

DRAMA 2100H
APPRECIATION OF THEATRE
SPRING 2005

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:15

Dr. Jessica Maerz
Office: Fine Arts 305
Email: jmaerz@uga.edu
Main Office Phone: 542-4235
Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12;
Thursday 11-11:30 *and by appointment*

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Drama 2100H provides a general introduction to theatre as a performing and collaborative art. It is designed to provide students with a background, framework, and vocabulary for seeing and discussing live theatre events. In this course, we will examine each major area of theatrical production (directing, acting, design, etc.) and will gain a working understanding of the various elements—historical, textual, and performative—that inform theatrical practice.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Robert Cohen, *Theatre*, 6th Edition
William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

Anna Deavere Smith, *Fires in the Mirror*
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

GRADING

Midterm: 20%
Short Writing Assignment 1 (*Earnest*): 10%
Short Writing Assignment 2 (*Pippin*): 15%
Quizzes: 15%
Final Project: 15%
Final Exam: 25%

Exams: The midterm will include all material covered prior to 3/3; the final exam will principally include material covered after the midterm exam, although you will continue to be responsible for class vocabulary and concepts that we refer to regularly.

Quizzes: There will be 6 three-point quizzes given throughout the semester. I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the term. Quizzes may cover any portion of class material (lectures, readings, and performances), and *will be unannounced*.

Short writing assignments: Seeing and responding to live productions are essential features of this course. You are, therefore, required to attend the departmental productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Pippin* (and to read *Earnest* beforehand). You will then respond to each of these productions in a short writing assignment. Detailed assignments and instructions will be provided for you well in advance of the due date. Please note that any plagiarism of outside sources (including the

internet) or other students' work will be treated harshly. *No late papers will be accepted*, so be sure to get your writing done early.

Final Projects: Theatre is, by its very nature, a collaborative endeavor in which everyone aids and depends upon each other. The final project is intended to give you a taste of what it might be like to plan a production. You will be placed into small groups (chosen by the instructor) and will conceptualize, cast, and design a hypothetical production. Detailed instructions and assignments will be provided at a later date.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

The Importance of Being Earnest
Seney-Stovall Chapel (on Milledge)
February 16-19 and 22-26 @ 8pm
February 20 @ 2:30
Tickets go on sale Feb. 9*

Pippin
Fine Arts Theatre
April 20-23 and 26-30 @ 8pm
April 24 @ 2:30
Tickets go on sale Apr. 13*

*Tickets can be purchased in advance at the department's Box Office, in the main lobby of the Fine Arts Building. If you choose to purchase tickets just before showtime, you must purchase them at the venue.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The University of Georgia Student Handbook contains a strongly worded policy concerning academic honesty. The Department of Drama insists that all work be done entirely by the student submitting the assignment. This course includes no joint/group projects. Committing plagiarism by copying the works *or the original ideas* of another person without giving that person full and proper credit is an especially serious violation of this policy. If you violate this policy you will receive a grade of F in this course, and will be reported immediately to the student judiciary for additional disciplinary action.

COURSE POLICIES

- This course has no attendance policy; however, you are expected to be in class each day. The quizzes count for a substantial portion of your final grade, and are designed to reward consistent attendance. Students with a *documented excuse* may have *one* make up quiz for the semester.
- You are responsible for all course material. If you miss a class, please see a class member to get the notes. I will not provide content to students who missed the class period in which it was given.
- It is your responsibility to submit all assignments on time. I do not accept late assignments (or electronic copies). You are welcome to submit any assignments early, however. Further, there are no "make-up assignments" except for *documented* instances of medical or other emergencies. (Please remember that there is a difference between an unfortunate occurrence and a bona fide emergency!)

- Keep all graded assignments until you have received your final grade.
- If you have a documented condition that requires special accommodations, please provide me with the appropriate materials from Disability Services *during the first full week of class*.
- A note on office hours: Set office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus; special appointment times can be set on an individual basis if those hours are unworkable for you. However, since the preparation of course materials like handouts and clips often takes me to other parts of the building, I ask that you let me know when you plan to stop by the office, even if it's during regular office hours. This way, I won't keep you waiting.
- Keep all graded assignments until you have received your final grade.
- Ringing phones are no more appropriate in the classroom than they are in the theatre. Please, turn them off before class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced in advance.

Readings and assignments are due on the dates listed:

DATE	TOPIC/NOTES	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
JAN: T 1/11	"Intro to Intro"	
R 1/13	The nature of theatre; buildings and spaces	Intro and Ch. 1 (1-30); Ch 14 (435-442)
T 1/18	Genres: tragedy <i>Drop/Add ends</i>	Ch. 2 (31-36)
Th 1/20	Genres: comedy	Ch. 2 (36-41)
Tu 1/25	Dramatic structure(s)	Ch. 2 (41-53)
Th 1/27	Styles and "isms": Realism	Ch. 8 (213-240)
FEB: 2/1	Anti-realism and Epic Theatre	Ch. 9 (241-279)
Th 2/3	Postmodernism and Smith	Ch. 11 (301-326) Smith, <i>Fires in the Mirror</i>
Tu 2/8	Playwriting <i>Earnest tix onsale Wed 2/9</i>	Ch. 13 (397-414)
Th 2/10	Playwriting	Ch. 13 (414-433)
Tu 2/15	Audiences; Writing about theatre Oscar 101 <i>Earnest opens Wed.</i>	Appendix (A1-A7) Wilde, <i>Earnest</i>
Th 2/17	Directing and Concept	Ch. 15 (skip 500-516, photo essay)
Tu 2/22	Acting	
Th 2/24	Acting	Ch. 12 (370-396)
MAR: Tu 3/1	Exam review	<i>Earnest</i> writing assignment due in class, hard copy only

Th 3/3	Midterm Exam	
Tu 3/8	Design	Ch. 14 (442-465)
Th 3/10	Design	Ch. 14 (465-483)
Tu 3/15 and Th 3/17	<i>No Class—Spring Break</i>	
Tu 3/22	Dramaturgs/Critics, Technicians/Crew	Ch. 16 (529-542); Ch. 14 (483-485)
Th 3/24	Asian Styles: India	Ch. 6 (153-158)
Tu 3/29	Asian Styles: China and Japan	Ch. 6 (158-178)
Th 3/31	Musical Theatre	Ch. 10 (281-290)
APR: Tu 4/5	Musical Theatre, cont'd	Ch. 10 (290-299)
Th 4/7	Renaissance Theatre & Shakespeare	Ch. 5 (115-149)
Tu 4/12	In-class screening: <i>Twelfth Night</i> <i>Pippin</i> tix onsale Wed.	Read <i>Twelfth Night</i>
Th 4/14	In-class screening: <i>Twelfth Night</i>)	
Tu 4/19	Screening discussion <i>Pippin</i> opens Wed.	
Th 4/21	Theatre and other media: film and interactives	
Tu 4/26	In-class presentation of final projects	
Th 4/28	In-class presentation of final projects	
MAY: Mon, 5/2	Last day of classes NOTE: Dram 2100H <i>does not meet</i> today; the paper is due this day to avoid conflicts with final project	<i>Pippin</i> writing assignment due no later than 5pm this day, hard copy only, in my office.
Tu 5/3	No class: Reading Day	

Final Exam: Thursday, May 5 from 8-11am, in our classroom