Course Description
The ability to effectively analyze theatrical texts is essential to scholars and practitioners alike. In this class, students will dissect a script into its basic components to better understand structure, style, theme, and other essential elements of theatre. Students will also survey representative historical genres, styles of theatrical texts, and methods of literary and dramatic criticism, as well as receive an introduction to theatre-specific research methods and resources. The course will emphasize academic analysis, but applications to theatrical production contexts will be encouraged.

UWG Essential Information
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Performance REQUIRED –
Home – Townsend Center for the Performing Arts - February 20-24; W-S @7:30 p.m. Sun @ 2:30 p.m.
She Kills Monsters – Townsend Center for the Performing Arts - April 15-20; T-S 7:30 p.m. NO SUNDAY PERFORMANCE!

NOTE: If you are a theatre major you must attend strike and load in; failing to do so may result in a deduction of five points from your letter grade for each missed event.

Course Den
Available from UWG’s main page www.westga.edu through the link Online Learning.
If you need help, contact distance@westga.edu or 678-839-6248 or go to the After Hours Helpdesk available 24 hrs a day/ 7 days a week - go to http://help8.view.usg.edu and click on Request Support.

Library: http://www.westga.edu/~library/ or available through the Library link on www.westga.edu

Degree Program Learning Outcomes:
- Students will demonstrate a knowledge of selected plays, theatre conventions and theatrical movements important in the formation of the modern theatre. Students will describe a basic knowledge of theatre history, theory, and criticism, as well as research sources and methodology.
- Students will demonstrate skills in analyzing plays, using theatre technology and conducting research
- Students will apply skills learned in this course to a variety of work and social environments.
Class Learning Objectives

- Students will demonstrate proficiency applying formal critical approaches to theatrical texts, concentrating on Aristotelian elements of drama.
- Students will describe the historical perspectives of genre and style in theatrical texts and the utility of these categories in analyzing drama.
- Students will express theatre-specific research methodologies through class discussion and writing.
- Students will classify and apply major contemporary critical approaches to literature and performance, broadening their perceptions and understanding of theatrical texts and performances.
- Students will articulate how diverse critical approaches can expand the conceptual basis of their theatrical production work (acting, directing, and designing).

Student Responsibilities

- Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire period.
- Please turn off your cell phone for the duration of the class.
- 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 participate.
- You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, please make sure you get the notes from a classmate.
- Changes in the syllabus or schedule will be announced in class -- make sure you note these changes.
- Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned quizzes in a safe place.
- If you have scheduling conflicts with the plays or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible for completing your work. 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.
- Uphold the Academic Honor code as stated in the Undergraduate Catalogue.

Course Components

Note: All work will be turned in on Course Den

Attendance and Participation (10%)
As this class is based on class discussion, attendance is require. Also, students should come prepared to discuss the assigned plays.

Quizzes (30%)
There will be a quiz on the reading is assigned for class. The quiz will be available on Course Den until on hour before class. Quizzes may not be taken late unless there is a documented excuse. Quizzes will be available two days before class.
**Midterm (20%)**
There will be a midterm covering the material we have covered from the beginning of the semester until midterm.

**Dramaturgy Project (20%)**
Students will select a play from the list provided. Each student will write:
Biographical Article on the Playwright (500 Words)
A Program Note: (500 words)
An Information Packet for actors who would be performing in the play providing the historical and cultural context surrounding the play at the time it was written. This note highlights information important to understanding the play. Pictures are also welcome! (1,000 words)

**Final Exam (20%)**
There will be a final exam covering the ideas, concepts and plays we have explored this semester. The objective section of the final will be administered in class. The essay section will be posted in the assignment box on course den. It is open notes, but it is NOT collaborative.

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUE 1/8</td>
<td>Class Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>THR 1/10</td>
<td>The Poetics and Play Structure</td>
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<td>TUE 1/15</td>
<td>Quiz: <em>Oedipus Rex</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>THR 1/17</td>
<td>Translation, Interpretation and Ancient Greek Drama</td>
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<td>TUE 1/22</td>
<td>Quiz: <em>Stone Cold Dead Serious</em></td>
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<td>THR 1/24</td>
<td>Tragedy</td>
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<td>TUE 1/29</td>
<td>Quiz: <em>Taming of the Shrew</em></td>
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<td>TUE 1/31</td>
<td>Shakespeare’s Comedies</td>
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<td>TUE 2/5</td>
<td>Quiz: <em>Fuddy Meers</em></td>
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<td>THR 2/7</td>
<td>Discussion: A Feminist Lens</td>
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<td>TUE 2/12</td>
<td>Quiz: <em>Tartuffe</em></td>
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<td>THR 2/14</td>
<td>Neoclassical French Drama</td>
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<td>TUE 2/19</td>
<td>Quiz: <em>The Christians</em></td>
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<td>THR 2/21</td>
<td>Comparative Drama: The Christians and <em>Tartuffe</em></td>
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<td>TUE 2/26</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>THR 2/28</td>
<td>Work on your Dramaturgy Project – No class meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 3/5</td>
<td>In Class: <em>Hedda Gabler</em></td>
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The schedule is subject to change.
THR 3/7 Realism and Drama

TUE 3/12 Quiz: Exit an Illusion
Expressionism in Theatre

THR 3/14 Dramaturgy Project Due – No class meeting

3/18 & 20 SPRING BREAK

TUE 3/26 Quiz: Mother Courage and Her Children
THR 3/28 Epic Theatre

TUE 4/2 Quiz: Ruined
THU 4/4 Comparative Drama Structure and Content

TUE 4/9 In Class: “An Act with Out Words”
Theatre of the Absurd

THU 4/11 No Class – Begin Reviewing for your Final Exam

TUE 4/16 In Class: The Piano Lesson
THR 4/18 In Class: The Piano Lesson

TUE 4/23 Paper on She Kills Monsters Due
Review for the Final

THR 4/25 In Class: Objective Section of the Final

TUE 5/2 Take Home Section of Final Due

Play Selections for Dramaturgy Project

Ayad Akhtar Disgraced
Annie Baker The Aliens
Pearl Cleage Blues for An Alabama Sky
Flyn’ West
Stephen Adly Gurgis Our Lady of 121st Street
Motherf**ker with a Hat
Danai Gurira Eclipsed
Lydia Diamond Stick Fly
Katori Hall The Mountaintop
Samuel Hunter The Whale
Raj Joseph Gruesome Playground Injuries
Lisa Loomer The Waiting Room
Tarell Alvin McCraney In The Red and Brown Water
Lynn Nottage Las Meninas
Sweat
Sarah Ruhl The Clean House
Paula Vogel How I Learned to Drive
George C. Wolfe The Colored Museum
Stefanie Zadravec Honey Brown Eyes
Anna Deavere Smith Fires in the Mirror or Twilight
Suzan-Lori Parks Top Dog/Underdog