

Auburn's honor courses are modeled from the traditional non-honors courses. These honor courses are basically the same as the non-honor courses, except that honor students are required to complete more assignments.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE, Fall 2004

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WELCOME TO INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE!

This course introduces you to the world of live performance by offering you the chance to participate in a broad range of theatrical experiences, including reading, attending, analyzing, creating, working on crews and performing in plays. The goal is to develop your understanding of theater through many experiences as both participant and observer. You will also be introduced to the history of theatrical expression and how that history reveals the delicate relationships between human existence and theatrical expression.

Introduction to Theatre this semester features three major productions and the reading of six plays from a variety of historical times. We begin with the start of western theatre, Ancient Greece, with a reading of *Oedipus The King* by Sophocles and *Trojan Women* by Euripides. Then we will move on through theatre history looking at *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, *Galileo* by Bertolt Brecht, and *Master Harold and the Boys* by Athol Fugard. In addition, we will be making our own original theatre for each other with our *Final Projects* (read on for more on this). Several of the plays are taught in conjunction with live performances or demonstrations, with an emphasis on how the roles of the audience, playwright, actor, director, designer and dramaturg collaborate to craft theatrical events.

You do not need to have any acting or theater experience to succeed in this class. However, you do need to be willing to participate actively in your own education by taking part in group projects, exercises, homework and discussions throughout the semester. ***Reading plays is a central component of this course. If you do not feel you will be able to keep up with the schedule of assignments as outlined in the Course Itinerary, please consider choosing a different class. It is unrealistic to expect to pass this course after not reading all the plays and other assigned readings in their entirety.***

Please read over this syllabus carefully. Take special note of the required productions that help form the core of the curriculum. If you cannot attend these shows, we ask that you take another class. It is unrealistic to expect to pass this course after not seeing both required performances in their entirety.

I. Course Work and Evaluation

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
6 Play Quizzes (50 points each)	300
4 Unit Quizzes, 75 points each	300
Original Play Process/Crew	200
Friday Class Work (points broken up per Friday class)	200
TOTAL POINTS	1000

GRADING SCALE

900 and up:	A	600-699:	D
800 -889:	B	600 or Less	F
700-799:	C		

II. Academic Honesty

You are responsible for being familiar with the standards of academic honesty outlined in the Tiger Cub student guide. We take these standards seriously.

Understand that dishonesty is often a two-way street. Facilitating other students' acts of dishonesty by providing them with written or verbal information, whether about a production that they did not attend, a play they did not read or otherwise, also qualifies as dishonesty and subjects you to the same penalties.

Please note, leaving a production at anytime before the conclusion of the performance or arriving significantly after the performance has begun, means you have not fulfilled the attendance and course requirement for that performance. Failure to see a required production (i.e.failing the quiz on that production) results in a **grade reduction of a full letter grade.**

The standard penalty for academic dishonesty consists of an "F" for the course and official notification of the campus Academic Honesty Board.

III. Grade-Related Policies

Class participation is crucial. We reserve the right to modify grades upward or downward based upon class participation during lectures and especially Friday Sections.

Missed quiz due to official university excused absence. Make up quizzes may be taken within two weeks of the missed quiz (if after an illness, then within one week of the students return to classes).

Excuses must be handed in within one week of the missed quiz in order to be considered. Late excuses will not be considered and no make up will be offered. Obviously if the student was ill, the excuse should be given immediately upon return to classes (within one week). Please note, you are only allowed two unexcused absences without penalty to your grade. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT INVOLVED TO SCHEDULE MAKE-UP QUIZZES.**

Missed quiz, due to unexcused lateness or absence: You receive a zero (0) for that quiz. No exceptions. This applies to excuses handed in after the one week window described above.

Missed Original Final Projects can not be made up in any way, except under very special circumstances. Failure to show up for final projects is serious and in most cases results in an F in the course.

IV. Required Productions

Attendance at productions is mandatory. These productions will be held at the **Telfair Peet Theatre** or **The Theatre Upstairs** at Auburn University. Tickets may be purchased at the Theatre Dept Box Office in the theatre lobby daily from 12-4:00. Phone 844-4154 for more info.

