Introduction to Theatre and Drama - Discussion Section 003
THEATRE 211/ENGLISH 245/RC HUMS 280
Winter 2002

Section GSI: D. Ross
Office: 3540 Frieze Building
Phone: 764-6304
email: drossz@umich.edu

Fridays 11:00am - 12 noon 3532 Frieze

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

1. To become familiar with some of the "constituent arts" of theatre (acting, directing, design, playwriting, architecture) through classroom experience and/or research.

2. To examine the plays and concepts assigned in lecture from a production-oriented perspective. Often, if not always, a production-oriented perspective involves further exploration of analytical approaches.

3. To experience theatre as a collaborative project, working with others of different interests, abilities, and expertise.

Assignments:
In addition to the papers assigned in lecture, you will be given small weekly assignments and two group projects in section. You will be assigned to a small group (4-5 people) and you will work with the same group for both projects.

The first group project will be a production proposal for a production of Jean Genet's The Balcony. Your small group must come up with a "production concept" based on your reading of the play; then you will provide "sketches" of design elements as examples of how your production concept will play out in production. Groups will present their proposals to the class as if I were a producer considering your team to work in my theater. Due March 15.

The second group project will be a classroom debate/presentation/review over whether or not theater should be federally subsidized in this country. Your group will be assigned a position to defend and must incorporate the history and concepts we have learned in this class to support your position. Groups will present their cases in a written packet and orally before the class. Due April 12.

Papers:
All papers assigned in lecture are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due and will be graded by your GSI. Written assignments will be graded for punctuation, grammar, spelling, and style, as well as content. Papers are typically graded on a curve against the other students in your section.

Grading:
You will earn up to 200 points of your overall grade (out of 1000) in section. These 200
points will be distributed as follows:

50 points = section attendance (5 pts per class x 13 classes = 65 pts - 15 extra credit)
50 points = weekly assignments (5 pts per assign x 11 assigns = 55 pts - 5 extra credit)
50 points = production proposal project
50 points = final debate project

Weekly assignments will be graded for full/no credit: either you earn 5 points for doing it or you earn 0 points for not doing it. The two group projects are worth 50 points each. For each of these projects, 35 points will be earned by each group member if the project is completed successfully and on time. The remaining 15 points per member will be earned individually based on the quality of the overall presentation (5 pts), your contribution to the presentation (5 pts), and your ability to work successfully with the group (5 pts).

Lateness:

Please be on time.

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). A paper turned in on the due date after class is one day late; a paper turned in after 5pm that same day is two days late. Weekends count as one day. Late assignments are due in my mailbox (2540 Frieze Building) by 5pm and may not be emailed except by prior arrangement. Assignments received after 5pm will be marked an additional day late.

Attendance:

Attendance is strongly encouraged and will be recorded at the beginning of each discussion section. It is part of your section grade as outlined above: you receive 5 points for each day you attend and may earn up to 15 points of extra credit for attending all section meetings. As in lecture, if you are being disruptive (including repeatedly late), you will be asked to leave and not counted as present for the day.

Weekly assignments may be turned in by 5pm the following Monday for credit if you are unable to attend a class. If that week’s assignment is an in-class presentation, you may be given an alternative assignment, also due by the following Monday at 5pm. It is your responsibility to contact me to request alternative assignments if you must miss a class, and after 5pm on the following Monday no requests for that week will be granted.

In the case of extreme illness or extenuating circumstances for long absences, you must contact me in a timely manner so that you and I can work out alternate arrangements with Professor Westlake.

Office Hours:

It is part of my responsibility as a GSI to meet with you as needed outside class. I am always available during my office hours to discuss paper topics, provide some writing assistance, or answer questions. If you are unable to meet during my office hours, other appointments can be made by prior arrangement.