

Fall 2009

Assignments

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- 1) Critical Context: using the same play that you analyzed in the first assignment and your original close reading as a starting point, contextualize your reading with what others have said about this play in 3-5 pages. Your first resource should be the secondary readings included with a “*” for each week. In addition, you must find at least three articles from a combination of major theatre journals (*Performance Research, Modern Drama, TDR*, etc) and newspaper reviews (*New York Times*, etc) to use as research.
- 2) Performance Analysis: you will do two performance analyses throughout the semester. First, you will identify through close reading and historical / critical analysis what kinds of choices directors, designers, and actors will have to make. You will post these as well-considered questions on TLEARN. Second, after seeing the production, you will discuss how the particular artists responded to the issues raised by the play.
- 3) Final Paper: You will write a 10-12 page paper that will combine the first two assignments and a comparison with a play from the second half of the course that is influenced by the play you selected for those first two assignments. A significant part of this will include production design research that explores archival sources available online, at the library, and at the Tobin Collection housed at the McNay Art Museum. You must consider aesthetic choices, scenic, costume, and / or directing and acting styles that have built upon the aesthetics and plays that have come before. Using these resources, craft an original and compelling claim about drama and theatre. You must meet with me to discuss your paper at least four weeks prior to its due date.