

**Introduction to Theatre and Drama - Discussion Section 005**

THEATRE 211/ENGLISH 245/RC HUMS 280

*Fall 2001*

Section GSI: **D. Ross**

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**Fridays 1:30-2:30pm**

**3532 Frieze**

office hours: Tuesdays 3 - 4pm

Fridays 12 noon - 1pm

*and by appointment*

**Objectives:**

Overall, to further explore the theatrical and dramatic concepts presented in lecture. Specifically, this means:

1. To become familiar with the "constituent arts" of theatre (acting, directing, design, playwriting, architecture) through classroom experience and/or research.
2. To examine the plays assigned in lecture from a production-oriented perspective. Often, if not always, a production-oriented perspective involves further exploration of analytical approaches.

**Assignments:**

The following projects will be assigned in discussion at intervals throughout the semester:

- *Group presentation on a type of theatre architecture.* Presentations will include some type of visual model, either 3D or 2D, a 5-minute oral presentation, and a typed "fact sheet" to be distributed to the class.

- *Staging of a scene.* Each group member will have an acting part in a brief scene to be selected by the group from any published play not covered in class. You may use the play you have written about in your analytical essay.

- *Production proposal for The Secret Rapture.* Proposals will include the selection of a controlling theme or image from the play and examples of how it will be reflected in the show's design: set, lighting, costume, properties. Your production proposal will be completed as a group and presented on **Friday, November 9** in class.

- *Writing a brief scene* inspired by or added to a play from lecture. Scenes will be staged and critiqued by your group members.

Further details and final due dates will be handed out as the class progresses. The assignments may or may not occur in the above order, depending on the topics and questions covered in lecture.

## **Grading:**

Each discussion assignment will be graded +/- . A "+" will be awarded if you complete the project on time and if you take the assignment seriously and put time and effort into it and into working with your group. *Theatre is a collaborative art and therefore your "+" or "-" is earned in part by how well you work with your group on the projects assigned.* You will earn a "-" for your participation in a project if it is 1) late (or not done at all), 2) done poorly, or 3) done in isolation or contention with the rest of your group.

If you earn a "+" on all four projects, the lowest grade received for lecture (on a paper or the exam) will increase by one letter grade (e.g. C to B). If, on the other hand, you earn a "-" on all four projects, the highest grade in lecture will decrease one letter grade. If your discussion projects are mixed, no lecture grade will be changed.

All assignments from lecture or discussion are due in section and will be graded by your GSI. Written assignments will be graded for punctuation, grammar, spelling, and style, *as well as content.* All lecture assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late (e.g. if your paper earns a B and is one day late, the grade will be a C). Late assignments are due in my mailbox (2450 Frieze Building) by 5pm. Assignments received after 5pm will be marked an additional day late.

## **Attendance Policy:**

As in lecture, there are *no free cuts or tardies.* Attendance is always taken the first day of class. Anyone entering after attendance has been taken will be marked "tardy". Three tardies = one unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence will drop your final grade one third of a letter (i.e. from B to B-). You earn one grade for both lecture and discussion, so absences and tardies in both will be added together.

Excused absences must be approved prior to your missing class, at least two class meetings in advance.

Absences for conflicting school-related activities must be approved prior to the absence and accompanied by a signed note on returning to class.

In case of family emergencies or sudden illness, please call or email prior to the class.

*Just to remind you: flight reservations, hangovers, auditions, rehearsals, disinterest, or alien abduction are unexcused absences.*