



Theatre Appreciation
THEA 1100-05; Fall 2017
Department of Theatre
College of Arts and Humanities

Instructor: Jenni McCarthy, M.F.A.

Office: Old Auditorium, Rm. 201

Office Hours: Mon; 9:30-11:00am, 12:00-4:00pm, Tues/Thurs; 3:30-5:00pm, Wed; 9:30-11:00am

Email: jmccarth@westga.edu (Put "THEA 1100-05" as subject line)

Course Description (3 Credits):

An introduction for the student of the theatre experience, this course delves into analysis of both the script and the actual performance. Students will also examine current trends in theatre on Broadway, off-Broadway, and in regional companies. The student will be expected to attend and write about one theatre production.

Core Area C Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundational concepts of artistic, intellectual, or literary achievement, adapting written communication to specific purposes and audiences.
- Students will recognize and make informed judgements about the fine, literary, or performing arts from various cultures.

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.

Required Reading:

Theatre Arts: An Interdisciplinary Approach by Amy Cuomo & Pauline Gagnon.

ISBN: 978-1-4652-0747-0

*Plays read in class can either be found in the textbook or will be provided via CourseDen.

Performances:

Students must attend both UWG Theatre Company productions this semester. Performances are held at the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts on UWG Campus. Reserve tickets at the TCPA Box Office with your Student I.D.

Godspell

Main Stage

Sept. 27th- Oct. 1st

The Scarlet Letter

Richard L. Dangle Black Box

Nov. 8th-12th, Nov. 14th-17th

Student Responsibilities:

- Attendance is essential in order to do well in this class. In order to make up material missed in class, students will need to have an excused absence.
 - For a medical absence, you must bring a signed note from the doctor.
- All assigned work must be turned in at the beginning of the class the day it is due or in the designated Dropbox on CourseDen. No late work or email submissions 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.
- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing. If a student is caught being academically dishonest, they will fail the assignment. If the student repeats the behavior, they are subject to immediate failure of the course. Please see the Honor Code at the end of this syllabus for more information.
- 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.
- If you are struggling with the course material, utilize my office hours early and often. They are there to help you succeed.

Course Itinerary:

Syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor at any point during the semester.

Written Reflections:

Throughout the semester, writing prompts based on material covered in class will be posted on our CourseDenpage. The assignments will be announced in class on Wednesday, and will be active for submissions until 8:00am the following Monday.

Online Quizzes:

Quizzes will be posted to CourseDen throughout the semester based on required reading material and performances viewed. These quizzes will be timed. Each quiz will be worth 10 points, with up to 5 bonus points available. Quizzes will be posted Monday after class and must be completed by 8:00am the following Wednesday.

Playwriting Project:

Each student will write their own original play following the guidelines on pg. 200 of your textbook. Rubric will be posted to CourseDen.

Mid-Term Exam:

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

Production Review:

Students will write a review of either *Godspell* or *The Scarlet Letter* produced by West Georgia Theatre Company this semester. Use the guidelines outlined on pg. 177 of your textbook. We will discuss the criteria before *Godspell* performances. This review will be used as students' QEP assessment for this course.

Collaborative Project:

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. Students will vote on categories such as best actor, best scenic design, etc. after the performances. Students and groups winning these awards will receive **extra credit** on the final exam.

Final Exam:

The Final Exam will be a cumulative exam on all aspects covered throughout the semester. Emphasis will be placed on topics covered after the midterm. This includes all readings, class presentations, discussions and performances viewed.

Extra Credit:

There will be five extra credit points available on every quiz taken on CourseDen. Randomly throughout the semester, extra credit will be given for participation in in-class activities

(reading a scene, working in small groups, etc). You are not eligible for the extra credit if you are not in class that day.

NO OTHER EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER. THESE ARE YOUR ONLY OPPORTUNITIES, SO TAKE ADVANTAGE!

Basis for Evaluation:

Written Reflections	10%
Online Quizzes	5%
Playwriting Project	5%
Midterm Exam	20%
Production Review	15%
Collaborative Project	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

100-90, A; 89-80, B; 79-70, C; 69-60, D; 60 and below, F

“A” Work- Outstanding

Continuously goes above and beyond written requirements of the assignment in order to improve and grow as a young professional. Creativity, willingness in classwork, and an excellent attitude toward the work are visible in every class. True mastery of the material.

“B” Work- Above Average

Achieves all aspects of the assignment and demonstrates some extra effort in terms of growth. Some creativity, willingness in classwork, and an admirable attitude toward the work are visible in most classes. Still has room for improvement or growth.

“C” Work- Average

Assignments are completed exactly as assigned. Little evidence of growth or creativity in the work.

“D” Work- Below Average

Below average completion of aspects of the assignment. Failure to follow instructions, inability to incorporate adjustments and constructive criticism, and little to no evidence of growth or creativity.

“F” Work- Unacceptable

Unacceptable work; does not follow the direction of the assignment. Resistance to adjustments and constructive criticism and a hostile attitude toward the work are deemed unacceptable by the instructor.

Weekly Schedule

Syllabus is subject to change by the instructor at any point in the semester.

