

THEATER STUDIES #101 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

Fall 2014 T/TH 11:50 – 1:30
T/TH 3:30 – 5:10

WILLIAM MOORE

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OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 1:30 – 3:30 or by appointment when your schedule permits.

**Class will meet in the Green Room of Tarbuton unless notified of change.
All video performance presentations will be held in Tarbuton Theatre.**

Course Policies for THEA #101

Course Description:

Theater #101 is a theoretical and practical initiation to theatre as a collaborative art. This course serves as an introduction to the major movements in theater and to contemporary theatrical practice. Through readings, exercises, video presentations, live theatre events and conversations with working artists, students will gain both critical and experiential perspectives on this dynamic art form. This course will take you beyond the usual reading of a play by viewing live performances that have been recorded in various world theatres. You will no longer be limited to discussing plot, themes and characters. Adding the visual element will provide discussion topics for set design, costuming, makeup, lighting, sound design and special effects.

Course Objectives for Students:

- To understand the principles and practices of theatre as a collaborative art.
- To develop vocabulary and critical skills allowing the enhanced participation as an audience member or theatre practitioner.
- To learn about the range of possible theater experiences and the varied objectives of theatre artists.
- To develop an appreciation of the jobs of various artists and technicians who contribute to theatrical production.
- To express an emotional response for your own design concept of a play.

- To provide an open forum to express your personal interests in theatre and related fields.
- To develop an awareness of the many different kinds of theatrical experiences of the past and present and their relationship to the larger society.
- To understand the role of theatre in today's multitude of entertainment choices.
- To enhance the students own communicative skills both written and oral.
- To improve your listening skill, especially your ability to comprehend the spoken word during a performance.

Goals or Outcomes

These will be discussed as we progress through the course. For instance, this class will not prepare you for stage or screen! I do not sing or dance and suffer from stage fright. But, I feel that I have an appreciation of theatre and can make contributions in other ways. You too will have to find your path and we will all work together to map out our journey.

Required Text: *Theatre – The Lively Art - Eighth Edition* by Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb ISBN: 978-0-07-351420-8 (*There will be no reading assignment for the first week to allow for text purchase.*)

Required Study Works:

- Script reading - scripts will be posted on BlackBoard
- Attend one performance of *The Lady in Question* presented in the Tarbuton Theatre – October 23, 24 and 25.
- TWO PERFORMANCES OF YOUR CHOICE – I will inform you of Oxford Studies events that meet the requirement. Attending a performance of the *Pinter Review* and *The Tempest* presented on campus this fall will count. If you wish to attend a performance off campus, please let me approve the play before you attend. Performances of Theater Emory on the Atlanta Campus are recommended and also priced for students.

The following plays and musicals are required for class discussions to enhance your reading material from your text. Performances viewed may be partial clips or the full performance viewed on consecutive days of class. If you miss a class some plays are on reserve in the Woodruff Media Library or available on loan from the instructor.

- *The Importance of Being Ernest* by Oscar Wilde
- *The Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder
- *Ah, Wilderness* by Eugene O'Neill
- *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams
- *The Man Who Came to Dinner* by George Kaufman and Moss Hart

- *What Where, Come and Go, Footfalls, and Act Without Words 1* by Samuel Beckett
- *Candid Operetta* by Leonard Bernstein and Voltaire
- *Sunday in the Park with George* by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine
- *Oklahoma* (filmed live – London production) by Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein
- *Company* by Stephen Sondheim
- *Rent Filmed Live on Broadway* by Jonathan Larson

BlackBoard

- Readings, course materials and additional assignments will be listed on the course Blackboard sight.

Course components:

- Class and text assignments:
Students are expected to prepare all assignments before class, to arrive on time with notes for discussion and to bring your textbook and copies of any other material assigned for the class with them. Class exercises, guest speakers and presentations cannot be made up. If you must miss a class, please let me know before class by email. Make up work, when possible, will be decided by the current assignments and reason for absence. **Three absences will result in reduction of your grade by one letter.**
- Performance reports on live performances:
You cannot study theater without seeing live performances. As part of this course you will be required to see three theater productions. One of these will be the performance of *The Lady in Question*. You will need to select two other performances on or off campus. A student theater performance by one of Emory's (Atlanta or Oxford) student groups will be accepted. It is strongly recommended that you attend a professional theater event off campus if possible.

All performance reports must be turned in no later than **Friday December 5.**

- Final Exam: The final exam is a take home and will be given to you on or before the last day of class. It is not a comprehensive based on factual retention, but instead your new observation skills that you have learned during the entire semester. Due date will be announced based on the final exam schedule.

EVALUATION

40% Class Participation
10% Attendance
40% Performance reports
10% Final Exam

Grades will be posted using letter grades and + or -.

The Honor Code of the College and University will be enforced in this course. Violations will be reported to the Honor Council. If you are unclear of the policies set forth in the Honor Code, please go to www.emory.edu/College/students/honor.html.

“Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford and Emory faculty/staff for purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.”

Tentative Schedule for Fall Spring 2014

Reading assignments will be announced. We will not follow the text in order and some of the chapters may be reduced. The videos for text and class enhancement will also be announced. For example, we will watch *Sunday in the Park With George* while reading Chapter 9, The Designers: Scenery and Costumes.

Theatre in Today's World week ____ thru ____

Chapter 1 Experiencing Today's Theatre

Global Theatre: Past and Present week ____ thru ____

Chapter 11 Early Theatre

Prehistory

Myths and Tales

Greek, Roman and Medieval

Future assignments will be announce in class and posted on Blackboard.

