

Theatre H100: Introduction to Theatre and Comedy/Improv
U 5 Credits
Spring 2007

CLASS TIME: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30pm – 3:18 pm
LOCATION: 2038 Drake Performance and Event Center

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Joy Reilly
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OFFICE HOURS: Thursday, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar will look at the process of producing a play from playwright to stage, introduce you to a basic understanding of the nature of theatre and focus on an in depth examination of Comedy. You will be encouraged to try your hand at writing one-minute comedy monologues, learn the basics of improvisation, and work in small groups to develop a final creative project. We will begin by reading *Antigone* and then explore the works of some of the greatest comic writers. We will examine the different styles of comedy and how comedy is used in film, television and on stage. Once the initial lecture material has been tested, you will be asked to research and write a book report on a comedy text, prepare a 10-minute presentation (power point and class handouts) on a comedian and to show an excerpt of their comedic style. You will be asked to attend two department plays and we will make one field-trip to a comedy club.

GEC FULFILLMENT: *Arts and Humanities: Analysis of Texts and Works of Art*
Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

Learning Objectives specific to the GEC:

- Students develop abilities to be enlightened observers or active participants in the visual, spatial, musical, theatrical, rhetorical or written arts.
- Students describe and interpret achievement in the arts and literature.
- Students explain how works of art and literature express social and cultural issues.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the conventions of theatre, specifically improv comedy
- To work on a final collaborative creative project as a production team
- To examine comedy in film, television and on the live stage
- To identify differences in romantic comedy, farce and satire
- To practice writing one minute comic monologues
- To explore basic comedy improvisation exercises

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Active class participation is very important in this class. You must be prepared on the day you make a presentation with class handouts and power point lecture. You will work on your creative project in teams of five students. Each team will have a stage manager who will organize the group and keep Minutes of each meeting in a stage manager's book on how the final creative project was developed and how and why decisions were made. You will each provide a final two page (double spaced) report of your role in the creative project for the stage manager's book. As this is a team effort, after two unexcused absences, your final grade will be dropped by one letter grade for each class missed.

You will be doing excellent work in this class if you read all the required materials on time, participate vigorously and intelligently in class discussions, prepare a power point presentation on your assigned comedian for your Seminar report (with class partner) show a 5-minute excerpt of comedy, as well as distribute carefully prepared handouts to all class members. For the final Creative Project, you will be expected to do your share of research and work as a team-member, to work closely with your stage manager, and to make a final presentation at the end of the quarter. You are invited to participate in creative writing opportunities and comedy exercises. You will only be graded on effort and not on creative expertise. This is to encourage you to explore your potential and to take some artistic risks. In this way you will be able to better appreciate the challenges face by the theatre artist and understand criteria for excellence.

TEACHING METHOD: This course will include lectures on the theory and practice of theatre, class discussion of plays read in class, seminar presentations by students, interactive group work collaborating on a creative project in which the theory will be put into practice. This course meets the GEC Visual and Performing Arts requirement. An Agenda and handouts will be provided with information on requirements for the creative project, Comedy book report and seminar presentation.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Reilly, Joy & M. Scott Phillips. *Introducing Theatre* (10th ed.). Thomson Learning, 2005.
Woodruff, Paul (trans.). Sophocles' *Antigone*
Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Dover Publishing.
Wilbur (trans). Moliere's *Tartuffe*
Shepard, Sam. *True West*. Samuel French Publishing

GRADING: Grades will be determined by the quality of work completed, with individual assignments contributing as listed below:

Lecture material and play reading	30%
Book report and seminar presentation	30%
Group final creative project	30%
Class Participation	10%
Total	100%

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional

information, see the Code of Student Conduct
(http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Escort Service is available after 6 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.