

University of West Georgia
Fall 2017 Syllabus
Theatre Appreciation

Course-Section # THEA 1100-08
Instructor: Christine Fuchs
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Phone: 678.839.1859
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12:30pm-2:30pm; Tues/Thurs 9:30am-12:30pm
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Course Meets: 8am-9:15am, Tues/Thurs, Callaway, Rm 205
Prerequisites: None
Required Text: *Theatre Arts: An Interdisciplinary Approach*
by Amy Cuomo & Pauline Gagnon.
ISBN: 978-1-4652-0747-0

Performances:

Townsend Center for the Performing Arts. Reserve tickets at TCPA Box Office. For ticket information, please call (678) 839-4722.

Godspell

TCPA Mainstage

Community Preview: Tuesday, September 26 at 7:30PM

Wednesday-Saturday, September 27-29 at 7:30PM

Sunday, October 2 at 2:30PM

The Scarlett Letter

TCPA Richard L. Dangle Black Box Theatre

Community Preview: Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30PM

Wednesday-Saturday, November 8-11 at 7:30PM

Sunday, November 12 at 2:30PM

Tuesday-Friday, November 14-17 at 7:30PM

*****If you are unable to make the time commitment to attend performances, you should consider taking another course.*****

Course Overview:

This course is an introduction to the principles of the art of live theatre. Students will explore the creative process through script analysis, examining current and past theatrical trends, critical thinking and analysis of a theatrical performance, and a collaborative project with their peers.

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 modern 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 courses to a variety of work and social environments.

Class Learning Outcomes:

- Students will gain an appreciation for and an enhanced enjoyment of live performance.
- Students will be able to effectively evaluate and communicate about drama and the theatre.
- Students will gain an understanding of the artistic and technical process 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 the society.

University Policies:

Honor Code, Disability Services, Official E-mail, and other policies can be found at

<https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

All policies discussed or referred to in this document are considered to be in force for this course. Students are required to review this document.

Accessibility and Learning Challenges:

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

Classroom Expectations:

- READ!!!
- NO CELL PHONES
- NO EAR BUDS
- Pay attention to due dates. No late work will be accepted.
- You are responsible for all work that you may have missed. Check the syllabus regularly to make sure you are up-to-date on all assignments.
- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If, in the opinion of the responsible faculty member, a student becomes disruptive in class, faculty may exercise their judgment on how best to address the situation, be it by requiring the student to leave, calling Campus Police, or taking other steps deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of the class. Such action may affect the student's final grade and standing in the University.

Attendance:

An attendance grade will never show up on Course Den, nor will it be independently factored into a student's final grade. However, it is incredibly difficult to pass this course if you do not attend class. Homework is assigned during class and that information will not be re-iterated via course den. Quizzes are also given at the beginning, middle or end of class. I will expound upon the important chapter information during class. In-class activities and lecture notes are sizable portions of testing. Hints and clues are given during class that will make an assignment, quiz, or test section incredibly simple. I don't require you to come to class, but make no mistake - your grade will reflect that choice.

Missing exams, homework assignments, and/or quizzes due to emergencies:

Exceptions are made if you have an emergency. What constitutes an emergency? Examples are: a death in the family, serious illness that prevents you from attending class, and things out of your control, such as a car accident. Documentation is required (example: doctor's note). Being called into work is NOT an emergency; it is a constant.

Athletes and members of UGA Student Organizations: Documentation regarding missing classes due to games, special events and award ceremonies is required from your advisor. Please get this to me as soon as possible.

