



THEATER STUDIES #101 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

Fall 2008 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 fall production of *Sylvia*.

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: Wainscott and Fletcher, Theatre: Collaborative Acts (second edition)

Required Study Works:

- A.R. Gurney, *Sylvia* - please purchase at the bookstore.
- Charles L. Mee, *Big Love* - handouts in class.
- Christopher Durang, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* - handouts in class.
- Attend one performance of *Sylvia* presented in the Tarbutton Theater - October 23, 24 & 25.
- Attend one performance of *Macbeth* presented in the Tarbutton Theater - November 20, 21 & 22.
- 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.

Attend a performance of *Don Juan* presented by Theater Emory on the Emory campus. This is a possible event depending on everyone's schedule November 13-23.

➤ 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. Two of these will be the performances of *Sylvia* and *Macbeth* presented on campus in Tarbuton Hall. You will need to select one other performance 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 **Thursday December 4.**

➤ Journal on theater experiences during this class:

Students are required to use a notebook to write responses to class exercises, observations and personal expressions during the course.

Journals are to be completed by **Thursday December 4.**

➤ 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 **Friday December 12 from 2-5**. This will be your final exam.

EVALUATION

30% Class Attendance and participation
20% Journal Work
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 Fall 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