

TH 141 INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

Spring 2006

MWF 4:10 -5:00

CLARK room A-102

PROFESSOR: **Annie O. Cleveland**

Office*****

Phone: *****

Office hours: MWF 3:00-4:00 or by appointment (at other times you can usually find me in the costume studio right outside my office).

Email: Please contact me through the WebCT email function

TEXTS: The Essential Theatre by Oscar Brockett
 Plays for the Theatre also by Oscar Brockett

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To introduce the student to the methods, materials, literature, and artists of the theatre through lecture and active participation. Students will be given an historical overview of theatrical practice and theory as well as a comprehensive examination of current methods and trends.

By the end of the semester the student should be able to:

- Identify the form, structure, and style of a piece of theatre
- Read a script and articulate an analysis of the theme and ideas within the play
- Articulate a critical response to a theatrical performance
- Identify the major formative moments in theatrical history
- Identify the responsibilities of the practitioners of theater

STUDENTS WILL SEE TWO PRODUCTIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND ONE PRODUCTION BY A PROFESSIONAL COMPANY OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT. Students are responsible for purchasing their own tickets although tickets for the professional production will be arranged at a group rate.

REQUIREMENTS: Although this is a WebCT based class, attendance at class meetings, workshops, performances, and films is required. I allow three excused absences, after which I subtract four points per absence from your final grade. You must provide written documentation for an excused absence.

ALL WRITTEN MATERIAL THAT IS TURNED IN MUST BE TYPED!

GRADING:

Your grade will be based on three exams (40% of your grade), three written critiques (50%) and seven online quizzes (10%) over the plays you will read in class:

- Exams are taken in class and are formatted as multiple choice and short answer questions.

There are two assignment functions in WebCT:

- QUIZZES

- You will take an online quiz over each of the seven plays we will read and discuss in class from *Plays for the Theatre*.
- Once you complete your quiz, the grade is automatically recorded in WebCT.
- You have two chances to take the quizzes so if you have computer problems give yourself time to get to a computer lab.
- SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS HERE
 - You will submit your three typed critiques to this WebCT function.
 - Follow the guidelines for naming your files in the "Critique Guidelines" document on the COURSE MATERIALS page.
 - NO PAPER COPIES OF CRITIQUES WILL BE ACCEPTED
 - Only Microsoft WORD documents or RICH TEXT FILES can be accepted. If we cannot open your paper and read it, we will contact you through the WebCT email.

If you have any problems with either of these functions, the BEST way to communicate with me is through the WebCT email.

CRITIQUE GUIDELINES

1. All students will see and critique three productions during the term.
2. The critiques will be 2-3 pages type written, double spaced.
3. All due dates for critiques are listed in the Course Calendar and The Assignment Drop Box.
4. Submit your critique in a word processed document and save as RICH TEXT (.RTF) or as a Microsoft WORD document (.doc)

*NO OTHER FILE FORMATS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!

5. Name your your file as follows:
C1-ACleveland (where C1, C2, or C 3 = Assignment # and then your first initial and last name)

*In WebCT you cannot leave spaces in file names!

* PLEASE **DO NOT** JUST NAME YOU FILE "CRITIQUE1", "ASSIGNMENT1", ETC!

6. MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS AT THE TOP OF YOUR PAPER!!!!

7. Late work will not be accepted.

Guidelines

"A play presents a self-enclosed little world for the audience to examine. It's an opportunity for the audience to examine. It's an opportunity to look objectively at a group of people, to assess them, to react to them, and to measure oneself against them. To ask "Am I like That?"

-- Wallace Shawn

Introduction to Aunt Dan and Lemon

1. Please remember when viewing the production to leave your senses open to the experience and don't concern yourself with copious note taking. The production will affect you in one way or another, and you will be surprised to find out how easily the reasons for your impressions will come back to you.

2. Open the paper with an introduction that identifies the play, the playwright, producing body, date, etc. At this point you may want to include a statement presenting your overall impression of the production.

3. Discuss the acting, directing, design and technical elements as they relate to the production based upon:

- What do you believe that the play is about?
- How did the above mentioned elements reinforce or detract from the production.
- In all cases make sure that you cite specific examples from the production, and most importantly, state WHY any of the aspects of the production were significant.

There is no right or wrong to your critique, as long as you intelligently use your information, reinforce your position with reasons, and justify your response with concrete examples.