

**THEA 1100 Section 03 Theatre Appreciation**

Spring 2005

M W F 10:00 – 10:50am

Humanities Room 312

Instructor: Thomas Cox

Office: Martha Munro Room 202C

Office Hours: 11-12 (MWF); 10-12 (TR); Scene Shop Hours: 1:00 – 5:00 (MWF)

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**Course Description:**

This course is designed as an introductory study of theatrical arts. Theatre is all arts combined. Theatre is in the essence a collaborative art. This course allows students to briefly survey all aspects of the theatrical organization, history of origins, design process from pre-production to post-production, and the role of audiences and actors relationship. By the end of the course, it is hope that the student will have a better understanding of this art form and gain an appreciation of the theatre performance. This is a pre-requisite course for advanced theatre courses.

**Class Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will gain a better understanding of live theatre performances.
2. Students will develop analytical and critical skills needed to understand the components of a play.
3. Students will understand the artistic and technical process of a theatre production.
4. Students will identify and appreciate the various genres of plays/past theatrical history.
5. Students will become a better theatre observer/critic.
6. Students will define and understand the role of individual theatre artists.
7. Students will understand the role of theatre in society.

**Degree Learning Outcomes:**

1. 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 the modern theatre.
2. Students will be able to critically understand basic knowledge of theatre history, theory, and criticism, as well as research sources and methodology.
3. Students will have the ability to apply the skills they learned in courses to a variety of work and social environments.

**Required Texts:**

Wilson, Edwin and Alvin Goldfarb. Theatre: The Lively Art. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**Note: Please read the following plays for the class.**

Sophocles                    *Oedipus Rex*  
[<http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/oedipus.html>]  
Shakespeare                *Hamlet*  
[<http://www-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/hamlet/full.html>]  
Ibsen, Henrik                *A Doll's House*  
[<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext01/dlshs11.txt>]

### Course Requirements/Expectations:

1. You are responsible for all assigned readings for the class.
2. You are to have read the assigned readings before the day of the lecture.
3. Class participation is crucial and encouraged.
4. There is no class attendance policy.
5. You are required to take **WebCT quizzes** on your assigned readings and must be taken by the due date listed on the syllabus. **You are not allowed to make up missed WebCT quizzes.** Please do not wait until the last minute to take them in case of computer malfunction.
6. There will be three quizzes on the assigned play readings.
7. You will not be allowed to retake any missed quizzes with or without a valid reason.
8. There will be a midterm and a final examination. The final examination is not a comprehensive test.
9. Most of the course material lectures will not be found in your text. You will be tested based on class lectures and materials in the required course textbook. Therefore, missing a lecture will not be beneficial.
10. You are required to attend **ONE** departmental production. Performance dates are listed below. You must show proof of production attendance by handing in a ticket stub or a playbill to the instructor.
11. There will be **ONE** written production critique paper. This is a one page single-spaced typed paper. Please no longer than 2-pages. You must attach ticket stub and a playbill to your paper. Failing to do so will result in 20% deduction to the overall grade. Please read guidelines listed below for this project.
12. You are allowed to choose one extra credit project to enhance your final grade. The extra credit projects are listed below.
13. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class period.
14. **Plagiarism is a serious offense. Any students found cheating will automatically receive a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the appropriate authority.**

\*\*\*\*Note: Syllabus schedule is subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to get the changes.

**Department Performance Dates:**

\*\*\*\* Note: You are responsible to get your ticket from TCPA Box Office. Please reserve these dates in your personal calendar.

*How I Learned To Drive*

Feb.23 – 26, 7:30pm & Feb. 27, 2:30pm

*The Comedy Of Errors*

Apr. 13 – 16, 7:30pm & Apr.17, 2:30pm

**Grading:**

Class Participation	50 points	<b><u>Grading Scale</u></b>  <b>A</b> 520 -- 421 <b>B</b> 420 -- 321 <b>C</b> 320 -- 221 <b>D</b> 220 -- 121 <b>F</b> 120 -- 000  <b><u>Extra Credit</u></b> 5% of final grade
Written Critique (100 points each) [ <i>The Comedy Of Errors</i> ]	100 points	
14 WebCT Quizzes (10 points each)	140 points	
3 Play Quizzes (10 points each)	30 points	
Midterm	100 points	
Finals	100 points	

**Extra Credit Projects:**

Listed are 3 options. You are only allowed to choose one option as your extra credit project. All chosen option must have prior approval from the instructor. You have until the 9<sup>th</sup> week of Spring semester to choose a project. Extra credit project is on **April 14, 2005**.

1. Attend and critique any professional theatre production in greater Atlanta area. Please see instructor if you are interested in this option.
2. Attend and critique the production of *How I Learned To Drive* produced by West Georgia Theatre Company.
- \*\*\*\*3. Spring Season Audition: Wednesday, Jan. 12, TCPA @ 6:30pm – **This option only applies if you are cast in one of the three shows, namely *How I Learned To Drive* or *Episodes In Sexuality* or *The Comedy Of Errors***. You have to prepare a short monologue or a song if you plan to attend the audition. See me for more information.

