SYLLABUS

HU 4545 Modern Historical Tragicomedy

Professor: Dr. B. Lide (bblide@mtu.edu)
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Phone: Office: 487-3243. Home: 482-8051 (Do not hesitate to phone me at home)

Required texts:
Bernard Shaw, *Saint Joan*
August Strindberg, *Master Olof*
Bertolt Brecht, *Life of Galileo*
T.S.Eliot, *Murder in the Cathedral*
Jean Anouilh, *Becket, or The Honor of God*
Thornton Wilder, *The Skin of Our Teeth*

REQUIREMENTS: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND CLASS AND TO HAVE YOUR TEXTS WITH YOU IN CLASS!!! This is very important, for if you do not have your text in front of you, you will not be able to follow or participate in class discussion. If the class remains small, we shall follow a seminar format; if enrollment increases greatly, we may have to follow a lecture-and-discussion format. In any case, each student will be expected to participate in class discussion -- that is, to ask questions, make comments, and express ideas regarding interpretations of the works we read -- all with specific reference to the work being discussed.

Part of your grade will be based on attendance and participation. Each student will be allowed two unexcused absences. Any further unexcused absences will result in 5 points being subtracted from your class grade. Also, if you come to class without the text that we are discussing, 2.5 points will be subtracted. Note: you are expected to be present mentally, as well as physically. If it becomes clear that your presence is only physical, you surely will risk losing further points.

There will be short, informal writing assignments that deal with questions pertaining to the reading assignments. These must be handed in ON TIME--that is, BEFORE class discussion of the topics -- and they will be graded S or U (satisfactory or unsatisfactory).

Each student will read one work of literature outside of class, present an oral report on that work, and write a formal paper (ca. 8-10 pages --COMPLETE WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION) on the work.

I shall be handing out a list of topics to choose from.
There will be a midterm exam, as well as a final exam.

Grading system:
- Class attendance and participation: 20%
- Short papers: 10%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 25%
- Final paper: 25%

I shall probably be assigning another play for your reading pleasure (I had ordered one that no longer is available). In the meantime, you ought to finish reading Shaw's *Saint Joan* by Friday of Week 1. For students who want to read ahead, we shall be reading the texts in the order in which they are listed above.

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (2213). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

Please read - and heed - the following paragraph from a letter to the faculty from Martha Janners, Dean of Student Affairs, dated August 28, 1995:

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:** There have been reports from faculty of gradual deterioration of Student conduct in class. We will discuss expectations of classroom behavior with entering students. Specifically, we will inform students that they are expected to arrive on time; to remain seated throughout the class period unless moving about is part of the professor's plan for the day; and to refrain from talking, reading newspapers, kissing, or sleeping in class! Please hold students to these expectations. Students will also be informed that faculty have the authority to remove students from the course if their conduct seriously interfered with academic work (See catalog, p. 12; Dismissal Policy).

I should like to add to this that, because I feel that communication is of utmost importance in a classroom, you will not be allowed to wear baseball caps or hats with brims in class. They prevent eye contact, which is necessary for good classroom communication, both between professor and students and among students. Also, they do indeed make a bad impression on the professor, as does chewing gum. Perhaps the ultimate question here is: Would you wear a baseball cap and chew gum if you were going to a job interview? Probably not, because you would want to make a good impression on the person who is interviewing you. I suggest very strongly that you might consider making a good impression on the professor,

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is subject to revision, if necessary, for the purpose of serving instructional needs.