Submission Guidelines:

I love the planet and hate wasting paper; so online submissions via Course Den are how I roll. The Production Review and Playwriting Assignment are due ***before*** class begins on that day. For example, this class begins at 8am; the assignment can be uploaded up until 7:59am. Turning assignments in **before** the due date is always acceptable. **I will not accept or grade late work.** Excused absentees will be allowed to submit work providing the student has proper documentation for their absence. The classification of proper documentation is at the discretion of the Instructor. A copy of such documentation is required upon return to class. I will, at times, give homework assignments. **Homework assignments are to be typed.** Hand written assignments will automatically receive a 50% deduction. Homework submitted via email will **not** be accepted/graded unless you have made a previous arrangement with me. Please include your **full name** and **917 number** on the upper right or left hand corner.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

The definition of plagiarism and cheating is clearly defined in the Student Code of Conduct. If a student is caught cheating on an assignment, quiz, review and/or test, the following actions will take place:

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.

There are no exceptions. Be a person of character.

Academic Integrity:

- Know Your Rights. Do not let other students in your class diminish the value of your achievement by taking unfair advantage. Report any academic dishonesty you see.
- Acknowledge Your Sources. Whenever you use words or ideas that are not your own when writing a paper, use quotation marks where appropriate and cite your source in a footnote, and back it up at the end with a list of sources consulted.
- Protect Your Work. Do not allow your neighbors to see what you have written; you are the only one who should receive credit for what you know. This pertains to exams, quizzes and the production review.
- Avoid Suspicion. Do not put yourself in a position where you can be suspected of having copied another person's work, or of having used unauthorized notes in an examination. Even the appearance of dishonesty may undermine your instructor's confidence in your work.
- Do your own work. The purpose of assignments is to develop your skills and measure your progress. Letting someone else do your work defeats the purpose of your education, and may lead to serious charges against you.
- Never falsify a record or permit another person to do so. Academic records are regularly audited and students whose grades have been altered put their entire transcript at risk.
- Never fabricate data, citations, or experimental results. Many professional careers have ended in disgrace, even years after the fabrication first took place.
- Always tell the truth when discussing your work with your instructor. Any attempt to deceive may destroy the relation of teacher and student.

Grading:

Participation: 200 points: Because theatre requires collaboration, I will assign many, many, many group activities at random throughout the semester. In addition, I will also assign individual assignments that require musings, thoughts and self-reflection.

In-Class Quizzes: 100 points: Periodically, there will be pop quizzes at the beginning, middle or end of the class to ensure you are actively engaging the course material outside the classroom. Each quiz is worth 20 points and will be comprised of 5 questions that relate to the major tenets addressed in each chapter or content from the plays we are reading. If you miss a quiz because of failure to show up to class, the quiz cannot be made up - *unless you have a documented excuse, such as a medical issue or emergency.*

Playwriting Project: 100 points: Each student will write their own original play following the guidelines on **pg. 200** of your textbook. If you do not have the *current edition* of the textbook, please see me for clarification. **NO PHONES** (*this includes phone calls, texting, instant messenger, Facebook, SnapChat, Twitter, Tinder, Instagram, LinkedIn, Google+, Tumblr, Pinterest, Reddit, Flickr, Ello, & Shots*), **COMPUTERS, GUNS or CARS** are allowed in your plays. Period.

Mid-Term: 100 points

The mid-term will include all material covered in class to that date. All readings (textbook and plays), videos, discussions, and performances viewed will be covered on the exam.

Production Review: 100 points

You are required to see both of UWG productions, as *they will be on quizzes, midterm and final exams*. Students will write a **review** of either production. **Use the guidelines outlined on pg. 177 of your textbook.** Your review, which is an opinion paper (as you are the critic), will be typed, a minimum of two full pages, double-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman font, 1" margin settings, etc. You will follow MLA format. If you need further clarification, the University Writing Center (UWC) is available to you. Deviations from these basic guidelines, as well as grammar and structural problems will impact your overall grade. College level writing is **REQUIRED**. Also, use the knowledge you've gained in the class to support your opinions; this is tantamount. This is a QEP assignment. Clarification will be given once we get closer to the assignment.

Collaborative Project: 200 points

In order to fully understand the theatrical process, students will participate in producing their own original work. Students will be assigned to a collaborative group. Your group will write, direct, act, design, market and produce a short play, which will be presented at the end of the semester. Don't worry; it'll be fun!

