THET608E: Seminar in Embodiment and Theatre

Course Description
The course examines theories of body and embodiment as they relate to theatre. Embodiment has been used as an interdisciplinary concept in social science, literary studies, cognitive science, art, and performance studies. The course provides a broad overview of how the concept has been used in other disciplines, but it also situates theories of body and embodiment in theatre history as a way to reevaluate acting, gesture, narrative, dramatic character, and audience reception.

Required Texts

Assignments and Evaluations

The quality of any seminar depends upon the contribution of each of member to the discussion. You are all therefore encouraged to participate fully in all phases of the seminar. Regular attendance is mandatory and all readings should have been completed prior to the seminar.

PRESENTATIONS: Each member will be expected to make two presentations to the seminar. A presentation is one in which the member presents a talk, lasting no longer than 20 minutes, that has been extensively researched and can serve as a comprehensive, though not necessarily exhaustive, introduction to the chosen topic. A handout should be provided for everyone in the class.

BOOK REVIEW: Each seminar member will write a book review of around 750 words. Copies of the review should be handed out to the entire class, and the reviewer should talk about the book for about 10 minutes on the day the book is assigned. Read sample book reviews in major theatre journals (*Theatre Survey, Theatre Journal, Theatre Research International, etc.*) for reference.

TERM PAPER: Each seminar member will write a term paper. A hardcopy of the paper should be put in my mailbox in the office, and an electronic copy of the paper in MS Word format should be emailed to me as an attachment. The term paper can either be based on the presentation given to the seminar, or it can be on a topic of your own choosing that is related to the subject matter of the seminar. Whatever the nature of the term paper, it should be a piece of writing of professional and scholarly quality. You are expected to use one of the major style manuals in preparing your paper (MLA is recommended) and you should cite all of your sources accurately. The length should be 16-18 pages (double spaced and 12-point font). Each seminar member will submit an abstract of his or her paper by the 7th week of the semester.

The final grade will reflect both your performance in class and the achievement of the final paper.