**HE467: Pre-WWI American Drama Spring 2013**

**TR10, SAG11 Assoc. Prof. Shaffer**

**Contact info:** tshaffer@usna.edu, 410-293-6220, office hours (Sampson 212) by appointment

**Objectives:** During this class students will have the opportunity to examine the broad range of dramatic literature produced in the British colonies and the United States from the colonial era to the late nineteenth century. (We will start with a pair of widely influential British plays.) Topics such as the growth of the American theatre and the evolution of celebrity in the United States will also be addressed. Students will demonstrate their mastery of the skills pertaining to the English major through the completion of a fifteen-page research essay that makes use of both primary and secondary sources.

**Texts**

Addison, Joseph. *Cato*.

Richards, Jeffrey, ed. *Early American Drama*.

Rowson, Susanna. *Slaves in Algiers*.

Sheridan, Richard. *The School for Scandal and Other Plays*.

Warren, Mercy. *The Motley Assembly and The Group*.

**Readings**

Primary readings will be due on Tuesday of each listed week. Additional secondary readings will be distributed for completion on Thursdays, along with possible short research or writing assignments.

**Grading**

There will be two five-page papers, one of which can be the basis for the long research paper, and a long research paper. At the close of the semester all students will present a 10-minute presentation of work in progress on final paper. Grades will be assigned as follows:

Short essay 1: 15%

Short Essay 2: 20%

Research essay: 50%

Presentation: 15%

There is no official grade for class participation, but I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade by up to a full letter grade for exceptional or egregious in-class conduct.

**Schedule of readings**

8 Jan Course intro

10 Jan Roach handout

15-17 Jan *Cato*

22-24 Jan *The School for Scandal*

29 Jan *The Group* (short research assignment)

31 Jan *The Motley Assembly*

5-7 Feb *The Contrast* in *Early American Drama*

12-14 Feb *Slaves in Algiers* **First short essay due by Friday of this week**

19-21 Feb *Andre* in *EAD*

26-28 Feb *The Indian Princess* (*EAD)*

5-7 March *The Gladiator (EAD)*

12-14 March Spring Break. Don’t get arrested, you’re almost out of here.

19-21 March *Fashion (EAD)*

26-28 March *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (*EAD)*

2-4 April *The Octoroon* *(EAD)* **2nd short essay due**

9-11 April *Rip Van Winkle* (handout)

16-18 April *Secret Service* (handout)

23-25 April Class presentations

30 April Finish class presentations, course evals, **Final paper due**