Final Exam: 200 points

Cumulative. Anything discussed during a lecture is "free game," and may appear on the exam, including information about the plays we read in class.

How I Calculate Grades:

Final grades are based on a total point system. You will be able to view your individual grades throughout the semester in Course Den. Grades are figured on a linear scale, meaning whoever has the most points in the class determines the pinnacle (curve) of the scale. (Example: if the number of potential points is 1000 and the top person in the class receives 975 points, that number represents 100% in the class.)

Other Thoughts...

- This class requires out of classroom “rehearsal” for the Collaborative Project. *If you are unable to make the time commitment, you should consider taking another course.*
- All assignments must be typed and follow MLA format. If you do not know what MLA format is, please speak with me, or search “Purdue OWL” online or, better yet, utilize the *University Writing Center (UWC)!!* The number is (678) 839-6513 and they are located in Technology Learning Center (TLC) Room 1201. **College level writing is REQUIRED for all assignments.**
- Take advantage of my office hours! I want you to succeed in this course! If you are struggling with the course material, utilize my office hours early and often!
- Please be diligent regarding your work/grades. Your work in my class is YOUR responsibility. Communication with me is vital to your success in this class. End of semester freak-outs will not be tolerated.
- Regarding email: I will respond to emails Monday through Friday from 9am – 5pm. In the case of Friday, the following Monday.

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Class Schedule

****Syllabus is subject to change by the Instructor at any point during the semester****

- **Week 1**

Thurs 08/10

Introduction of Class & Discussion of Syllabus & Collaborative Groups Assigned

***Attendance will be taken

Homework: Read pgs. 1-10

- **Week 2**

Tues 08/15

Discussion: Creativity, Imagination & Inspiration

Homework: Read pgs. 52-55, 85, 86

Thurs 08/17

Discussion: Playwright & Plot

Homework: Read pgs. 10 & 11, Handout

- **Week 3**

Tues 08/22

Discussion: Aesthetic Distance, Willing Suspension of Disbelief

Homework: Watch a film, TV show – or even better – see a play! And write about if you experienced aesthetic distance, willing suspension of disbelief, or both! One page minimum. Follow MLA guidelines.

Thurs 08/24

Discussion: Tempo & Rhythm (Iambic Pentameter)

Homework: Read *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*, Act I-Act III scene ii (Pgs. 215-252 in your textbook). ***If this is your first time reading Shakespeare, I highly recommend getting a copy from the library with helpful notes on the bottom of the page, such as the Arden Edition.***

- **Week 4**

Tues 08/29

Discussion: *Twelfth Night*

Homework: Finish reading *Twelfth Night*

Thurs 08/31

Discussion: *Twelfth Night*

Homework: TBD

- **Week 5**

Tues 09/05

Discussion: Introduce Playwriting Assignment, Due 10/11

Homework: Read pgs. 95-89, 103-105, 156-161

Thurs 09/07

Discussion: The Director, Stage Manager, Prompt Book, Production Meetings

Homework: Read pgs. 61-68

- **Week 6**

Tues 09/12

Discussion: Genre & Style

Homework: Read pgs. 114-126

Thurs 09/14

Discussion: Designers, Given Circumstances, Set Designers, Costume Designers

Homework: Read pgs. 127-133

- **Week 7**

Tues 09/19

Discussion: Lighting, Sound & Media Designers, Props Designer, Technical Director, Costume Shop Manager, Music Director, Choreographer

Homework: Read handout on The Producer & pgs. 139-147

Thurs 09/21

Discussion: The Producer, Seasons & Budgets, Advertising & Marketing

Homework: Read pgs. 105-107

- **Week 8**

Tues 09/26

Discussion: Actors, Given Circumstances, Guidelines for Attending the Theatre

Homework: 147-149, 152-155, 167-169

****Godspell* opens, TCPA Mainstage, Community Preview: Tuesday, September 26 at 7:30pm
Wednesday-Saturday, September 27-29 at 7:30pm, Sunday, October 2 at 2:30pm