### **Written Critique Guideline:**

1. This paper must be typed, single-spaced.
2. Minimum one page, maximum two pages.
3. Font no larger than 12-font, Times New Roman.
4. A copy of the program or ticket stub for proof of attendance.
5. You must site examples to support your arguments.
6. It helps if you read the play before attending the production but not required.
7. Please make sure you acknowledge your sources correctly. The name of the cast and production can be found in the playbill.
8. The following criteria must be in the paper:
  - a. The paper must have a beginning, middle, and end structure.
  - b. You must describe the name of the production, date of attendance, time of performance, and location of the theatre performance.
  - c. You must include a brief summary/theme(s) of the play – please, limit to a few sentences.
  - d. Critic the production style. Can you identify the style or period of the production? Is it effective? Is the overall design unified? Support your arguments.
  - e. Critic the individual design area – set, costume, lighting, and sound. Describe in your opinion what works and what don't. Try using the principles and elements of design to support your arguments.
  - f. Critic the acting choices. Dialect choices? Movement choices? Effective character portrayal? Unity with the surrounding? Support your arguments.
  - g. Critic the direction. Do you agree to the director's artistic visions? Why?
  - h. Audience reactions? If this applies to your critique.
  - i. You are allowed to dislike the production. If you are angered or annoyed by the performance, please share your point of view in your critique paper with appropriate examples and reasoning.

Enjoy the production. Break a leg!

Date	Lecture	Assign	Due
Jan 10	Course introduction		<b>Spring Audition Wed, 01/12 @ 6:30pm TCPA</b>
Jan 12	Experiencing Theatre	Read Introduction, pg. 1--14	Auditions Tonight!
Jan 14	Theatre Organization		
Jan 17	MLK Day		
Jan 19	Audiences and Critics	Read Chap. 1	
Jan 21	Stage Performers	Read Chap. 4	
Jan 24	Actors on Acting		
Jan 26	The Director and The Producer	Read Chap. 5	
Jan 28	Genres: The Types of Plays	Read Chap. 3	
Jan 31	Theatre Spaces	Read Chap. 6	
Feb 2	Designers: Scenery	Read Chap. 7	
F 02/04	Designers: Costumes		
M 02/07	Designers: Lighting and Sound	Read Chap. 8	
W 02/09	The Design Process: Part One Documentary: <i>The Tempest</i>		
F 02/11	The Design Process: Part Two		
M 02/14	The Playwright and Play Analysis	Read Written Critique Guidelines	
W 02/16	The Playwright and Play Analysis Discuss Written Critique Guidelines		Web CT Quiz
F 02/18	Documentary: Suzi-Lori Parks		

M 02/21	Mid Term Review		
W 02/23	Mid Term Exam	Opening night <i>How I Learned...</i>	
F 02/25	Origins of Western Theatre	Read <i>Oedipus Rex</i>	<b>Play Quiz #1</b>
M 02/28	Discuss and view <i>Oedipus Rex</i>	Read Chap.10	
W 03/02	Medieval Theatre	<i>Hamlet</i>	
F 03/04	No Class: Southeastern Theatre Conf.	<i>Read Chap.11 (pg.246-253) &amp; 12</i>	
M 03/07	View <i>Hamlet</i>		
W 03/09	View <i>Hamlet</i>		
F 03/11	Renaissance Theatre -- Italian, Spanish Theatre (Neoclassical, Commedia dell'arte)		<b>Extra Credit Option cut-off day</b>
M 03/14	Renaissance Theatre -- Elizabethan		
W 03/16	Discuss <i>Hamlet</i> Shakespeare and The Movies	Read Chap. 13	<b>Play Quiz #2</b>
F 03/18	Theatre from 1660 – 1875 -- Restoration, French Comedy, Romantic Theatre, Melodrama	Read <i>The Doll's House</i> Read Chap. 14	
M 03/21	SPRING BREAK		
W 03/23			
F 03/25			
M 03/28	Modern Theatre: 1875 to 1945 -- Well-Made Play, Realism	Read Chap.15	
W 03/30	Modern Theatre: 1945 to 1990 -- Other "ism" Discuss <i>The Doll's House</i>		<b>Play Quiz #3</b>
F 04/01	Modern Theatre: 1945 to 1990		
M 04/04	Movie: <i>Zoot Suit</i>	Read Chap. 16	
W 04/06	Discuss <i>Zoot Suit</i>		
F 04/08	Contemporary Trends		
M 04/11	Musical Theatre <i>Victor:Victoria</i>		

W 04/13	Discuss <i>Victor: Victoria</i>	Opening night <i>Comedy of Errors</i>	
F 04/15	Theatre For The Youth		
M 04/18	Discuss <i>The Comedy Of Errors</i>	Chap. 11 (pg. 233 – 246)	<b>Critique #1</b>
W 04/20	Asian Theatre: Japanese Theatre		
F 04/22	Documentary: Kabuki Theatre		
M 04/25	TBD		Web CT Quiz
W 04/27	TBD		
F 04/29	TBD		<b>All Extra Credit Projects Due</b>
M 05/02	Finals Review		

Friday 05/06    Final Examination    8:00-10:00am
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