the screen for how to set up your Net ID, Security Question and Password.

Grading:
Responses (15%): These will consist of one substantial paragraph due first thing every class-period. I hope they will serve as opportunities for you to practice reading and analyzing the chosen texts with care. No late responses will be accepted—if you know you are going to miss class, please email me your response. Otherwise, you must bring in a hard copy.

Class Participation (15%): This will actually be evaluated and will affect your grade. There are fifteen weeks in a semester so make sure you participate substantively in discussion at least once per week.
1 short paper (4-5 pages) (20%): Each paper will be a close reading of one passage from one play from class (or one by an author discussed in class). Discuss the tools of the playwright—vocabulary, figurative language, plot, characters, rhyme, rhythm, action, irony, suspense, etc. What is the playwright/character trying to do (if anything)? How does the scene lead or mislead the reader? The papers will be returned with comments after about two weeks, whereupon you will have a week to revise and resubmit. Each submission will count as 10% of your grade; if you choose not to revise and resubmit, the first grade will count twice.
1 longer final paper (6-8 pages) (25%): For this assignment, you will write a more involved analysis of at least two of our texts. I encourage you to submit rough drafts and to consult with me about this paper during office hours. Because of grade-submission deadlines, no rewrites of this paper will be allowed and late papers will not be accepted.
2 performances (30%): For the first assignment, you will memorize one of the speeches discussed in class (or one by the same author). Of at least 20 lines. You will recite your selection(s) in class and then answer questions about your performance relating to style, tone, etc. Costumes are encouraged but by no means required. For the second assignment, you will, along with two or three of your classmates, choose and stage an act or scene from one of the plays.
Film Assignment (5%): Watch at least one version of Henry V and report back on the choices made by the director, set-designer, actors, etc. Make sure to mention some of the differences between the script you have (the Arden edition) and the script followed by the actors.

Stony Brook disallows extra credit; there will be no final exam.

Writing Center Information:
The Campus Writing Center, Humanities Building, Room 2009, (631) 632-7390 or www.stonybrook.edu/writingcenter, is a good resource for writing at any point in the process. Undergraduate and graduate students who possess strong skills as writers and coaches staff the Writing Center, and they tend to be delightful, approachable people. It works best if you can make an appointment, but you can also try dropping in. When you go to the Writing Center, be sure to bring a draft of what you’re working on and your assignment sheet. If you have not begun to write you should do that first—Writing Center staff will not help students that have not begun the assignment themselves.

Disability Support Services (DSS) Statement:
If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities.shtml.

Academic Integrity Statement:
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person’s work as your own is always wrong. English teachers are particularly suited to detecting academic dishonesty. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance to the Academic Judiciary. Many plagiarism concerns can be resolved simply by footnoting correctly. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

Critical Incident Management:
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.

Reading Schedule:
Each work should be read in its entirety for the day that it is first listed on the syllabus unless specified otherwise. The responses are due on that day. All questions asked in class count towards class participation grade. This schedule is subject to revision as the
needs of the course or the weather require and an up-to-date copy will remain posted on Blackboard throughout the semester. In addition to the readings listed here a few short essays, stories, or videos may be added along the way to enhance our discussion of certain themes or issues.

Writing Schedule:
One page (one inch margins, double spaced, Times or other easily readable font) will be due at the beginning of every class. The purpose of this assignment is to practice writing body paragraphs, the better to write essays. A body paragraph should set out an opinion and should discuss it, attempting to convince a knowledgeable, undecided onlooker. Bad grammar and other conventions will not count heavily against you on these assignments but please do not push your luck. They will be graded from zero points to one:

0 = incomplete, missing, or otherwise wholly unsatisfactory assignment.
½ = Acceptable work. What is acceptable in homework may not be in essays.
1 = competent or excellent work.

Other Conventions: Make sure all work has a title. Keep your writing to the highest standards of spelling and grammar (see me or the writing center for help) and maintain some semblance of formality. No texting language or verbal mannerisms (“like, OMG, you know, etc.”) Obtain for yourself a decent book of grammatical and research conventions (Bedford, MLA, etc). If you use a website, make sure it is a RELIABLE website. A university or other academic organization is reliable (for this purpose).

Week 1
January 28 – Read and Sign Syllabus; What is a Drama? Some history and practical knowledge
January 30 – Aristotle’s Poetics (see Blackboard) What is a play?

Week 2
February 4 – Agamemnon and the Greek Stage
February 6 – Agamemnon

Week 3
February 11 – Everyman and the travelling stage (a short play; prepare for the 13 as well)
February 13 – Henry IV part 1 and the first permanent commercial theater

Week 4
February 18 – Henry IV part 1
February 20 – Henry IV part 1

Week 5
February 25 – Henry IV part 1
February 27 – Henry V

Week 6
March 4 – Henry V
March 6 – *Henry V*

**Week 7**
March 11 – *Henry V*
March 13 – *Henry V*

—Spring break March 17-March 23—

**Week 9**
March 25 – *The Convent of Pleasure*
March 27 – *The Convent of Pleasure*

**Week 10**
April 1 – *Life is a Dream*
April 3 – *Life is a Dream*

**Week 11**
April 8 – *The Land of the Heart’s Desire* and *At the King’s Doorstep* (Blackboard)
April 10 – *Waiting for Godot*

**Week 12**
April 15 – PASSOVER; NO CLASS
April 17 – *Waiting for Godot*

**Week 13**
April 22 – *Waiting for Godot*
April 24 – *The Glass Menagerie*

**Week 14**
April 29 – *The Glass Menagerie*
May 1 – Performances

**Week 15**
May 6 – *All in the Timing* (Blackboard)
May 8 – Closing Remarks

Cut or tear here---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I have read the syllabus and I understand what its terms require of me.

Name (signature and print):

Date: