



THEATER STUDIES #101 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

Spring 2009 T/TH 2:30 – 3:45

WILLIAM MOORE

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OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 1-2:15 or by appointment at Tarbutton

Class will meet in the Green Room of Tarbutton unless notified of change.

Course Policies for THEA #101

Course Description:

Theater #101 is a theoretical and practical initiation to theater 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 theater events and conversations with working artists, students will gain both critical and experiential perspectives on this dynamic art form.

Course Objectives for Students:

- To understand the principles and practices of theater as a collaborative art.
- To develop vocabulary and critical skills allowing the enhanced participation as an audience member or theater practitioner.
- To learn about the range of possible theater experiences and the varied objectives of theater 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 theater 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 theater in today's multitude of entertainment choices.
- To enhance the students own communicative skills both written and oral.
- To gain hands on experience with the production areas for the spring production of *The American Clock*.

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 theater 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: Waincott and Fletcher, Theatre: Collaborative Acts (second edition)

Required Study Works:

- Arthur Miller, *The American Clock* - handouts in class.
- David Ives, *The Comedy of David Ives* - handouts in class.
- Sam Sheppard, *Fool for Love* - handouts in class.
- Attend one performance of *The American Clock* presented in the Tarbuton Theater - February 26,27 & 28.
- Attend one performance of Theater Emory on the Atlanta campus.
- ONE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR CHOICE

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.

- Evening Events:
LET US ENTERTAIN YOU! This is an evening event in which the class decides on the entertainment with possible food and beverage. This is a wild card event and will be discussed and decided by the class.

- 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 American Clock*. 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 **Tuesday April 21.**

- Final Project:
At the end of the semester the class will perform a class developed production. We will work together to create, rehearse, stage and perform the work for invited guests on the final exam day **Tuesday April 28.** This will be your final exam.

EVALUATION

40% Class Attendance and Oral participation
10% Performance participation - spring production
30% performance reports
20% Final project

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.

Tentative Schedule for Spring Semester

Theater and Its Audience weeks ____ thru ____

Chapter 1: Cultural Collaboration Theater and Society

Chapter 2: Experiencing Theater: Collaboration of
Actor, Audience
and Space

Chapter 4: Understanding the Play: A Theatrical
Blueprint

Chapter 5: Interpreting the Play: Understanding Genre,
Reading and
Writing

Chapter 6: Producing the Play: Connecting Theater and
Audience

Collaboration in Art and Practice weeks ____ thru

Chapter 3: Analyzing Theater: Thinking and Writing
about Live
Performance

Chapter 7: The Director Vision and Leadership

Chapter 8: The Actor: From Mask to Contemporary
Performance

Chapter 9: The Playwright: Imagination and Expression

Chapter 10: The Designer: Materializing Conception and
the World
of the Play

Collaboration in History weeks ____ thru ____ (
OPTIONAL)

Chapters 11, 12 and 13. This material is also covered
in Thea #215
& #216 History of Theater