Theatre Arts - Theatre 100 - Section 1  
Fall 2000  
"C" hour/MWF 10:20-11:20am  
David Jilg, Instructor  
E-mail: jilg@rhodes.edu  
Extensions: 3090 or 3838  
Office Hours by Appointment - McCoy Theatre or 107 Kennedy

TEXTS

Wilson, *The Theater Experience* (Seventh Edition)  
Lane and Shengold, eds., *The Actor's Book of Scenes from New Plays*  
Mamet, *Oleanna*

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The course will focus on the various aspects of theatre such as playwriting, performance, directing and design, and their significance for the audience. Theatre Arts is designed to give students knowledge of and experience with the fundamental arts of theatre. It is a required course for theatre majors and minors, and serves as a fine arts credit for non-theatre majors.

The first half of the semester is devoted to brief explorations of the various professions involved in bringing a theatrical event to life. The Wilson text provides a background for classroom discussion and participation; the assigned playscripts provide touchstones for these explorations. The second half of the semester is devoted to "The Theatre Game", in which students minimally produce short playscripts which have been developed as part of the course work.

For the theatre major or minor, the course aims to familiarize the student with occupational options in addition to performance. It is the foundation for the study of theatre at Rhodes, during which a theatre major or minor will have the opportunity to explore more fully all aspects of theatre.

The objective for the non-major is to engender an understanding of the theatre as a fine art and as an integral part of a liberal arts education, and to foster an appreciation of live theatre which will carry over into their future lives.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE
Class attendance is expected at Rhodes College and in this course. A lot of information is covered during the first half of the semester; the second half of the semester you will be involved in the Theatre Game and classmates will be dependent upon your contributions. Theatre is a collaborative art; your contributions will enhance the class for all involved. You are allowed three absences without penalty; however, the student is responsible for turning in any assignments by the due dates as published in the syllabus. After three absences, each absence is worth 50 points. Thus, if you have 4 absences during the semester, you will be penalized 50 points, 5 classes - 100 points, etc.

Missing a McCoy production will automatically be regarded as an unexcused absence; you will lose 50 points and be unable to write a critique for the production (losing a potential 100 points). Missing the Festival performance at the end of the semester automatically reduces your grade by 100 points (10%).

Excessive absences will be brought to the attention of the Office of Academic Affairs; emergency or recurring situations will also need to be discussed with the Office of Academic Affairs before absences are excused. Please discuss any significant attendance problems with the instructor as soon as possible to avoid affecting your grade.

GRADING/COURSEWORK DESCRIPTIONS

As published in the college catalogue:

"In official recording of academic work, the following symbols are employed: A, excellent; B, good; C, satisfactory; D, passing; ....F, failure...." (p. 76)

Bear these definitions in mind.

This course works on a points system. A total of 1000 points constitutes a final grade of "A" (100%) for this course. Coursework is defined and points are earned as follows:

**Journals**  Recording thoughts, impressions, ideas, discoveries in class or outside the classroom. The journal will serve as a resource throughout the semester; you may be asked to submit the journal for the instructor's perusal. Journals will be discussed more thoroughly in class.

**Dialogues**  Dialogues are assigned toward the beginning of the term and afford invaluable opportunities for
exploring theatrical writing. Dialogues will be written in 3-person teams and performed in class. Due dates are noted in the syllabus.

**Quizzes**
Four quizzes worth 50 points apiece will be given covering assigned readings in the Wilson text and relating them to classroom experiences. Quizzes count for a total of 200 points or 20% of your final grade.

**Critiques**
You are required to write four 500-word (approximately 2 1/2 pages) critiques during the course of the semester. Each is worth a potential 100 points for a total of 400 points. Critiques are due by the deadlines listed in the syllabus, but may be turned in early. *Any critique turned in late will be worth at most only 50 points.* Caveat: *never* recount the plot of a play in a critique.

Two critiques will be of performances of the McCoy productions of *Iphigenia and other daughters* and *Canterbury Tales*. You are required to see both plays in their entirety. Failure to do so will count as absences. Deadlines for turning in critiques of McCoy productions are noted in the syllabus.