Thurs 09/28

Discussion: Auditions & Casting, Rehearsal, Technical & Dress Rehearsals; Review Prompt Book & Production Meetings

Homework: Read pgs. 13-16, 98-99, 109-111

- **Week 9**

Tues 10/3

Discussion: Conventions, Playing Space, Front of House

Homework: Read pgs. 169-171

Thurs 10/5

Discussion: Critics and Criticism, The Production Review (criteria), The Collaborative Project

Homework: Think about what role you wish to play in the CP.

- **Week 10**

Tues 10/10

TBD

Homework: TBD

Thurs 10/12

Playwriting Assignment Due

Homework: Come up with Questions for Midterm

- **Week 11**

Tues 10/17

Review for Mid-Term Exam

Homework: Study!

Thurs 10/19
Mid-Term Exam

- **Week 12**

Tues 10/24
Discussion: Read Plays
Homework: Read Act I of *A Doll's House* pgs. 283-310

Thurs 10/26
Discussion: Act I of *A Doll's House*
Homework: Read Act II of *A Doll's House* pgs. 311-332

- **Week 13**

Tues 10/31
Discussion: Act II of *A Doll's House*
Homework: Read Act III of *A Doll's House* pgs 332-353

Thurs 11/02
Discussion: Act III of *A Doll's House*
Homework: TBD

- **Week 14**

Tues 11/07
In-Class Rehearsal

*** *The Scarlett Letter* opens at TCPA Richard L. Dangle Black Box Theatre. Community Preview: Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30pm. Performances: Wednesday-Saturday, November 8-11 at 7:30pm, Sunday, November 12 at 2:30pm, Tuesday-Friday, November 14-17 at 7:30pm

Thurs 11/09
In-Class Rehearsal

- **Week 15**

Tues 11/14
Collaborative Project Presentation

Thurs 11/16
Collaborative Project Presentation

- **Week 14**

Thanksgiving Break – No classes

- **Week 15**

Tues 11/28
Production Review Due
Final Exam Review

Thurs 11/30
Final Exam Review

- **Finals Week**

Final Exam - Tuesday, Dec. 5, 8:00-10:00am

RUBRICS

- The Production Review Template is on pages 177-186
- The Rubric for the Production Review is on pages 187
- The Playwriting Template is on pages 200-202
- Below is the Rubric for the Student-Assessed Collaboration portion of the Collaborative Project Presentation.

Evidence of Collaboration/Student-Assessed (100 total possible points)

Your FULL Name: _____ Collaborator's FULL Name: _____

Please consider the following statements as they relate to your presentation partners. Mark "Agree," "Somewhat Agree," or "Disagree" for each statement based on your experiences working with this collaborator on the Collaborative Project. Agree = 10 points; Somewhat Agree = 5 points; Disagree = 0 points.

This collaborator was on time and prepared for meetings and rehearsals.

This collaborator completed work according to deadlines agreed upon by all members.

This collaborator was cooperative and exhibited a willingness to help other group members.

This collaborator was respectful throughout the group process.

This collaborator was consistently open and honest with his/her communication.

This collaborator communicated effectively in one-on-one and group interactions.

This collaborator exhibited flexibility and a willingness to compromise around his/her ideas.

This collaborator remained open-minded and did not exhibit blocking or aggressive behavior.

This collaborator made tangible contributions to the overall group presentation.

This collaborator worked effectively towards the group's established goals for the project.

Total Points Earned: _____ (please do the addition)

Additional clarifying comments may be added below.

*(The student-assessed evidence of collaboration sheets are due the day **after** you present by 5pm. So, if you performed Tuesday, these are due Wednesday by 5pm. Please take into consideration the rehearsal process as well as the actual presentation when assessing one another. Please upload them into Dropbox.)*