

**THEA1100 – Theatre Appreciation (Section 02-#10976)**  
**TLC 1301**

**Spring 2005**  
**TR 2:00-3:15**

**Instructor: J. Caleb Boyd**

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**Office Hours: M-F 10-11, M 1-3, TR 1-2, W 2-3**

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**Texts:**

Wilson, Edwin and Alvin Goldfarb, Theater: The Lively Art

Vogel, Paula, *How I Learned to Drive*

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* – [on WebCT]

Ibsen, Henrik, *A Doll's House* – [on WebCT]

Shakespeare, William, *Comedy of Errors* – [on WebCT]

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

▶ *How I Learned to Drive*, February 23-27 at TCPA Black Box. Wed-Sat 7:30 PM, Sun 2:30.

▶ *Episodes in Sexuality*, March 14-17 at TCPA Black Box. Mon-Thur 7:30 PM. [Please note: Black Box performance seating is limited. Reserve tickets early.]

▶ *Comedy of Errors*, April 13-17 at TCPA. Wed-Sat 7:30 PM, Sun 2:30.

▶ An additional Performance (approved by instructor) at a professional theatre in the Atlanta area.

**WebCT Help:**

A great deal of this course is web-assisted via the UWG WebCT system. You can find a syllabus, an updated calendar of events/performance opportunities, and the five tests you will take during the semester on WebCT. You can access WebCT from the UWG home page, your UWG portal, or at <http://mywebct.westga.edu>.

For WebCT help, visit their website or call their helpline at 678-839-6248 on Monday - Friday from 8 AM – 5 PM.

**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 Tests	150 points
Play Attendance	60 points
Performance Opps	30 points
Theatre Response	30 points
Final	30 points
Total:	300 points

**Unit Tests:** (150 points) There will be 5 unit tests 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. 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.

**Play Attendance:** (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 and fill out an Attendance Verification Form (AVF). 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 April 19. 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 April 19.)**

- Observe 1 hour of UWG rehearsals (on predetermined date) – 10 points
- Audition during UWG auditions – 10 points
- Get cast in a UWG production – 30 points
- Work backstage during any UWG Theatre show – 30 points
- Attend a local community/high school/church production – 10 points
- Attend a professional theatre production and write a 2-3 page review– 20-30 pts
- 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.

**Theatre Response:** (30 points) As this course is focused largely on audience development, I am very interested in your responses to the plays you will see. Therefore, this component of your grade is designed to encourage you to respond to the plays creatively and/or intellectually. **Your Theatre Response is due no later than the end of class on April 26.** For this portion of your grade, you may take several approaches (each of which is detailed more fully on our WebCT homepage):

1. Write a 750-1000 word (3-5 full page) research paper exploring some aspect of one of the two plays you will attend this semester. You could do a history of other productions, a critical exploration of the themes or any other scholarly response to the play.
2. Create 4-5 detailed drawings and/or sketches that demonstrate how you would design the scenery, costumes, lighting, or sound for one of the plays. The drawings should be accompanied by 2-3 paragraphs explaining your design concept.
3. Perform a 1 minute monologue or a 2-3 minute scene from one of the plays during the last week of class. (Performance slots are limited, so sign up early if you are interested.)
4. Burn a CD as a soundtrack for the play. The CD should be accompanied by an explanation of why you chose each song and when it would be used in the show.
5. Any other creative response approved by the instructor. (For example, sewing a period costume, composing original music for a scene, etc...)

**Final:** (30 points) There will be a cumulative final drawn from the Unit Tests and other questions designed to draw the various threads of this course together to provide a capstone for your Introduction to Theatre.

**Grading Scale**

300-270 = A

269-240 = B

239-210 = C

209-180 = D

180 > = F

**Tentative Course Schedule – subject to change with notice from instructor:**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Reading</u></b>	<b><u>Performance Opps</u></b>
11-Jan	Intros/Syllabus		
13-Jan	What is Theatre/Definitions and Group Def	3-17	6:30 TCPA - Auditions
18-Jan	Theatre People – Audiences and Critic	22-36	
20-Jan	Theatre Spaces – Greek Theatre <i>Oedipus</i>	210-221 Read <i>Oedipus</i>	
25-Jan	Theatre Spaces – Rome	221-230	
27-Jan	Theatre Spaces - Medieval	247-255	
1-Feb	<b>Quiz 1 – Audience and Classical Theatre</b>		
3-Feb	Theatre People – Playwright and Plot	40-59	
8-Feb	Play Analysis – Character, Setting, Genre	60-86	
10-Feb	Play Analysis - Application		
	<b>Quiz 2 –Play Analysis</b>		
15-Feb	Theatre People - Actor	90-108	
17-Feb	Theatre People - Director	112-123	
22-Feb	<i>Drive</i> – Author and Production History	Read <i>Drive</i>	<i>Drive</i> – Feb 23-27
24-Feb	<i>Drive</i> – Play Analysis		
1-Mar	<i>Drive</i> – Discussion		
3-Mar	<b>Quiz 3 - Actor, Director, Drive</b>		
8-Mar	Theatre Spaces – Renaissance	258-267	
10-Mar	Theatre Spaces – Elizabethan	267-277	
			<i>Episodes</i> – 3/14-17
15-Mar	Theatre Spaces – Realism <i>A Doll's House</i>	321-333 Read <i>A Doll's House</i>	
17-Mar	Theatre Spaces – Anti-Realism	333-368	
	<b>Quiz 4 – Modern Theatre</b>		
22-Mar	SPRING BREAK		
24-Mar	SPRING BREAK		
29-Mar	Theatre People – Designers	150-192	
31-Mar	Theatre People – Producers and Managers	123-126	
5-Apr	Theatre Tour (Last names A-K)		
7-Apr	Theatre Tour (Last names L-Z)		
12-Apr	<i>Comedy of Errors</i> – Author/Prod Hist	Read <i>Comedy</i>	<i>Comedy of Errors</i> – 4/13-17
14-Apr	<i>Comedy of Errors</i> – Play Analysis		
19-Apr	<i>Comedy of Errors</i> Discussion		<b>Play Att &amp; Perf Opp Due</b>
21-Apr	Contemporary Trends	376-399	
26-Apr	<b>Quiz 5– Cont Theatre, Designers &amp; Others</b>		<b>Theatre Responses Due</b>
28-Apr	Theatre Responses		
<b>10-May</b>	<b>Final 2:00-4:00</b>		