

Theater Studies 101: Introduction to Theater

Fall 2001
Humanities Hall 203

Dr. Clark Lemons
Hrs: 2:30-3:30 daily

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 in theater
- to encourage thoughtful written and spoken response to theater and to personal experience in theater activities

Methods:

- texts: primary (plays) and secondary (books about theater)
- teacher/guest presentations and class discussion
- individual and group projects and presentations
- written and non-written homework exercises
- essay exams
- attendance at plays
- 2 papers (3-4 pages each) and 2 written critiques of plays (2-3 pages each)
- brief quizzes
- helping with ongoing Drama Department productions: acting, backstage work, costumes, sets, lights, etc.

Class Guidelines:

1. You may miss two classes without penalty or excuse. 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. (If you miss two classes you miss an entire 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 where class experience is important, and lateness to class means you have missed the class experience.
3. The midterm and final exams will be in-class essays on assigned readings, discussions, lectures--any thing in class or assigned for class. I will be looking for creativity within the limits of the essay questions and for good writing. You may not use a text or notes.
4. No plus or minus will be recorded with your final grade.
5. Keep track of your own grades.
6. Grading Policy: Mid term/Final, Papers/Critiques, Class Participation/ Homework/Quizzes, and Out of Class Projects--each counts 25%.

(Over)

Theater 101: Class Activities Fall 2001

Projects: Projects for the class are listed on the syllabus and will be explained in detail during the course of the class. Projects are evaluated by all class members and finally by me, taking into account the class evaluations. Examples: Improvisations, monologues, scenes

Papers: Two 3-4 page analyses of topics we have covered in the course: theater styles, genres, or history; theater types, theater stages, an aspect or theory of actor training, the director, the playwright, costuming, etc. Find an idea you would like to explore and develop a thesis. I will be happy to help.

Two Critiques: Brief (2-3 pages) critiques of live theater you have seen on campus or in Atlanta. I will schedule several theater field trips for the class, but you may critique any play you see. Model critiques or reviews will be posted on the bulletin board.

Papers and Critiques should be grammatically correct, coherent, unified, and developed with sufficient evidence to support your ideas. You may use your books or any outside material, but give credit when necessary. The HONOR CODE is always in effect.

Need Help With Writing?

I will be happy to help you discuss your paper, but I will not proofread papers. Email, phone, or one-on-one conferences are available. You may also get help with your writing from the Writing Center tutors. Discussing your writing with others in the class often helps you to develop ideas and be alert to problems in your paper.