

TS 101 Introduction to Theater Fall 2007

Dr. Katherine Carey, kcarey@emory.edu

Office: Few 104 (sharing with Dr. Lemons)

Office Hours: T/Th 4:30-5:00pm and 6:15-6:45pm or by appointment

Course Description: A theoretical and practical introduction to theatre as a collaborative art.

Includes script analysis, study of types of drama, production review, and basic instruction in acting, improvisation, stage design, and technical theatre.

Class meets T/Th 5:00-6:15pm, Tarbutton Green room

Course objectives. At the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss major periods in the heritage of Western theater tradition.
2. Contrast various non-Western theatre styles to Western theatre tradition.
3. Apply an aesthetic interpretation of the text through a technical design concept.
4. Deconstruct a text in terms of script analysis, discerning its dramatic structure.
5. Construct a character analysis for a scene within a script.
6. Critique a live performance through a formal paper.
7. Demonstrate various acting styles through voice, movement, and improvisation.
8. Identify characteristics of dramatic genre i.e. tragedy, comedy, melodrama, contemporary.

Texts:

1. Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb. *Theater: The Lively Art*. 5th ed. McGraw Hill, 2005.
2. Euripedes. *Medea*. Dover.
3. William Shakespeare. *The Comedy of Errors*. Dover.
4. Henrik Ibsen. *A Doll's House*. Dover.
5. Suzan-Lori Parks. *Topdog/Underdog*. Dramatists Play Service. (2002 Pulitzer winner)

Grading System:

10% Participation and attendance

20% Design research project; scene work; character analysis

15% Test #1 Thurs, Oct 4

15% Test #2 Thurs, Nov 8

20% Production Review paper on Theatre Emory's *365 Days/365 Plays* due Thurs, Nov 1

20% Final exam (Tues, Dec 18, 7-10pm)

I will utilize the plus/minus grading system:

94-100 A	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	Below 60 F
90-93 A-	84-86 B	74-76 C	64-66 D	
	80-83 B-	70-73 C-	60-63 D-	

Deficiency reports will be generated Wednesday, October 17.

Production Review Paper. You will be expected to attend Theatre Emory's production of Suzan-Lori Parks's *365 Days/365 Plays* which will run Oct 22-28. (We will attend as a class.) Student tickets are approx. \$5 for group rates; tickets will need to be purchased ahead of time. Your theatre-going experience will culminate in a production review paper on one of several topics that I will assign according to material covered in class. You will receive a handout explaining the topics and the desired paper format. Papers must be hand-delivered on or before Thurs, Nov 1. Emailed papers and late papers will not be accepted.

Attendance will be taken and absences/tardies will factor into your class participation grade. Three tardies will equal one absence. The fourth absence will result in the loss of a letter grade in your participation/attendance grade. Makeup dates for missed tests/scene work will be available only for excused absences, i.e. illness, court appearance, family emergency, or holy days of obligation. When possible, please speak to me beforehand to make alternate arrangements. Three consecutive absences or a pattern of absences will be reported to the Director of Academic Services.

Students needing disability services/accommodations, please speak with me privately in the first two weeks of class to make necessary arrangements.

Important Dates:

Wed, Aug 29 Classes begin (Thurs, Aug 30 is the first day this class meets)
Mon, Sept 4 Labor Day holiday
Wed, Sept 5 Last day for course changes
Wed, Oct 3 Last day for dropping course without academic penalty
Mon-Tues, Oct 8-9 Mid-semester break holiday
Wed, Oct 17 Midterm deficiency reports due to Office of Records and Registration
Oct 22-28 Theatre Emory presents *365 Days/365 Plays*
Wed-Fri, Nov 21-23 Thanksgiving holiday
Tues, Dec 11 Last day of classes
Wed, Dec 12 Reading day
Tues, Dec 18 Final exam 7-10pm

Course Schedule: (changes to the Course Schedule may become necessary and will be announced ahead of time)

Aug 30	Welcome; syllabus; dramatic convention; [Introduction in text pp 3-17]
Sept 4-6	Theatre spaces [Ch 6, pp 129-147]; movement/improvisation; Greek "declamatory" acting style
Sept 11-13	Ancient Greek theatre [Ch 10, pp 209-221]; Euripedes' <i>Medea</i> ; Aristotle/Horace; criticism [Ch 1, pp 21-37]
Sept 18-20	Elements of design; research project; director's production concept [text Ch 5, pp 112-123]; design process [text Ch 7, pp 150-173, 175-193]
Sept 25-27	continue design process; present design research projects

Oct 2-4	Test #1 on Thurs; scene/character analysis; Park's <i>Topdog/Underdog</i>
Oct 9-11	Tues class cancelled for Mid-semester break; Parks' <i>365 Days/365 Plays</i> ; scenework with acting/directing
Oct 16-18	Scene presentations; production review handout; Renaissance/Elizabethan theatre [Ch 12, pp 257-289]; Shakespeare's <i>The Comedy of Errors</i>
Oct 23-25	Renaissance acting styles; genre of comedy [Ch 3, pp 70, 76-79]; dramatic structure [text Ch 2, pp 39-67]; the well-made play
Oct 30-Nov 1	Production review paper due on Thurs; Realism [Ch 14, pp 321-33, 346-351]; Stanislavski's System
Nov 6-8	Test #2 on Thurs; Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> ; character analysis
Nov 13-15	Character analysis due; Anti-realism "the -isms" [Ch 14, pp 333-343, 351-357]
Nov 20-29	Careers in theatre; commercial/regional/local/academic theatre; unions [Ch 15, pp367-371]
Dec 4-6	Uniquely American theatre; Federal Theater Project; musical [text Ch 15, pp 357-367]
Dec 11	Last day of class; review
Dec 18	Final exam 7-10pm Requests for changes to the final exam schedule must be presented in writing to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Emory's code of Academic Honesty will be enforced. Anyone engaging in acts that violate these policies, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Honors Council. For more information, see the Oxford catalog and/or:

www.emory.edu/CAMPUS_LIFE/conduct.code.html

www.emory.edu/COLLEGE/students/honor.html

If you need any help, please do not hesitate to ask. Education is an active, reciprocal learning process involving both the student and the instructor. I am looking forward to working and learning with you this semester.