

Winthrop University
College of Visual and Performing Arts
Department of Theatre and Dance
SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT

THRT 592: World Theatre

Term Paper Assignment

The Assignment

You are assigned an 8 to 10-page term paper on a topic selected from the subjects below. In addition to turning in your written paper (which will be judged for the content and quality of the research, analysis and writing), you will also present the paper in a public forum. The final exam period will include a reading of your paper, followed by your response to questions from the audience. You will receive a grade for the paper and for the presentation.

Due Date

The paper and presentation are due on May 2, at 6:30 p.m. That is when the final exam period is for this class. The first draft of the paper is to be turned in for review on April 18th (although you may turn it in sooner if you want earlier feedback.) Feel free to talk with me at anytime about this assignment.

Term Paper Topics

Each student will read two plays from one of the countries we have “visited” this semester. Your term paper will be an analysis of the two plays, comparing and contrasting the dramatic literature and putting it in context of the culture of that country. You may examine the play’s themes, dramatic structure, genre, and performance style and how it reflects the culture of that country and theatre in general.

Your research will include the texts of the plays, information you research about the author, and research on the theatre and/or culture of that country. Research external to the play is necessary, but the main focus of the paper should be your own analysis of the dramatic literature.

Please choose a pair of plays from this list – everyone must choose a different country!

Latin America:

Plays found in Latin American plays: New Drama from Argentina, Cuba, Mexico and Peru / selected, translated and introduced by Sebastian Doggart

- *Rappacini’s Daughter* by Octavio Paz
- *Mistress of Desires* by Mario Vargas Llosa

Africa:

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- A play by Athol Fugard (recommended: *My Children! My Africa!* or *Sorrows & Rejoicings*; the first one is available in the library, the second one you can borrow from me; also see Fugard listings in Dacus for other options.)
- A play by Wole Soyinka (see Dacus library for Collected plays / Wole Soyinka)

India:

- *Routes and Escape Routes* by Datta Bhagat (found in Drama Contemporary: India / Erin B. Mee, ed.)
- *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie (in Dacus – get the play, not the novel)

China:

- *Where Love Abides* by Raymond K.W. To (in An Oxford Anthology of Contemporary Chinese Drama / edited by Martha P.Y. Cheung and Jane C.C. Lai)
- *The Bride and Her Double* by Chi Mei Wang (borrow from me)

Japan:

Select two plays from *Modern Japanese Drama, an Anthology* – borrow from me.