

THEA 2050: Self-Staging (section 06)

Monday/Wed 1:30-2:45
Martha Munro bld. #111

Instructor: Brad Darvas
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Office Hours:

Monday: 3:00pm-6:00pm
Tuesday: 1:00pm -5:00pm
Wednesday: 3:00pm-6:00pm

Phone: 678-839-4701
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Texts

No text required

Course Description:

Self-Staging is an introduction to the performative basis of real communications and self-presentation. The focus of this course is the variety of means by which we present self in personal and professional venues. Self-staging is by nature interdisciplinary; therefore, presentation and performance with media such as (but not exclusive to) PowerPoint is required.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- To analyze the performative basis of identity in a range of settings and circumstances applicable to students' personal and professional goals.
- To apply performance theory in creating practical individual identities and exploring others' performance of identity.
- To develop the skills necessary to effectively communicate in a variety of situations and on a range of topics.
- To gain a basic understanding of the art of both formal and informal presentations.
- To develop leadership and collaborative skills necessary to communicate in groups.
- To become active listeners who critically evaluate what they hear.
- To effectively evaluate and develop methods of persuasion in presentation.
- To develop communication and presentation skills necessary to meet changing career demands in the contemporary world.

Degree Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will express through performance, writing, speaking, and other modes of communication the results of research and critical judgment, indicated by a demonstrable ability to reach an audience effectively through at least one of the components of theatrical art.
2. Students will apply skills learned in courses to a variety of work and social environments.

Student Responsibilities:

- Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire class period.
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that shows respect for your colleagues.
- Read the assigned material and be prepared to give your speech on the assigned day.
- Complete all assignments by the due date listed on your schedule.
- You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, please make sure you get the notes and assignments.
- **The syllabus is subject to change.** Changes will be announced in class - make sure you note these changes.
- Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned assignments in a safe place.
- If you have scheduling conflicts with the schedule or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.
- 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.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services](#).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success](#) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center](#) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

ONLINE COURSES

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online](#) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide](#).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares](#) site. [Online counseling](#) is also available for online students.

HONOR CODE

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook](#).

UWG EMAIL POLICY

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance:

http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance:

<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>

Participation and Attendance:

Since this is a largely performance-based class, much of the benefit you will gain from enrollment will be received in the classroom. Therefore, attendance is crucial to your success. **You may miss 2 “regular” classes without penalty. Any classes missed after these 2 will result in you losing 5 points, per day from your final grade. The exception to this rule are days on which you are scheduled to speak, interview, or participate in class projects.** Do not miss one of these days without bringing documentation justifying your absence or you will not be able to make up class work. Work missed for excused absences will be made up at the

Class Meeting schedule:

Class/ assignments starts - Aug. 9th

Last day to withdrawal with a “W” - Sept. 29th

Last day of class - Dec. 1th

Final Exam – TBD

Grading Components:

Speech Critiques: You will write 2 critiques during this class.

Self Critique 1 - During your informative speech, you will be filmed by me. I will email you your presentation upon which you will critique your performance. This critique should be 1 - 1 1/2 pages long and should focus on all the things positive and negative about your performance.

Group Critique - You will be asked to write a 1 1/2 - 2 page critique on your own group presentation. This should focus on all the things positive and negative about your group presentation along with all the planning leading up to the presentation; what worked well, what did not, who emerged as the group leader, what you would do different next time, what would you do the same...

Self Critique 2 - On the day of your final exam you will turn in a 2 page paper reflective of your growth throughout the class. This will be similar to the first self critique, but more detailed. Be sure to include areas that you felt you have improved upon as well as areas that you might still need to work on.

Self-Stagings:

Introductory Speech/Anecdote: (30pts) As a means of establishing trust and familiarity in the class, we will do a number of exercises designed to evaluate your own staging of personal identity. These exercises will culminate in a brief introductory speech or anecdote that will also serve as a baseline for the instructor's evaluation of your progress throughout the semester. More details will be provided during class.

Occasional/Commemorative Speech: (60 pts) A great deal of traditional self-staging occurs in formal or ritual settings, such as banquets, weddings, funerals, or award ceremonies. This exercise is designed to help students develop appropriately staged performances for these events, drawing on emotional language, the ability to move or inspire an audience, and the appropriate behavior for these settings. More details will be provided during class.

Informative Presentation: (60 pts) To develop the research skills to effectively relay information to an audience. This presentation is a focus on your recently developed skills on general public speaking along with the addition of the basics of research. Visual aids are required (non-computer based). More details will be provided during class.

Group/Academic Presentation: (60 pts) To develop skills of working in a collaborative process, students will be grouped into teams of 4-5 individuals. Each group will be assigned a decade in which they will present a variety of information. Each presenter will be responsible for a portion of the program, and each will be required to cite at least 3-4 sources within their portion of the presentation. Adequate research, visual aids and technology will be a key component of these presentations. More details will be provided during class.

