

Theater 101: Introduction to Theater

Fall 2002
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104
Hours: 2:30-3:30 M-F

Texts: Stage and School, Ghosts & Other Plays, Taming of the Shrew,
Museum, The Importance of Being Earnest, Writing About Theater

Objectives:

- to introduce students to all aspects of theater, in script or written form and as performance
- to provide opportunities for personal experience in areas of interest
- to encourage thoughtful written and spoken response to theater

Methods:

- reading of texts primary (the plays) and secondary (books about theater)
- discussion of plays and performance
- attending teacher/guest presentations and workshops
- individual and group projects and presentations
- written and non-written homework exercises
- writing essay exams
- attending plays on and off campus
- writing 2 short papers and 2 written critiques of plays (2-3 pages each)
- taking reading or assignment quizzes (unannounced)
- working on the Drama Department's production of Museum by Tina Howe as a laboratory for theater experience and learning.

Guidelines:

1. You may miss two classes without penalty for any reason. Each absence from 3 to 5 will count 1 point off your final grade. Each absence above 5 will count 3 points off your final grade. No excuses are necessary in such a policy (you don't have to tell me ahead of time). Think of it this way: if you miss two classes you miss a week of class--anything above that means you haven't had the necessary experience to avoid a grade cut.
2. No makeup work is possible. That's obvious where class experience is important, and lateness to class means you have missed whatever we are doing.
3. A midterm and a final exam will be in-class essays covering assigned readings, discussions, lectures--any thing that might happen in class or assigned for class. You should aim for creativity within the limits of the essay questions and for good writing. You may not use a text or notes for the exams.
4. No plus or minus will be recorded with your final grade.
5. Keep track of your own grades. I do not deal with your grades until after the final exam is graded.

Grading Policy: Mid term/Final, Papers/Critiques, Class Participation, Homework/Quizzes, and Out of Class Projects--each counts 20%.

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Schedule of Assignments

(Chapter Numbers refer to Stage and School unless otherwise noted)

- Aug 28 Convocation, 7pm, Allen Memorial
Aug 29 Introduction
Sep 3 Chp. 8: Producing the Play
5 Chp 1: Improvisation
10 Taming of the Shrew
12 Chp 10: Stage Settings
17 Chp 11,12, 13 Lighting, Sound, Costuming, Makeup: Choose One
19 Group work on the above
24 Read: Museum
26 Museum work day
Oct 1 Chp 2: Pantomime
Oct 3-5 *Fall Play*
3 Writing About Theater Chps 1 & 4
8 The Importance of Being Earnest
10 Mid Term Essay Exam
15 Fall Break
17 Critique #1 due:
22 Chp 3: Voice & Diction
24 Chp 4: Acting
29 Chp 4: Acting (cont.); Writing About Theater Chp 5
31 Paper #1 due; Chp 5 Structure of Drama
Nov 5 Chp 6: Varieties of Drama
7 Ghosts
12 Chp 7: History of Drama
14 Monologues due
19 Monologues (cont.); Writing About Theater Chp 6 & 7
21 Critique #2 due
26 Scene work
28 Thanksgiving
Dec 3 Paper # 1 due; work on scenes
5 Scenes due
10 Scenes (cont.)
17 2-5pm: Final Exam

(Due to workshops and presentations may alter assignment dates. Check the Learnlink conference for updates.)

