

TS 101 Introduction to Theater Fall 2006

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Office: Few 104, 770/784-8370 (sharing with Dr. Lemons)

Office hours M/W 10:30-11:30am or by appointment,

Course Description: A theoretical and practical introduction to theater as a collaborative art. Includes script analysis, study of types of drama, and basic instruction in acting, improvisation, stage design, and technical theater.

Class meets M/W/F 11:45-12:35pm, 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 theater styles to Western theater tradition.
3. Apply an aesthetic interpretation of the text through a theatrical 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, revenge tragedy, melodrama.

Texts:

1. Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb. *Theater: The Lively Art*. 5th ed. McGraw Hill, 2005.
2. Sophocles. *Antigone*. Trans. Paul Woodruff. Hackett, 2001.
3. Christopher Marlowe. *The Jew of Malta*. Dover, 2003.
4. Henrik Ibsen. *A Doll's House*. Dover, 1992.
5. Frank Wedekind. *Spring Awakening*. Available online as "Spring's Awakening" at <https://webdrive.service.emory.edu/users/rschult/TE%2006-07%20Scripts/>

Grading system:

10% Participation and attendance

15% Scene work/projects

15% Test #1 Wed, Oct 4

15% Test #2 Wed, Nov 8

20% Production review paper on Theatre Emory's *Spring's Awakening* due Wed, Nov 29

25% Final exam (Mon, Dec 18, 2-5pm)

I will utilize a plus/minus grading system:

94-100 A	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	Below 60 F
90-93A-	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 18.

Production Review Paper. You will be expected to attend Theatre Emory's production of Frank Wedekind's *Spring's Awakening* in mid-November. (We will attend as a class.) 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 Wed, Nov 29. Emailed papers and late papers will not be accepted. Dr. Lemons believes that the student ticket price for this production will be \$5; tickets will need to be purchased ahead of time.

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 30 Classes begin

Mon, Sept 4 Labor Day holiday

Wed, Sept 6 Last day for course changes

Wed, Sept 27 Last day for dropping course without academic penalty

Mon-Tues, Oct 9-10 Mid-semester break holiday

Wed, Oct 18 Midterm deficiency reports due to Office of Records and Registration

Thur-Sat, Oct 19-21 Oxford drama present *Antigone*; \$4 student tickets go on sale Mon, Oct 16 in the dining hall. Performances are 8pm each evening and one 3pm matinee on Saturday

Wed-Fri, Nov 22-24 Thanksgiving holiday

Tues, Dec 12 Last day of classes

Wed, Dec 13 Reading day

Mon, Dec 18 Final exam 2-5pm

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

Aug 30-Sept 1 Welcome; syllabus; dramatic convention; [Introduction in text pp 3-17]

Sept 4-8 Mon class cancelled for Labor Day; ancient Greek theatre [text Ch 10, pp 209-221]; Sophocles' *Antigone*

Sept 11-15 Criticism; Aristotle and Horace; ancient Greek acting style; [text Ch 1, pp 21-37]

Sept 18-22 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 25-29	continue design process; present research projects
Oct 2-6	Test # 1 on Wed; Renaissance theatre [text Ch 12, pp 257-289]; Marlowe's <i>The Jew of Malta</i> ; Machiavel villain archetype
Oct 9-13	Mon class cancelled for Mid-semester break; theatre spaces [text Ch 6, pp 129-147]; improvisation
Oct 16-20	Genre [text Ch 3, pp 69-87]; Jacobean revenge tragedy; English Renaissance acting style
Oct 23-27	Playwright and dramatic structure [text Ch 2, pp 39-67]; the well-made play
Oct 30-Nov 3	Ibsen's <i>A Doll House</i> ; Realism [text Ch 14, pp 321-333, 346-351]; Stanislavski's System and acting style
Nov 6-10	Test #2 on Wed; character analysis; production review handout; Wedekind's <i>Spring's Awakening</i>
Nov 13-17	Antirealism—a/k/a the “-isms” [text Ch 14, pp 333-343, 351-357]; current theatre trends [text Ch 16, pp 376-399]
Nov 20-24	Careers in theatre; commercial/regional/local/academic theatre [text Ch 15, pp 367-371]; unions; Wed and Fri classes cancelled for Thanksgiving holiday
Nov 27-Dec 1	Production review paper due on Wed; Asian theatre [text Ch 11, pp 234-247]; Noh theatre; stylized acting
Dec 4-8	Uniquely American theatre: Federal Theater Project, musical, multi-cultural [text Ch 15, pp 357-367]
Dec 11	Last day of class; review
Dec 18	Final exam 2-5pm 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.