Mock Job Interview: (60 pts) As one of the practical applications of self-staging, you will undergo a mock job interview. Using resources discussed in class, you will locate and research an appropriate job description/listing, and you will prepare an appropriate resume and cover letter for the job. Then, during class periods, you will interview with the professor. You will be evaluated on your resume, cover letter, and your performance during the interview process. More details will be provided during class.

*this assignment is part of the University wide QEP

Clear written communication is important in all disciplines, and increasingly employers are expecting college graduates to be good writers. That's one reason why UWG is focusing on improving undergraduate student writing across the core. When you hear about the QEP—UWG's Quality Enhancement Plan—know that what your peers and professors are talking about is WRITING, because we are committed to giving you opportunities across your core curriculum to improve the quality of your writing. Want to know more? Visit the QEP website at <http://www.westga.edu/qep/>

Final Presentation: (60 pts) For your final presentation, you will choose either a dramatic monologue to perform for the class, or create a celebrity roast. More details will be provided during class.

Grading Breakdown:

Textual and Class-Based Evaluations:

Participation/Attendance	20pts
Self Critique 1	15pts
Group Critique	15pts
Self Critique 2	20pts

Student Self-Stagings:

Introductory Speech	30pts
Occasional Speech	60pts
Informative Speech	60pts
Group Academic Presentation	60pts
Mock Job Interview	60pts
Final Speech/presentation	60pts

Points Total = 400pts

Grading Scale:

360-400	A
320-359	B
280-319	C
240-279	D
0-239	F

Tentative Schedule:

This schedule is an overview and subject to change. Please take note of all adjustments' you will be responsible for any announcements made as to the changes. Assignments and reading are due on the date listed.

Date	Lecture	Assignments Due
W 8/9	READ SYLLABUS Course introduction/performing Identities	
M 8/14	PRESENTATION DAY: Intro Speeches	
W 8/16	-Time and Stress Management - Feedback from Intro speeches	
M 8/21	-Occasional Speeches - lecture notes Solor Eclipse! Make sure you have your glasses for viewing	
W 8/23	Occasional speeches Videos	I will be out of town with limited internet access from 8/24-/27
M 8/28	PRESENTATION DAY: Occasional speech	

W 8/30	PRESENTATION DAY: Occasional speech	
M 9/4	Labor Day No Class	
W 9/6	- Occasional Speech feedback - Informative speech intro and handouts	I will be out of town with limited internet access from 9/7-9/11
M 9/11	NO CLASS	I will be out of town with limited internet access from 9/7-9/11
W 9/13	- Informative Speeches: lecture notes - Fielding Q's in your speeches	
M 9/18	- Presenting your work - Power Point Presentations	
W 9/20	Research Day - Breakout Session - have outlines completed	Bring in Informative speech outlines
M 9/25	PRESENTATION DAY: Informative speech	
W 9/27	PRESENTATION DAY: Informative speech	UWG Theatre's Production of <i>GodSpell</i> opens. 7:30pm Townsend Center for Performing Arts
M 10/2	PRESENTATION DAY: Informative speech	
W 10/4	- PRESENTATION DAY: Informative speech	
M 10/9	- Working in Groups Notes - Leadership	
W 10/11	In Class Group Work	
M 10/16	In Class Group Work	Critique #1 Due
W 10/18	In Class Group Work	I will be out of town with limited internet access from 10/19-10/23
M 10/23	No CLASS (Get together with your groups and do a trial run)	I will be out of town with limited internet access from 10/19-10/23
W 10/25	- Professional Self: Resume (Career Services guest)	
M 10/30	PRESENTATION DAY: Group Presentations	
W 11/1	PRESENTATION DAY: Group Presentations	Turn in rough resume (hard copies only)

M 11/6	PRESENTATION DAY: Group Presentations	
W 11/8	Professional Self: Lecture notes - Data input sheets	Will return Resumes for revisions before your Mock Interviews UWG Theatre's Production of <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> opens. 7:30pm Townsend Center for Performing Arts
M 11/13	Mock Interviews (Interviews will meet in my office)	- Things to bring to your interview: Resume, data input sheet - Email me your cover letter and resume the day before interview
T 11/14	Additional Day for Mock Interviews If needed	
W 11/15	Mock Interviews (Interviews will meet in my office)	- Things to bring to your interview: Resume, data input sheet - Email me your cover letter and resume the day before interview
M 11/20	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
W 11/22	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
M 11/27	Tips for monologues and exploring Roasts	Critique #2 Due
W 11/29	Work Day	
W TBD	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> <u>TBD</u>	