

THEATER STUDIES #101 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

Fall 2011 T/TH 11:30 – 12:45

Fall 2011 T/TH 2:30 – 3:45

WILLIAM MOORE

OFFICE: 106 Hamill St.

Phone: 770-784-4668

EMAIL: wmoore@emory.edu

OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 1-2:15 or by appointment when your schedule permits.

**Class will meet in the Green Room of Tarbuton unless notified of change.
All video performance presentations will be held in Tarbuton Theatre.**

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.

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: Theatre – Brief Version by Robert Cohen (ninth edition ISBN: 978-0-07-733351-5)

Required Study Works:

- Craig Lucas, *Prelude to a Kiss*.
- David Ives, *The Comedy of David Ives* – handouts in class.
- Sam Sheppard, *Fool for Love* – handouts in class.
- Attend one performance of *Prelude to a Kiss* presented in the Tarbuton Theater – October 20, 21 and 22.
- Attend one performance of Theater Emory on the Atlanta campus. Go to Arts @ Emory on the web page for plays and schedules.
- ONE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR CHOICE – I will inform you of Oxford Studies events that meet the requirement. The fall production by OSEA should also fulfill this requirement.

BlackBoard

- Readings, course materials and additional assignments will be listed on the course Blackboard sight.

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.**

➤ 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 *Prelude to a Kiss*. 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 **Friday December 2, 2011**.

➤ 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 December 6, 2011**. This will be your final exam.

EVALUATION

40% Class Attendance and Oral participation
10% Performance participation
50% Performance reports

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 2011

Theatre Traditions: East and West week ____ thru ____

Chapter 7

The Origins of Theatre

Theatre in the West

Theatre in the East

The Theatrical Tradition Today

The Modern Theatre week ____ thru ____

Chapter 8

Realism

Antirealism

Theatre Today week ____ thru ____

Chapter 10

What's Happening?

Theatre Today: Where Can You Find It?

What Is Theatre? week ____ thru ____

Chapter 1

The Theatre Building

The Company or Troupe of Players

The Occupation of Theatre

What Is a Play? week ____ thru ____

Chapter 2

Duration/Genre

Dramaturgy

The Vertical Axis

The Horizontal Axis

The Playwright week ____ thru ____

Chapter 3

We Are All Playwrights

The Qualities of a Play

The Process

The Rewards

The Actor week ____ thru ____

Chapter 4

What Is Acting?

Becoming an Actor

The Actor's Routine

The Director week ____ thru ____

Chapter 5

Directorial Functions

Designers and Technicians week ____ thru ____

Chapter 6

The Design Process

Scenery, Lighting and Costumes

Musical Theatre week____ thru____

Chapter 9

The Role of Musical Theatre in History

The Great American Musical

Contemporary Musicals