LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
FYS SEMINAR 0000 36: POLITICAL THEATRE
in room: FAN 170

Fall 2013

Dr. Katharine B. Free
Writing Instructor: Ms. Laura Poladian

Office: Foley 316; Ext. 84510; E-mail:kfree@lmu.edu
Office Hours: TR 8:30a.m- 9:15 a.m; 3:00-4:15p.m.others by appointment
Writing Tutorial hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will deal with the theatre and dramatic literature as an agent of social activism with the goals of
righting injustices and making a better world. The emphasis will be on theatre and drama as tools of the
education of the socially responsible citizen leading to action and change in the real world. The course
aims to make the student aware of theatre and dramatic texts as powerful tools to persuade and change the
course of society for the better. Plays and other texts will be analyzed for meaning, discussed and viewed
in live performance and filmed performance depending on availability.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:

• The course is taught in a lecture/discussion format with reading quizzes, written and oral assignments
  and a written final examination.

• The student will explore theatre as a forum for the discussion of political and social ideas and as a
  platform advocating social action.

• The student will examine plays representative of the world theatre scene and acquire the information
  and analytical tools to discuss them in depth.

• The student will read major dramatic texts which are key the development of drama and which engage
  the audience in issues of social justice and political action.

• The student will present ideas and research to the class in discussion through role-playing and
  character development.

• The student will be instructed how to use theatrical traditions as a creative resource for the artist
  through examples from the history of performance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

• Through engaging in research, through oral presentations and through writing academic essays the
  student will understand and appreciate the intellectual rigor and academic excellence that defines an
  LMU education.

• Through learning the difference between primary and secondary sources and using these in an
  appropriate manner in critical and analytical essays, the student will engage critical and reflectively in
  scholarly discourse.

• Through searching for appropriate sources for academic research and assessing their importance, the
  student will discriminate between scholarly and popular modes of knowledge through an
  understanding of the peer review process.
• Through the acquisition of information literacy and the conduct of research for academic essays, the student will gain library skills including the use of the library catalogue and electronic databases to retrieve books or articles.

• Through the writing of academic essays, critical analyses and a written final examination, the student will acquire writing skills (essay construction, thesis articulation and development, introductions and conclusions) appropriate for college level.

• Through oral presentations in a dramatic character, the student will present ideas and research in an organized and persuasive manner to the class and engage in critical thinking in oral discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

• Regular attendance and participation in discussion—(5% of final grade). Each absence will result in a one-point deduction. Tardiness is treated as a one-half absence. No one is permitted to leave class early. To do so will be considered a one-half absence. Three absences for any reason will lower your grade one letter. Classroom courtesy includes the full attention of every student. All electronic devices, including lap tops, pagers and cell phones, must be turned off before class begins. Bathroom breaks should be timed before or after class to minimize the disruptions to concentration caused by comings and goings. If you must leave the room during class, do so quietly and unobtrusively.

• The reading of assigned material with written quizzes—(10% of final grade). These are scheduled in the syllabus. There are no make-up quizzes. However, extra credit can be earned by submitting reports on the productions of plays attended during the semester. No more than four perfect quiz scores (20 quiz points) may be made up by play reports. The total points in this category, including those for play reports, will not count more than 10% of the final grade.

• Completion of the Library Information Literacy Tutorial (LILT)—(10% of the final grade). LILT, in four modules, is available online. Graded quizzes accompany these modules. There are three steps you will need to take to access the tutorial:
  1. Log in to MyLMU Connect and click on FYS 0000 36 Political Theatre to enter the course site.
  2. Click on the “Information Literacy” link in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.
  3. Click the link for the tutorial you are assigned. The tutorial will open in a new window.

• Two academic essays—(30% of the final grade). The topics will be assigned by the professor and will be read in two drafts. They will each be a minimum of 10 pages in length. These require research using both primary and secondary sources. The student may be required to meet in tutorial session(s) with the writing instructor.

• One oral presentation—(15% of the final grade). This will be assigned on a specific topic at a later date. Each student will assume a role in one of the plays we are reading, performing a 3 minute speech or scene from the play. The student will research your character and speak as that character on a contemporary political or social issue. The students will do this in teams with the object of persuading the rest of the participants to accept your character’s position on a contemporary issue.