We ask that you purchase your tickets early for these three productions. More info about purchasing your tickets will be given in class.

1. **You're a Good Man Charlie Brown – August 24 – 29 ONLY - Telfair Peet Theatre**
2. **Galileo – October 5-10 and 12-15 – Telfair Peet Theatre**
3. **Festival of Shorts – November 16-19 ONLY - The Theatre Upstairs**

Please note that this season of plays to be seen and read includes plays that deal with a variety of themes. Students taking Introduction to the Theatre are assumed to have an interest in a diversity of opinions, aesthetics and subject matter. I do not offer an alternative to seeing any of the plays. If you feel you are unable to attend any of the season's offerings or read any of the required plays for any reason, it is suggested you take another class.

V. Use of University E-mail

I will be contacting the class regularly through university e-mail between classes with important announcements and schedule changes. Please make sure to check your e-mail daily and be sure that your e-mail address is working. It is your responsibility to ensure that email sent to your Tiger Mail account reaches you.

VI. Required Texts

Available at the Campus Book Store:

1. Gardner, *12 Plays, a portable anthology*
2. Brecht, *Galileo*

VII. Cost of course materials

I share your concerns about the cost of education and have made every effort to keep text book costs down. Estimates for text book and ticket prices are as follows: (Please be aware, these are only

estimates). If cost is a large factor for you in seeing the required productions, see me about ushering opportunities.

- 12 play, a portable anthology 17.25
- Galileo 10.00
- Charlie Brown Ticket 15.00
- Galileo Ticket 15.00
- Festival of Shorts Ticket 15.00

Total Materials Cost Estimate \$72.25

VIII. Description of Assignments

A. *Quizzes.* The four quizzes are on all material covered up to that point. This includes plays seen or read, lectures, films, guest lecturers, handouts and anything else covered in class. They will assume a careful reading of any texts due – not a hurried one. They are taken at the top of class and are multiple choice format

B. *Friday Sections.* In an effort to work as closely as possible with each of you, I will break the class in to three Friday sections (A, B and C). Each section will meet every third Friday for acting, improvisation and other “on-the-feet” applied theatre activities. Each meeting will involve activities for which points are given. Therefore, attendance on Fridays is crucial for your grade. Within each Friday Section, smaller groups will be formed for the creation of the Final Original Plays. No acting experience is necessary. The grade for Friday class work is based on participation, creativity, effort and commitment. **Absence from any Friday section results in not only a regular absence mark but also a reduction of 50 points which are impossible to make up.** Please note: dress for physical work on Fridays. This means clothing you can move in without being self conscious and please, no noisy clothes (plastic pants, long chains etc).

C. *Original Play.* Over the course of the semester, you will break down in to smaller groups to create short Original Plays. These final projects should be about 10 minutes long. You will work on these during out of class time. More information on the specific parameters of the projects will follow. Attendance at outside rehearsals is required and does not count toward class attendance.

OR

D. *Crew Assignment.* There are a limited number of crew positions open for the productions you will see this term. These crew positions will be offered at the start of the semester for those students who would rather work a crew than be a part of a Final Original Play project. Students will have to be approved for the position and sign a contract with the instructor and overseer. Working on a crew does NOT excuse you from Friday class except the last few meetings when the primary work will be on the final projects. More information will follow.

E. *Attendance/Department Absence Policy.* Attendance is taken every day, including Fridays. After two unexcused absences, students will be dropped a full letter grade for each subsequent unexcused absence. See above for guidelines regarding Friday Sections and attendance. **The instructor determines the validity of any absence.** Absences are excused for VALIDATED serious illness, serious family illness or family death. Students participating in university athletics will be excused provided they submit their team schedule **prior** to missing class. In order for absences to be

excused students must provide a medical excuse within two days of their return to class. **Fraternity, sorority and other types of extracurricular social activities are not grounds for an excused absence under any circumstances, ever.** Latecomers will not be marked present after the fact. If you leave early you will be marked absent. If you sleep through class, you will be marked absent. If you find that excessive illness or personal problems prevent you from regular attendance, it is strongly advised that you drop the course and enroll another semester. Bottom line: be here on time, every day.