Two critiques will be of off-campus productions; a list of plays, locations and production dates will be provided. You are required to attend one production at either Circuit Playhouse or Playhouse on the Square; the second off-campus production may be at the Orpheum, Germantown Community Theatre, GPAC, Theatre Memphis, Theatre Works, the University of Memphis, or any approved community/regional/professional theatre (no high school productions). Due dates for these critiques are flexible, due to varying production schedules; critiques should be turned in within a week of attending a production. Deadlines for these critiques are published in the syllabus. (NOTE: Fall semester students should plan to see productions other than *A Tuna Christmas*, *Peter Pan*, and *A Christmas Carol* at the end of the semester.)

Critiques are expected to be approximately 500 words in length, typed, double-spaced, with a word count printed on the page. Refer to Wilson on "Theatrical Criticism" for guidelines in writing critiques for this course. *Submitting a critique for a grade automatically includes an implicit pledge that the performance critiqued was viewed in its entirety.*

This course supports writing across the curriculum. You will be graded on grammar as well as content. Remember to check your spelling and grammar, and avoid the use of slang terms. Use of MLA guidelines is encouraged.
A word about Plagiarism:

Article VI—SECTION 3 (of the Student Constitution):

Also defined as cheating, plagiarism is the act of using another person’s words or ideas without documenting them properly (footnotes, bibliography, etc.). This includes, without limitation: using information from any sources (including the class textbook(s), other books, journals, newspapers, magazines, etc.) without proper reference, getting ideas or words from a classmate’s paper, failure to properly punctuate direct quotes, and obtaining a paper from someone else. Ignorance is not an excuse for these violations. It is the student’s responsibility to consult the professor, an Honor Council member, or writing handbooks for the procedure for properly acknowledging sources.

Design Projects You will be assigned a group design project worth a potential 100 points. This grade will be assigned by the instructor.

Class Worth up to 100 points, this is the instructor's Participation "discretionary fund" of points and will be awarded based on attitude, general participation, initiative, etc.

Festival Participation During the Theatre Game, each group member will be awarded a potential 100 points (averaged) by members of the production group based on attitude, general participation, initiative, etc.

Extra Credit You may earn up to 100 extra credit points during the course of the semester. Extra credit may be earned in a variety of ways:

Production Experience is worth 20 points per hour. You may work on either production at the McCoy this semester. Opportunities are available working on sets, costumes, props, etc. Hours are generally Monday through Friday afternoons, and Saturdays.

Pop Quizzes: pop quizzes may be given at any time at the instructor's discretion. They will be short, relate to the previous day's discussion or the current reading, and will be of varying value (5-15 points). They will not be given on quiz days scheduled in the syllabus.

Miscellaneous opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class or via e-mail.

Final Examination The final examination will be a comprehensive take-home project and will count for 10% of your final grade (100 points).
Participants in the Theatre Game are eligible for awards. These awards are determined by a panel of former Theatre Arts students who judge the class productions the night of the Festival. A Wobie Award is worth 100 points. In addition, Festival judges, at their discretion, may confer Judges Choice Awards, also worth 100 points. These points, when applied to the final point total, may exempt individuals from the final examination (if the grade of "A" has already been earned). Three or more Awards received within the group (Wobie or Judges Choice) earns 100 points for all group members.

**RECAP OF GRADING:**

- Critiques: 400 points (40%)
- Quizzes: 200 points (20%)
- Design Project: 100 points (10%)
- Class Participation: 100 points (10%)
- Festival Participation: 100 points (10%)
- Final Exam/Award: 100 points (10%)

