

Play Analysis THEA 2100
Spring 2019

Dr. Amy Cuomo
Phone: 678-838-4703
Office Hours Office Hours: M-TH 3:30-6 Martha Munro

Office: 202C Martha Munro
e-mail: acuomo@westga.edu
Class 11:00-12:15; Paff 204

Course Description

The ability to effectively analyze theatrical texts is essential to scholars and practitioners alike. In this class, students will dissect a script into its basic components to better understand structure, style, theme, and other essential elements of theatre. Students will also survey representative historical genres, styles of theatrical texts, and methods of literary and dramatic criticism, as well as receive an introduction to theatre-specific research methods and resources. The course will emphasize academic analysis, but applications to theatrical production contexts will be encouraged.

UWG Essential Information

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Performance REQUIRED –

Home – Townsend Center for the Performing Arts - February 20-24; W-S @7:30 p.m. Sun @ 2:30 p.m.

She Kills Monsters – Townsend Center for the Performing Arts - April 15-20; T-S 7:30 p.m. NO SUNDAY PERFORMANCE!

NOTE: If you are a theatre major you must attend strike and load in; failing to do so may result in a deduction of five points from your letter grade for each missed event.

Course Den

Available from UWG's main page www.westga.edu through the link Online Learning. If you need help, contact distance@westga.edu or 678-839-6248 or go to the After Hours Helpdesk available 24 hrs a day/ 7 days a week - go to <http://help8.view.usg.edu> and click on Request Support.

Library: <http://www.westga.edu/~library/> or available through the Library link on www.westga.edu

Degree Program Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate a knowledge of selected plays, theatre conventions and theatrical movements important in the formation of the modern theatre. Students will describe a basic knowledge of theatre history, theory, and criticism, as well as research sources and methodology.
- Students will demonstrate skills in analyzing plays, using theatre technology and conducting research
- Students will apply skills learned in this course to a variety of work and social environments.

Class Learning Objectives

- Students will demonstrate proficiency applying formal critical approaches to theatrical texts, concentrating on Aristotelian elements of drama.
- Students will describe the historical perspectives of genre and style in theatrical texts and the utility of these categories in analyzing drama.
- Students will express theatre-specific research methodologies through class discussion and writing.
- Students will classify and apply major contemporary critical approaches to literature and performance, broadening their perceptions and understanding of theatrical texts and performances.
- Students will articulate how diverse critical approaches can expand the conceptual basis of their theatrical production work (acting, directing, and designing).

Student Responsibilities

- **Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire period.**
- Please turn off your cell phone for the duration of the class.
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that shows respect for your colleagues.
- Read the assigned material and be prepared to participate.
- You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, please make sure you get the notes from a classmate.
- **Changes in the syllabus or schedule will be announced in class -- make sure you note these changes.**
- **Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned quizzes in a safe place.**
- If you have scheduling conflicts with the plays or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible for completing your work. If you have any special needs or if there is anything I can do to assist you in succeeding in this course do not hesitate to let me know.
- Uphold the Academic Honor code as stated in the Undergraduate Catalogue.

Course Components

Note: All work will be turned in on Course Den

Attendance and Participation (10%)

As this class is based on class discussion, attendance is require. Also, students should come prepared to discuss the assigned plays.

Quizzes (30%)

There will be a quiz on the reading is assigned for class. The quiz will be available on Course Den until on hour before class. Quizzes may not be taken late unless there is a documented excuse. Quizzes will be available two days before class.

Midterm (20%)

There will be a midterm covering the material we have covered from the beginning of the semester until midterm.

Dramaturgy Project (20%)

Students will select a play from the list provided. Each student will write:

Biographical Article on the Playwright (500 Words)

A Program Note: (500 words)

An Information Packet for actors who would be performing in the play providing the historical and cultural context surrounding the play at the time it was written. This note highlights information important to understanding the play. Pictures are also welcome! (1,000 words)

Final Exam (20%)

There will be a final exam covering the ideas, concepts and plays we have explored this semester. The objective section of the final will be administered in class. The essay section will be posted in the assignment box on course den. It is open notes, but it is NOT collaborative.

Schedule **Plays need to be read for the day they are on the schedule** **The schedule is subject to change**

TUE 1/8	Class Introduction
THR 1/10	The Poetics and Play Structure
TUE 1/15	Quiz: <i>Oedipus Rex</i>
THR 1/17	Translation, Interpretation and Ancient Greek Drama
TUE 1/22	Quiz: <i>Stone Cold Dead Serious</i>
THR 1/24	Tragedy
TUE 1/29	Quiz: <i>Taming of the Shrew</i>
TUE 1/31	Shakespeare's Comedies
TUE 2/5	Quiz: <i>Fuddy Meers</i>
THR 2/7	Discussion: A Feminist Lens
TUE 2/12	Quiz: <i>Tartuffe</i>
THR 2/14	Neoclassical French Drama
TUE 2/19	Quiz: <i>The Christians</i>
THR 2/21	Comparative Drama: The Christians and Tartuffe
TUE 2/26	Midterm
THR 2/28	Work on your Dramaturgy Project – No class meeting
TUE 3/5	In Class: <i>Hedda Gabler</i>

THR 3/7	Realism and Drama
TUE 3/12	Quiz: <i>Exit an Illusion</i> Expressionism in Theatre
THR 3/14	Dramaturgy Project Due – No class meeting
3/18 & 20	SPRING BREAK
TUE 3/26 THR 3/28	Quiz: <i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i> Epic Theatre
TUE 4/2 THU 4/4	Quiz: <i>Ruined</i> Comparative Drama Structure and Content
TUE 4/9	In Class: “An Act with Out Words” Theatre of the Absurd
THU 4/11	No Class – Begin Reviewing for your Final Exam
TUE 4/16 THR 4/18	In Class: <i>The Piano Lesson</i> In Class: <i>The Piano Lesson</i>
TUE 4/23	Paper on <i>She Kills Monsters</i> Due Review for the Final
THR 4/25	In Class: Objective Section of the Final
TUE 5/2	Take Home Section of Final Due

Play Selections for Dramaturgy Project

Ayad Akhtar	<i>Disgraced</i>
Annie Baker	<i>The Aliens</i>
Pearl Cleage	<i>Blues for An Alabama Sky</i> <i>Flyn’ West</i>
Stephen Adly Gurgis	<i>Our Lady of 121st Street</i> <i>Motherf**ker with a Hat</i>
Danai Gurira	<i>Eclipsed</i>
Lydia Diamond	<i>Stick Fly</i>
Katori Hall	<i>The Mountaintop</i>
Samuel Hunter	<i>The Whale</i>
Raj Joseph	<i>Gruesome Playground Injuries</i>
Lisa Loomer	<i>The Waiting Room</i>
Tarell Alvin McCraney	<i>In the Red and Brown Water</i>
Lynn Nottage	<i>Las Meninas</i> <i>Sweat</i>
Sarah Ruhl	<i>The Clean House</i>
Paula Vogel	<i>How I Learned to Drive</i>
George C. Wolfe	<i>The Colored Museum</i>
Stefanie Zdravec	<i>Honey Brown Eyes</i>
Anna Deavere Smith	<i>Fires in the Mirror or Twilight</i>
Suzan-Lori Parks	<i>Top Dog/Underdog</i>

