

HUM 121.60

Death and Afterlife in Literature

Winter 2010

T-F 9:30 – 12:55 PM

Jan 5 – Jan 22, 2010

Stony Brook Manhattan

Instructor: John Larsen

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Office Hours: by appt.

Course Description

Through discussion of representative contemporary and classical texts, this course addresses the topic of how human beings have chosen to live with the one certainty of their existence, its eventual conclusion in death, and how various images of afterlife or denial of its possibility have shaped those choices.

Fulfills DEC B requirement

Grading

Participation	20%
Reading Quizzes	20%
Response Papers (A-E)	30%
Final Exam	30%

Response Papers

Response papers are 250 words (one page) posted to Blackboard by the date on the syllabus (**SEE BOLDED (A-E)**). The response paper is partially a summary of what you read **for that day**, with your own personal point of view inserted throughout. **Due by midnight** of the date indicated.

Reading quizzes will be given daily.

Texts

Marsha Norman	<i>Night, Mother</i>	ISBN: 0374521387
Arthur Miller	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	ISBN: 0140481346
Thornton Wilder	<i>Our Town</i>	ISBN: 0060929847

Readings on Blackboard

We will also watch and discuss two films in class – *Paradise Now* (2005), *After Life* (1998).

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1

5 Jan – “Historical Changes,” “On Killing,”

“The Paradise of Cruelty” (Sofsky) (BB)

6 Jan – Greek/Roman Selections (*Iliad*,
Odyssey, *Aeneid*) (BB)

7 Jan – *night, Mother* (Norman) (A)

8 Jan – *Paradise Now* (2005)

Week 2

12 Jan – *Death of a Salesman* (Miller) (B)

13 Jan – *In the Shadow of the Glen* (Synge)(BB)
(C)

14 Jan – Poetry Selections (BB) (D)

15 Jan – *Afterlife* (1998), “To philosophize is to learn how to die” (Montaigne) (BB).

Week 3

19 Jan – *Our Town* (Wilder) (E)

20 Jan – *The Divine Comedy* (*Inferno*,
Purgatory) – selections (Dante)(BB)

21 Jan – Poetry Selections (BB)

22 Jan – FINAL EXAM

Americans with Disabilities Act:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may affect your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. The staff will work with you to determine what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students requiring emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information, go to the following web site: <http://www.ehs.sunysb.edu/fire/disabilities/asp>

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is simply the use of others' words and/or ideas without clearly acknowledging their source. As students, you are learning about other people's ideas in your course texts, your instructor's lectures, in-class discussions, and when doing your own research. When you incorporate those words and ideas into your own work, it is of the utmost importance that you give credit where it is due. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered academic dishonesty and all instances will be reported to the Academic Judiciary. To avoid plagiarism, you must give the original author credit whenever you use another person's ideas, opinions, drawings, or theories as well as any facts or any other pieces of information that are not common knowledge. Additionally quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words; or a close paraphrasing of another person's spoken or written words must also be referenced. Accurately citing all sources and putting direct quotations of even a few key words in quotation marks are required. For further information on plagiarism and the policies regarding academic dishonesty go to the Academic Judiciary website at <http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/ajc.nsf>.

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. Any suspected instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Judiciary. 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/>

Adopted by the Undergraduate Council September 12, 2006

ANY INSTANCE OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL BE REPORTED TO THE ACADEMIC JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND WILL RESULT IN AN F FOR THE COURSE.

Stony Brook University expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws and University regulations; and 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.

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.