**TOTAL:** 1000 points (100%)

*(plus up to 100 extra credit points)*
### SYLLABUS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LESSON</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT for next class</th>
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| Wed, 23 Aug, 2000 | INTRODUCTION                    | • Wilson, Introduction (pp. 1-10)  
• Majors Group Projects  
• Wilson, Chapter 7 (pp. 161-176)  
"Subject, Purpose, and Point of View" |
| Fri, 25 Aug, 2000 | THE IMPULSE TOWARDS THEATRE     | • Mamet, "Oleanna"  
• Assign scene pairs for presentations                                                                 |
| Mon, 28 Aug, 2000 | "OLEANNA" Discussion            | • Wilson, Chapter 1 (pp. 15-39)  
"The Audience: Its Role and Imagination"  
• Wilson, Chapter 2 (pp. 43-64)  
"Background and Expectations of the Audience" |
| Wed, 30 Aug, 2000 | THE AUDIENCE                    | • Prepare 2-person scenes from "Oleanna"  
• Quiz 1: Chapters 1, 2, 7                                                                 |
| Fri, 1 Sep, 2000  | THE AUDIENCE                    | • Wilson, Chapter 12 (pp. 261-277)  
"Conventions of Dramatic Structure"                                                                 |
| Mon, 4 Sep, 2000  | • • • • • LABOR DAY • • • • • |                                                                                                               |
| Wed, 6 Sep, 2000  | CONVENTIONS                     | • Wilson, Chapter 13 (pp. 279-306)  
"Dramatic Structure: Climactic, Episodic, and Other Forms"                                                    |
| Fri, 8 Sep, 2000  | DRAMATIC STRUCTURE              | • Wilson, Chapter 14 (pp. 309-326)  
"Dramatic Characters"  
• Quiz 2: Chapters 12, 13  
• First scenes                                                                 |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, 11 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>Write 12-20 Line Dialogue with Team (due dates: Sep 15-20, 2000)</td>
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<td>SCENES/1</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>Wed, 13 Sep, 2000</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>Fri, 15 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>DIALOGUES/1</td>
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<td>Mon, 18 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>DIALOGUES/2</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 3 (pp. 67-79) &quot;The Critic and the Audience&quot;</td>
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<td>Wed, 20 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>DIALOGUES/3</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-100) &quot;The Critic and the Audience&quot;</td>
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<td>CRITICISM</td>
<td>&quot;Acting: Offstage and In the Past&quot;</td>
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<td>SCENES/3</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 5 (pp. 103-126) &quot;Stage Acting Today&quot;</td>
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<td>Fri, 22 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>CRITICISM</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-100) &quot;Acting: Offstage and In the Past&quot;</td>
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<td>SCENES/3</td>
<td>&quot;Acting: Offstage and In the Past&quot;</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 5 (pp. 103-126) &quot;Stage Acting Today&quot;</td>
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<td>Mon, 25 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>ACTING/1</td>
<td>Quiz 3: Chapters 4, 5</td>
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<td>SCENES/4</td>
<td>NOTE: &quot;Iphigenia....&quot; previews 9/27</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
<td>&quot;Iphigenia&quot; critique deadline is Wed, Oct 11, 2000</td>
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<td>1st outside critique deadline Wed, Oct 11, 2000</td>
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<td>Wed, 27 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 6 (pp. 129-156) &quot;The Director and the Producer&quot;</td>
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<td>ACTING/2</td>
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<td>SCENES/5</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>Fri, 29 Sep, 2000</td>
<td>DIRECTORS/</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 8 (pp. 179-196) &quot;Tragedy and Other Serious Drama&quot;</td>
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<td>PRODUCERS</td>
<td>Wilson, Chapter 9 (pp. 199-216) &quot;Comedy and Tragicomedy&quot;</td>
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<td>Wilson, Chapter 10 (pp. 219-233) &quot;Musical Theater&quot;</td>
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Mon, 2 Oct, 2000  TRAGEDY/COMEDY
(and other genres)
SCENES/6
Discussion
**FESTIVAL PREFERENCES**

Wed, 4 Oct, 2000  OTHER GENRES
SCENES/7
Discussion
**Quiz 4: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11**
**Wilson, Chapter 15 (pp. 331-352) "Stage Spaces"**
**Wilson, Chapter 16 (pp. 355-384) "Scenery"**

