

EDWARD ALBEE & POSTMODERNISM

Time & Place: Thursday 5:30 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.; Bliss 145

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11:30-12:20, & by appointment; Office: Bliss 223 Office Phone: 771-2346

e-mail: konkleli@tcnj.edu Home Phone: (609) 882-6964 (Please don't call after 10:00 p.m.)

Texts

Collected Plays of Edward Albee: 1958-1965 ISBN-10: 1585678848; ISBN-13: 978-1585678846

Collected Plays of Edward Albee: 1966 -1977 ISBN-10: 1590200535; ISBN-13: 978-1590200537

Collected Plays of Edward Albee: 1978- 2003 ISBN-10: 1590201140; ISBN-13: 978-1590201145

Powell, Jim. *Postmodernism for Beginners*. Danbury, CT: For Beginners LLC, 1998.

Assignments & Percentage of Course Grade

30% -- 2 argumentative/interpretative papers (no research) a minimum length of 5-full pages each

20% -- scholarship assignment (oral presentation (15-20 minutes) & written outline of points and works cited)

30% -- 1 argumentative/interpretative research paper (minimum 10 full pages on a topic approved by instructor)

5% -- a 3-5 minute "oral abstract" of your research paper during the final exam period

10% -- class participation

5% -- 14 SOCS postings on Albee play (and theory reading (in red print on schedule) when assigned)*

0% -- serve as group spokesperson at least once

In addition, you are required to submit a topic proposal for the research paper in advance of the due date

Participation, Extensions, and Grading

Come to class having read and thought about the reading assignment, underlining important passages and making notes in the margins, and be prepared to talk about it and to take notes (but **not** on a **laptop**; bring a notebook). You will receive one of three grades for class participation if you attend at least 90% of the class meetings: "A" (spoke up a few times every class), "C" (never or rarely spoke up in class), or "B" (somewhere in between "A" and "C"). If you do not attend class, you obviously are not participating. Also, if you are **texting during class**, you are not fully engaged with the classroom learning and your participation grade will be lowered. Keep your cell phone silenced and put away. If you have a death in the family or are too ill to come to class one night, contact me before the class or as soon after as possible to see about making it up, if that is possible. If you turn in an assignment late without prior consultation with me, it will be graded down in proportion to how late it is. I won't accept a paper more than 3 weeks late; thus, it would be marked down as a zero. (If you're having problems with a particular assignment or have three exams that week or whatever, talk to me beforehand and we'll see what we can work out for an extension. I'm a reasonable person; I know how relentless the demands on your time can get.) Each writing or speaking assignment will receive a letter grade (A, A-, B+, ...). The most important criterion in determining the grade on paper assignments is the quality of thought. What I look for is if you are intellectually engaged with the subject and if you support your interpretative argument with analysis of specific textual evidence (i.e., quotes). Other criteria for papers include overall essay form (introduction/thesis, body, conclusion), organization (logical progression of points, arrangement of the content of each paragraph), style (sentence structure, diction), mechanics (punctuation, grammar, spelling), and editing (proofreading for errors missed by the computer, and MLA format). I reserve A's for those assignments that demonstrate not only outstanding effort, but also outstanding quality of work. (Go to end of this document for the grading scale I use.)

†SOCS POSTINGS

Due **ONE HOUR BEFORE CLASS** at the latest, a paragraph-length (approximately 100-200 words) comment on the assigned reading posted to the SOCS Discussion Board. Your comments aren't graded except for whether you post them on time and give them a legitimate effort. (In other words, you don't have to worry about polishing your prose, following a particular format, etc.; you simply have to put in the effort to give a thoughtful response to the album and reading.) The primary **purpose of this assignment is to get you to THINK about the works and the issues they raise (theological, philosophical, moral, political, social, psychological, aesthetic, other)**. You may also respond to what another student has posted about the reading; **a secondary purpose of the assignment is to spark discussion of the issues outside of class**. Thus, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO READ YOUR CLASSMATES' COMMENTS BEFORE CLASS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, OR AT LEAST BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS MEETING. I will try to read all of the comments before class to see if there are issues coming up that I'd like to address in class. There are **14 classes for which you need to post a comment on SOCS, beginning with the FIRST class (on 1/24)**.

SCHEDULE

(theory readings in red)

- 1-24 intro, *Zoo Story*, *Death of Bessie Smith*, *Sandbox*, *American Dream*; *Esslin Theatre of the Absurd* (on SOCS)
- 1-31 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; "Which Theatre is the Absurd One?"
- 2-7 *Tiny Alice*; Powell 48-60
- 2-14 *Box and Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung*; Powell 88-90 **PAPER #1 DUE**
- 2-21 *Seascape*; Powell 149-53
- 2-28 *Listening and Counting The Ways*; Powell 1-47
- 3-7 *The Lady from Dubuque*; Powell 60-72
- 3-14 **SPRING BREAK!**
- 3-21 *The Man Who Had Three Arms*; Powell 93-107
- 3-28 *Finding the Sun* **PAPER #2 DUE**
- 4-4 *The Marriage Play*; Powell 72-92
- 4-11 *Three Tall Women*; **RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**
- 4-18 *The Play About The Baby*; Powell 108-21
- 4-25 *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*; Powell 122-48
- 5-2 *Occupant*; Powell 149-57
- 5-? Final Exam period; **RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION AND RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**

GRADING SCALE

At the end of the semester when I calculate the course grades I will use the numerical equivalents in the left column below for each grade. To arrive at your course grade, I will multiply the numerical score on each assignment times the percentage it is worth. That total will be converted to a letter grade for the course according to the percentages in the right column below.

A = 95	93 % and above = A
A- = 91	90 % and above = A-
B+ = 88	87 % and above = B+
B = 85	83 % and above = B
B- = 81	80 % and above = B-
C+ = 78	77 % and above = C+
C = 75	73 % and above = C
C- = 71	70 % and above = C-
D+ = 68	67 % and above = D+
D = 65	63 % and above = D
D- = 61	60 % and above = D-
F+ = 58	below 60 % = F
F = 55 or below (e.g., not completing an assignment earns 0 points)	

SELECTED TCNJ POLICIES

TCNJ's **attendance** policy is available on the web:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~recreg/policies/attendance.html>

TCNJ's academic integrity (**cheating**) policy is available on the web:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~academic/policy/integrity.html>.

TCNJ's **final examination** policy is available on the web:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~academic/policy/finalevaluations.htm>

TCNJ's **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** policy is available on the web:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~affirm/ada.html>