

Course Information

Collegium V Honors Reading:

HONS 3199.H15 **Science Plays:** From Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* to Alan Alda's *Radiance: The Passion of Marie Curie*

Term: Fall 208

Professor Contact Information

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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Honors department consent required.

Course Description

Science plays can be an excellent way to teach the general audience about the important discoveries and ethical problems scientists encounter in their careers. Playwrights can constitute excellent avenues for exploring the lives, struggles, and success of scientists. It is generally assumed that scientists do not have much of an interest in arts and humanities. Michael Frayn's play *Copenhagen* about a meeting which took place during World War II between physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg is an excellent example of taking science on the stage. Bringing together science and humanities is an excellent forum for bringing scientific ideas into the theatre.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- 1) Learn about plays with science content
 - 2) Learn about the ethical problems in science
 - 3) Learn about the connection between science and humanities
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Suggested Textbooks and Materials (the instructor will bring the listed materials in the class for discussion)

Science on Stage: From Doctor Faustus to Copenhagen, by Kirsten Shepherd-Barr, Princeton University Press, 2006

In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer, by Heinar Kipphardt, 1964

Radiance: The Passion of Marie Curie, by Alan Alda, 2013

Suggested Course Materials

(the instructor will bring the listed materials in the class for discussion)

Copenhagen play (BBC); Actors: Daniel Craig, Stephen Rea

Christopher Marlowe, Doctor Faustus, Jules Maxwell Director; Actors: Paul Hilton, Arthur Darvill (play)

Doctor Faustus (movie); Actors: Richard Barton and Elizabeth Taylor

Assignments & Academic Calendar (room CB 1. 106; Class time: Friday 10:00 – 10:50 am)

August 24	Introduction
August 31	Copenhagen (BBC play)
September 07	Copenhagen (BBC play)
September 14	Copenhagen (BBC play)
September 21	Discussion about the Copenhagen play
September 28	Discussion about Oppenheimer (play by Heinar Kipphardt)
October 5	Doctor Faustus (play)
October 12	Doctor Faustus (play)
October 19	Doctor Faustus (play)
October 26	Discussion about Doctor Faustus play
November 02	Discussion of excerpts from Science on Stage
November 09	Discussion of excerpts from Science on Stage
November 16	Radiance: Passion of Marie Curie by Alan Alda
November 23	FALL BREAK
November 30	Suggestions for other science plays (G.N. Lewis)

Grading Policy

The grade for this course will be based on attendance, informed participation, and one term paper. The grading scale for letters from percentages will be as follows: A+: 97-100%, A: 93-96%, A-: 90-92%, B+:87-89%, B: 83-86%, B-: 80-82%, C+: 77-79%, C:73-76%, C-: 70-72%, D: 60-69%.

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance and Class Participation: 50% Attendance: If you are unable to attend class you are responsible for contacting me to let me know. You should try to email me in advance for an absence to be excused, or in the case of emergencies, as soon as is possible.

Participation: I expect students to come to class having read the material and ready to contribute to the group discussion.

50% Term Paper: At the end of the term, you will write a two-page term paper which will be graded. Detailed assignment instructions will be distributed later in the semester.

Your term paper should be focused on a scientist or a major discovery in science. This could be in the form of a critical review in which you can make a case for a particular scientist or discovery.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.