

**THEA1100 – Theatre Appreciation (Section 02-80966 )**  
**TLC 1-305**

**Fall 2007**  
**TR 2:00-3:15**

**Instructor: J. Caleb Boyd**  
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**Office Hours: TR 10-11, 1-2; W 10-1, 3-6**

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**Texts:**

Felner, Mira & Claudia Orenstein, The World of Theatre: Tradition & Innovation  
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* – [on WebCT]  
Shakespeare, *Taming of the Shrew* – [on WebCT]  
Ibsen, Henrik, *A Doll's House* – [on WebCT]  
LaBute, Neil, *The Shape of Things*

**Required Performances (2 of the following):**

- *Taming of the Shrew*, October 3-7 at TCPA. Wed-Sat 7:30 PM, Sun 2:30 PM
- *The Shape of Things*, November 14-18 at TCPA Black Box Theatre. Wed-Sat 7:30 PM, Sun 2:30 PM [Please note that Black Box seating is limited. Reserve Tickets early.]
- A performance (pre-approved by instructor) at a professional theatre in Atlanta area. See the list on the WebCT homepage for pre-approved productions and dates.

**Degree Program Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will demonstrate that they are familiar with a representative selection of plays, indicated by a demonstrable knowledge of selected plays, theatrical conventions and theatrical movements important in the formation of contemporary theatre.
- Students will be able to critically understand basic knowledge of theatre history, theory, and criticism, as well as research sources and methodology.
- Students will have the ability to apply the skills they learned in this course to a variety of social and work environments.

**Class Learning Objectives:**

- Students will gain an appreciation and enhance enjoyment of live performance.
- Students will be able to effectively evaluate and communicate issues regarding drama and theatre.
- Students will gain an understanding of the artistic and technical processes of play production.
- Students will gain a basic understanding of past theatrical traditions.
- Students will develop the critical and analytical skills needed to understand the components of a play.
- Students will understand how theatre simultaneously reflects and shapes society.

**Student Responsibilities:**

- Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire period.
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that show respect for your colleagues.
- Read the assigned material and be prepared to participate.
- You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, make sure you get the notes.
- Changes in the syllabus and schedule will be announced in class. Make sure you note these changes.
- Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned tests in a safe place.
- If you have scheduling conflicts with plays or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible to determine alternate courses of action.
- If you have any special needs, or if there is anything I can do to assist you in succeeding in this course, do not hesitate to let me know.

### **Participation and Attendance:**

- **Participation:** Although this is a large class, I do expect you to participate in group projects, class discussions, and talkback sessions throughout this semester. Remember, participation is not just about class activity, but about your willingness to listen, comment constructively, and respond imaginatively to the material discussed in this course. Distractions or disruptive behavior can negatively impact your grade or result in your being dropped from the course.
- **Attendance:** There is no official attendance policy for this class. However, you are responsible for any material presented in class. The tests are largely drawn from class lectures and discussions. Also, attendance at outside performance events will be recorded, and you should plan to be prompt and on-time for attendance at any play or other performance. Partial attendance does not fulfill your play attendance requirement.

### **Grading Components:**

Unit Quizzes	150 points
WebCT Activities	80 points
Play Attendance	60 points
Performance Opps	30 points
Theatre Response	40 points
Final	40 points

**Total: 400 points**

**Unit Quizzes:** (150 points) There will be 5 unit quizzes given via WebCT and taken directly from the textbook reading, class lectures, and outside readings and performances. **Each test is worth up to 30 points.** The tests will become available immediately following the last class preceding the test date and will close at the end of the class period listed on the class schedule below. You get two attempts at each test during the window of availability. Tests can not be made up without documentation of medical absence or similar extenuating circumstances.

**WebCT Activities:** (80 points) As this course will be taught partially online, there will also be regularly scheduled WebCT activities. These will consist of discussion responses to material covered in class, discussions of plays read for class, or practical applications of course material. Please pay attention to activity days noted on the schedule included with this syllabus or online. There will be a total of 10 activities available, 8 of these will count towards your final grade. The other 2 may be completed for extra credit. **Each activity will be worth 10 points.**

**Play Attendance:** (2 shows @ 30 pts each, 60 points) As this class is designed to introduce you to theatre, your most valuable educational experiences will be theatre attendance. You are required to see two shows this semester. For free performances, you can see the shows produced by the UWG theatre company. If you miss or can not attend one of these performances, you can make up the grade by attending a professional theatrical performance approved by the instructor and submitting a 2 page review. **All records of play attendance must be turned in by November 27. If you do not see at least two performances this semester, you will receive a failing grade for this class.**

**Performance Opportunities – any combination totaling at least 30 points: (All records due no later than November 27.)**

Attend a local community/high school/church production – 10 points

Attend a professional theatre production and write a 2-3 page review– up to 30 points

Read an additional play and produce design sketches – 10-20 points

Others announced or pre-approved by the instructor – variable

NOTE: You may earn up to 20 extra Performance Opportunity Points to be applied as extra credit.



2-Oct	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Activity #5 (Due 2:00)	Read <i>Shrew</i>
4-Oct	Chapter 9 - Theatre Spaces		See <i>Shrew</i> (Oct 3-7 @ TCPA)
9-Oct	<i>Shrew</i> Discussion		
11-Oct	FALL BREAK		
16-Oct	Chapter 8 - The Director		
18-Oct	Rehearsal Process	Activity #6 (Due 3:15)	
23-Oct	<i>Doll's House</i> Discussion	Activity #7 (Due 2:00)	Read <i>Doll's House</i>
25-Oct	Quiz 3	Quiz 3 (Due 3:15)	
30-Oct	Chapter 10 & 11: Design 1		
1-Nov	Scenic Design App	Activity #8 (Due 3:15)	
6-Nov	Chapter 12 & 13: Design 2		
8-Nov	Costume Design App	Activity #9 (Due 3:15)	
13-Nov	<i>Shape of Things</i>	Activity #10 (Due 2:00)	Read <i>Shape of Things</i>
15-Nov	TBA		See <i>Shape</i> (Nov 14-18 @TCPA)
20-Nov	Quiz 4	Quiz 4 (Due 3:15)	
22-Nov	THANKSGIVING		
27-Nov	Chapter 15: Critical Response		<b>All Play Att &amp; Perf Opps Due</b>
29-Nov	Chapter 16: The Business of Theatre		
4-Dec	Quiz 5	Quiz 5 (Due 3:15)	<b>All Theatre Responses Due</b>
11-Dec	Final Exam 2:00-4:00		

**Grading Rubric** (for more detailed guidelines, check the WebCT Homepage.) Used when grading most response style activities and Theatre Responses.

**100% Credit** = answer went above and beyond guidelines of question; well-written, demonstrates critical thinking skills, uses specific examples, and/or is generally a longer answer.

**80% Credit** = the standard; answered correctly and thoroughly, clearly written, applies course knowledge, uses specific examples, sufficient in length.

**60% Credit** = sufficient answer; answered correctly, mostly a restatement of course or text materials, generally shorter with few structural and grammatical errors.

**40% Credit** = less than sufficient answer; partially incorrect, one-dimensional answer, few details, common structural and grammatical errors.

**20% Credit** = insufficient answer; mostly incorrect answer or misunderstood question, little to no thought put into the answer, poorly written.

**0% Credit** = no answer. Failed to answer or was completely wrong in response – also may reflect hostile, intolerant, or inflexible critical thinking.