Fri, 6 Oct, 2000  Quiz 4
**Approaches**
**TO DESIGN: STAGE SPACES/SCENERY**
**Wilson, Chapter 17 (pp. 387-406) "Stage Costumes"**
**Wilson, Chapter 18 (pp. 409-428) "Lighting and Sound"**

Mon, 9 Oct, 2000  Approaches
**TO DESIGN: COSTUMES/LIGHTS AND SOUND**

Wed, 11 Oct, 2000  DESIGN PRESENTATIONS/1

Fri, 13 Oct, 2000  DESIGN
**PRESENTATIONS/2**
**Playwrights work on 10-minute, 3-5 character script**

Mon, 16 Oct, 2000  **FALL BREAK**

THE THEATRE GAME

Wed, 18 Oct, 2000  PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP
10-MINUTE SCRIPT/1

Fri, 20 Oct, 2000  PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP
10-MINUTE SCRIPT/2
Mon, 23 Oct, 2000  PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP 10-MINUTE SCRIPT/3 •Director fundraising /staff hiring

Wed, 25 Oct, 2000  DIRECTOR FUNDRAISING /PURCHASING SCRIPTS by the end of this class /HIRING COMPANY •Everyone not yet hired MUST attend Acting Auditions on Mon, Oct 30, 2000 •Designers: your deadline for all design collages, floorplans, posters and programs is Festival night (Mon, Dec 4, 2000)

Fri, 27 Oct, 2000  ACTING AUDITIONS •Actors: check callback list; excused if not called back

Mon, 30 Oct, 2000  CALLBACKS •All Acting Candidates excused until Mon, Nov 6, 2000

Wed, 1 Nov, 2000  CASTING AUCTION

Fri, 3 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/1 (1st Read-Thru/Discussion)

Mon, 6 Nov, 2000  PRODUCTION MEETINGS (REHEARSAL/2) •Group 1 Production Meeting: 10:20am •Group 2 Production Meeting: 10:40am •Group 3 Production Meeting: 11:00am •NOTE: "Canterbury Tales" previews 11/8 •"Canterbury" critique deadline is Wed, Nov 22, 2000 •2nd outside critique deadline is Wed, Nov 29, 2000

Wed, 8 Nov, 2000  PRODUCTION MEETINGS (REHEARSAL/2) •Group 4 Production Meeting: 10:20am •Group 5 Production Meeting: 10:40am •Group 6 Production Meeting: 11:00am
Fri, 10 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/3  •Festival Group 1 Rehearsal
Mon, 13 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/4  •Festival Group 2 Rehearsal
Wed, 15 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/5  •Festival Group 3 Rehearsal
Fri, 17 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/6  •Festival Group 4 Rehearsal
Mon, 20 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/7  •Festival Group 5 Rehearsal
Wed, 22 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/8  •Festival Group 6 Rehearsal
Fri, 24 Nov, 2000  •••••THANKSGIVING•••••
Mon, 27 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/9  •Festival Group 1 Rehearsal: 10:20am
••TAKE-HOME EXAM•• •Festival Group 2 Rehearsal: 10:50am
(due Wed, Dec 6, 2000)
Wed, 29 Nov, 2000  REHEARSAL/10 •Festival Group 3 Rehearsal: 10:20am
•Festival Group 4 Rehearsal: 10:50am
Fri, 1 Dec, 2000  REHEARSAL/11 •Festival Group 5 Rehearsal: 10:20am
•Festival Group 6 Rehearsal: 10:50am

NOTE READING ASSIGNMENT>
•Wilson, Epilogue (pp. 431-441)

Mon, 4 Dec, 2000  WRAP-UP DISCUSSION

THEATRE ARTS FESTIVAL OF PLAYS
at the McCoy Theatre, Mon, Dec 4, 2000, 6:00pm
•••••••••REQUIRED!!!!•••••••••

Wed, 6 Dec, 2000  AWARDS CEREMONY/ STRIKE DAY
All Festival props, scenery, costumes, etc.,
must be removed from the theatre

NOTES:  •Due dates for critiques of off-campus
productions are flexible, due to varying
production schedules; critiques should be
turned in within a week of attending a
production. Critique deadlines are listed above.