CONTEMPORARY DRAMA

Dr. Richard J. Gamble
Office Hours T-Th 7:30 - 9:00 am - AL-186  
THE 4930 (25917) - 3 credits - Spring Term 2013  
297-2508 - gamble@fau.edu  
T-Th 2:30 - 3:50 PM - SO 385

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Selected playscripts from the contemporary theatre (1970 - present) are studied, with emphasis on analyzing how dramatic literature functions in the theatre. Consideration is given to such matters as dramatic structure, genres, audience, and performance styles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: This is a class primarily designed to assist theatre student artists develop their creative processes so that they are better prepared to become creative theatre artists. This class also provides an overview of contemporary dramatic literature through in depth analysis of a range of examples as practiced in the United States today. The objective of this class is to create a foundation of literature for creative artists as they develop their own performance processes in the creation of the performance of a theatre work.

TEXTS: Plays are available through the university libraries online services, particularly the Twentieth Century North American Drama Database. The database can be accessed here:

The plays to be covered are:
*Night Mother* by Marsha Norman
*True West* by Sam Shepard
*Mud* by Maria Irene Fornes
*Glengarry Glen Ross* by David Mamet
*The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson
*Wicked: The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz* by Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman

(libretto available at:

BLACKBOARD: Course syllabus, and assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

GRADING: Your final grade will be based on an average of three equally weighted interview/examinations.

This class is divided into 3 units, each of which will conclude with an interview/examination. Each student will sign up for a scheduled appointment on the day of the exam and will be prepared to discuss the plays and the material covered in class discussion for each unit. Sign up lists will be available in class at least one week before the exam period. Similar to a conventional written examination or essay exam, your grade will be based on your demonstrated knowledge of the material.