Week 1:

Wed. Aug. 9th- Introduction, Syllabus For next class: Read pgs. 1-10, syllabus Quiz on BB

*Open Drop ends at 4:00pm Aug. 11th

Week 2:

Mon. Aug. 14th- Discussion: *Ideas; Creativity, Imagination, Inspiration* For next class: Read pgs. 10-23

Wed. Aug. 16th- Discussion: *Ideas; Aesthetic Distance, Conventions, Play and Improvisation, Role-playing, Psychology and Neurology* For next class: Written Reflection #1, Read pgs. 23-37

Week 3:

Mon. Aug. 21st- Discussion: *Ideas; Self-Consciousness, Lying, Humor, Tempo and Rhythm, Surprise and Suspense, Boredom* For next class: Read pgs. 37-49 and vii-xiv

Wed. Aug. 23rd- Discussion: *Ideas; Fashion, Space, Collaboration, Value, Censorship and The Theatre Process and Other Disciplines* For next class: Read *Twelfth Night Act I and Act II* (Pgs. 215-252 in your textbook). *If this is your first time reading Shakespeare, I would highly recommend using helpful notes.

Week 4:

Mon. Aug. 28th- Discussion: Acts I and II of *Twelfth Night* For next class: Finish *Twelfth Night*

Wed. Aug. 30th- Discussion: Acts III-V of *Twelfth Night* For next class: Written Reflection #2, Read pgs.49-61

Week 5:

Mon. Sept. 4th- **LABOR DAY; NO CLASS**

Wed. Sept. 6th- Discussion: *Stories; Structure, Legends and Myths, Ritual and Religion, Family* For next class: Read pgs. 61-68

Week 6:

Mon. Sept. 11th- Discussion: *Stories; Style and Genre* For next class: Read pgs. 68-82

Wed. Sept. 13th- Discussion: *Stories; Games and Gaming, Adaptation and Interpretation, Film, Television, Song* For next class: Written Reflection #3, Read pgs. 85-87

Week 7:

Mon. Sept. 18th- Discussion: *Playwright* (Playwriting Assignment Due Oct. 2nd) For next class: _____
Read *The Scarlet Letter Act One*

Wed. Sept. 20th- Discussion: *The Scarlet Letter Act One* For next class: Read *The Scarlet Letter Act Two*

Week 8:

Mon. Sept. 25th- Discussion: *The Scarlet Letter* Act Two For next class: Read pgs. 134-136

Wed. Sept. 27th- Discussion: *Guidelines for Attending the Theatre*, Introduction to *Godspell* For next class: Written Reflection #4, Review for Midterm Exam, ***Godspell* this weekend!**

*Last day to withdraw with a grade of W, 4:00pm Sept. 29th

Week 9:

Mon. Oct. 2nd- Review for Midterm Exam, Playwriting Assignment DUE For next class: Midterm Exam

Wed. Oct. 4th- **Midterm Exam** For next class: Read pgs. 87-95

Week 10:

Mon. Oct. 9th- Discussion: *Enactment: Theatre Management, and Theatre Companies* For next class: Read pgs. 95-105, 131-134

Wed. Oct. 11th- Discussion: *Enactment; Director, Front of House, Stage Manager, Music Director and Choreographer* For next class: Written Reflection #5, Read pgs. 105-114

Week 11:

Mon. Oct. 16th- Discussion: *Enactment: Actors and Playing Space* For next class: Read pgs. 114-120

Wed. Oct. 18th-Discussion: *Enactment; Designers* For next class: Read pgs. 120-130

Week 12:

Mon. Oct. 23rd- Discussion: *Enactment; Designers, Technical Director and Costume Shop Manager*

Wed. Oct. 25th- In Class Rehearsal with Production Groups For next class: Written Reflection #6, Read pgs. 137-152

Week 13:

Mon. Oct. 30th- Discussion: *Realization; Seasons and Budgets, Audition/Casting, Script Development, Advertising and Marketing* For next class: Read pgs. 152-169

Wed. Nov. 1st- Discussion: *Realization; Rehearsal, Prompt Book, Production Meetings, Building, Technical/Dress Rehearsals* For next class: Read pgs. 169-173

Week 14:

Mon. Nov. 6th- Discussion: *Realization; Critics and Criticism, Strike, Postmortem*

Wed. Nov. 8th- Marketing Presentations, Discussion: Introduction to *The Scarlet Letter* For next class: Written Reflection #7, Read Happy, ***The Scarlet Letter* opens this weekend!**

Week 15:

Mon. Nov. 13th- Critical Analysis of *Happy*

Wed. Nov. 15th- In Class Technical Rehearsal For next class: Written Reflection #8, ***The Scarlet Letter* closes this weekend!**, Study for Final Exam

NOV. 20TH-NOV. 26TH: THANKSGIVING RECESS, NO CLASS

Week 16:

Mon. Nov. 27th- Discussion *The Scarlet Letter*, Review for Final Exam For next class: Production Review DUE,

Wed. Nov. 29th- Collaborative Project Presentations, Production Review DUE For next class: Final Exam

Final Exam:

Monday, Dec. 4, 8:00-10:00 am

University Policies:

QEP

This is a QEP Course.

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/>

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

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).