

Humanities-Theater Studies 200R: Introduction to Theater

Fall 2000
Office: Humanities Hall 203

Dr. Clark Lemons
Hours 2:30-3:30 pm daily

Objectives:

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

Methods:

- texts primary (the plays) and secondary (books about theater)
- teacher/guest presentations
- class discussion
- individual and group projects and presentations
- written and non-written homework exercises
- essay exams
- attendance at plays
- 1 paper (5-6 pages) and 2 written critiques (2-3 pages each)
- quizzes to check that you have done assignments
- self and class written evaluations mid-way through the course
- helping with ongoing college theater productions

Guidelines

1. You may miss two classes for any reason--and you don't have to tell me why. 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. If you miss two classes you miss a week of class. Anything above that means you haven't had the necessary class learning experiences to meet class objectives.
2. No "makeup work" is logically possible where class experience is important, and lateness to class means you have missed whatever we are doing.
2. A midterm and a final exam will be in-class essays covering assigned readings, discussions, lectures--any thing that happens in class or is assigned for class. 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. The HONOR CODE is always in effect.
3. No plus or minus will be recorded with your final grade.
4. Keep track of your own grades. I don't average grades until after the final exam.
5. Grading Policy: Mid term/Final, Papers/Critiques, Class Participation, Homework/Quizzes, and Out of Class Projects--each counts 20%

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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 but finally by me, taking into account the class evaluations.

One Paper: A 5-page analysis of one of the 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. The work of the critic is explained in chapter 3 of The Theater Experience. 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 read proofread papers. Email, phone, or one-on-one conferences are available. Just let me know. 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 a paper you are working on.