VIII. COURSE ITINERARY (very subject to change)

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Week #1		
Wed Aug 18	<i>Introduction to course</i>	
Fri Aug 20	<i>What is Theatre/what is it for? How to see a play</i>	READ
Syllabus		
Week #2		
COMING THIS WEEK: YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN <u>AUG 24-29</u>		
<u>ONLY</u>		
Mon Aug 23	<i>History of Theatre: Ancient Greeks</i>	
Wed Aug 25	<i>Greeks/Oedipus/Aristotle - Oedipus the King</i>	DUE Play Quiz A
Fri Aug 27	NO CLASS	
Week #3		
Mon Aug 30	<i>The Director (POV) Demonstration/</i>	Hamlet Due Play Quiz B AND Quiz on Charlie Brown*
Wed Sept 1	<i>The Actor/Performer LIVE DEMO from Hamlet</i>	
Fri Sept 3	Quiz #1 AND discuss Hamlet	UNIT QUIZ
Week #4		
Mon Sept 6	No Class – Labor Day	
Wed Sept 8	<i>Playwriting</i>	
Fri Sept 10	Group A Only	
Week #5		
Mon Sept 13	<i>Final Projects announced/explained AND Theatre History – Up to Realism</i>	
Wed Sept 15	<i>Arthur Miller - Death of a Salesman</i>	DUE Play Quiz C
Fri Sept 17	Group B Only	
Week #6		
Mon Sept 20	<i>Page to Stage: The Trojan Women</i>	excerpt DUE Play Quiz D
Wed Sept 22	Film: Trojan Women	
Fri Sept 24	Group C Only	

Week #7			
Mon	Sept 27	<i>Bertolt Brecht</i>	
Wed	Sept 29	<i>Bertolt Brecht and Galileo DUE</i>	Play Quiz E
Fri	Oct 1	Group A Only	
Week #8 COMING THIS WEEK: GALILEO OCT. 5-15			
Mon	Oct 4	Quiz #2 AND Show Friday Work	UNIT QUIZ #2
Wed	Oct 6	<i>Athol Fugard/African Theatre – Master Harold DUE</i>	Play Quiz F
Fri	Oct 8	Group B Only	
Week #9			
Mon	Oct 11	<i>World Theatre: Eastern Theatre Traditions</i>	
Wed	Oct 13	FILM: Asian Theatre	
Fri	Oct 15	Group C Only	
Week #10			
Mon	Oct 18	Discussion with cast/crew of <i>Galileo</i>	Quiz on Galileo*
Wed	Oct 20	<i>Producing Theatre in America</i>	
Fri	Oct 22	Group A Only	
Week #11			
Mon	Oct 25	FILM: Artist Up Close: Julie Taymor and The Lion King	
Wed	Oct 27	Quiz #3 FILM: Non-Dramatic Theatre (Cirque du Soleil)	UNIT QUIZ #3
Fri	Oct 29	Group B Only	
Week # 12			
Mon	Nov 1	<i>The Technical Director</i> – Guest Lecturer	
Wed	Nov 3	<i>The Designer</i> – Guest Lecturer	
Fri	Nov 5	Group C Only	
Week #13			
Mon	Nov 8	FILM: Artist Up Close: Bill Irwin in Regard of Flight	
Wed	Nov 10	<i>Mediators of the Theatre</i> – Dr. Phillips/Guest	
Fri	Nov 12	Group A Only (no Crew People)	
Week #14 COMING THIS WEEK: FESTIVAL OF SHORTS NOV 16-19			
Mon	Nov 15	Group B only (no crew people)	
Wed	Nov 17	Group C Only (no crew people)	
Fri	Nov 19	TBA	
Nov 22-26 THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASSES			
Week #15			
Mon	Nov 29	All Groups work on final plays	Quiz on Festival of Shorts*
Wed	Dec 1	Final Plays – Group A	
Fri	Dec 3	Final Plays – Group B	

Week #16

Mon Dec 6

Final Plays – Group C

Wed Dec 8

Quiz #4 and Class Wrap Up

* These quizzes simply show you saw the required production in its entirety.