• Midterm examination (10% of final grade).

• Final examination—(20% of final grade). No make-up examination is available. Incomplete grades will only be available to those who make the request through the registrar’s office in advance of the final. Incomplete make-up examinations are given at the beginning of the following semester and are graded more stringently than exams taken at the regularly scheduled time.

• Attendance at a minimum of two main-stage productions of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. Credit for these and other theatre events during the semester may be obtained by writing a
critique for each performance with the ticket stub attached. A perfect play report with no grammatical
errors and a length of two typed, double-spaced pages is worth the equivalent of five quiz points.
These credits are added to the quiz grades. No more than 20 additional quiz points can be obtained in
this way. Optional attendance at the Getty Villa production of *Prometheus Bound* on Sept. 18 can earn
an additional 10 quiz points by the submission of a five page analysis of the production.

- Changes and corrections to the syllabus including the reading list and schedule of quizzes and
examinations can be made at the discretion of the professor.

- Submission of all class work must be in hard-copy form. Unless the assignment is an in-class
examination or quiz, all work must be typed, double-spaced and written in acceptable style with good
spelling and grammar. Facsimile or e-mail transmissions are unacceptable.

- Americans with Disabilities Act: Students with special needs as addressed by the Americans with
Disabilities Act who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this
course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services Office. Any student who
currently has a documented disability (physical, learning, or psychological) needing academic
accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office (Daum Hall Room 224, 310-338-4535)
as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit
http://www.lmu.edu/dss for additional information.

- Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty will be treated as an extremely serious matter, with serious
consequences that can range from receiving no credit for assignments/tests to expulsion. It is never
permissible to turn in any work that has been copied from another student or copied from a source
(including Internet) without properly acknowledging the source. It is your responsibility to make sure
that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the “LMU Honor Code and Process
‘which appears in the *LMU Bulletin 2010-2011* (see
http://www.lmu.edu/about/services/registrar/Bulletin/Bulletins_in_PDF_Format.htm.) Also, you
might include a more specific statement about plagiarism if students will write papers in your class.
Suggestions for preventing plagiarism are found at
http://library.lmu.edu/Services_for_Faculty/Preventing_Plagiarism_links_for_faculty.htm

GRADE ASSESSMENT

A=100-92; A– = 91-90; B+=89-87; B=86-78; B– =77-76; C+ =75-74; C=73-67; C– =66-65; D = 64-58; F=57-0

Grading based solely on numerals is not necessary a reflection of effort and improvement throughout the
semester. I reserve the right to reward students who raise their grades on the final examination and final
paper, and to penalize those who lower their grades on the final examination and final paper, regardless of
the final numerical total accumulated.

REQUIRED READING


Loyola Marymount University FYS Political Theatre
Dr. Katharine B. Free
### SCHEDULE OF LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>Introduction—Elements of writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>Visit to Library—meet in our classroom at 10:50 promptly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>Prometheus Bound</td>
<td>quiz—LILT Module #1 is completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>essay #1 topic is assigned</td>
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<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>Galileo</td>
<td>quiz—LILT Tutorial #2 is completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>roles and topics assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Beckett</td>
<td>quiz—LILT Tutorial #3 is completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>optional attendance at 3:00pm performance of Prometheus Bound at the Getty Villa, Malibu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>essay #1 is due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>An Enemy of the People</td>
<td>LILT Tutorial #4 is completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>discussion/review for midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>A Raisin in the Sun</td>
<td>quiz</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>discussion</td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>role-playing group #1</td>
<td>quiz</td>
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<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>The Crucible</td>
<td>quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>discussion</td>
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<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>role-playing group #2</td>
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<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Coriolanus</td>
<td>quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>quiz—essay #2 assigned</td>
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<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>role-playing group #3</td>
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<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Julius Caesar</td>
<td>quiz</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>essay #2 is due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>St. Joan</td>
<td>quiz</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>discussion</td>
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Nov. 19  role-playing group #4
Nov. 21  *Antigone*    quiz
Nov. 26  discussion
Nov. 28  Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 3   *My Children! My Africa!*  quiz
Dec. 5  discussion/review for final

**FINAL EXAMINATION: 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 10**