

THEA 100: Introduction to Theatre

Spring 2011 – 3 Credits

Section 01: 9:00-9:50, MWF
Wintrode Center 120

Section 02: 9:00-9:50 TTh
Animal Science 126

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Office Hrs: MW 10-12, T 10-11
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Course Description

Introductory course designed to enhance the student's enjoyment and understanding of the theatrical experience. Play readings, films, and demonstrations acquaint the students with the history and techniques of the theatrical art.

Additional Course Description

The objective of this course is to serve as an introduction to the study and appreciation of theatre arts. This will be accomplished through readings, research, participation and observation. Theatre art is examined through the study of historical and contemporary theatre practices and critical perspectives, as well as the various elements of design and execution.

Description of Instructional Methods

We will explore the many aspects of the theatrical arts through text reading, lecture, research, video presentations, class discussions, performance demonstrations, theatre space tours and observation. Students will be required to attend at least two live theatrical productions, a play rehearsal, and an audition. Observation opportunities will also include directing scenes, set construction, and rigging.

Required Text

Theatre, 9th Edition, Robert Cohen

Goals and Objectives

This course fulfills the System General Education Core (Gen Ed) for the Baccalaureate Degree, System Goal #4, Gen Ed: Humanities and Arts. *Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through study of the arts and humanities.*

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the diverse values, beliefs, and ideas embodied in the human experience by
 - a. Acquiring the knowledge to make the theatre experience more meaningful by reading plays and studying the theatrical innovations of multiple cultures—from the earliest rituals and the contributions of ancient Greece to the diversity and eclecticism of contemporary theatre today—and through class discussion, participation, exams and pop quizzes.

- b. Inspiring students to become lifelong audience members, if not actual participants in theatre by observing the step-by-step process used in mounting and staging a live theatre production.
2. Identify and explain basic concepts of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities by
 - a. Tracing the development from the ancient Greeks to the present day.
 - b. Exploring the role of the audience members.
 - c. Looking at the work of the playwright, particularly in the creation of dramatic structure and dramatic characters. We will study dramatic genres and investigate point of view in a text as expressed in tragedy, comedy, tragicomedy, melodrama, and other dramatic forms.
 - d. Examining acting and directing, including various acting techniques and methods of training performers, as well as the major approaches to directing.
 - e. Investigating design and technical production, including the nuts and bolts aspects of scenery, costumes, lighting and sound.
 - f. Profiling a Broadway production by giving a view of how all of the elements of theatre come together, from the initial meetings to the closing curtain.
3. Identify and explain the contributions of other cultures from the perspective of selected disciplines within the arts and humanities by
 - a. Exploring the theatrical traditions of Africa, South America, and the Middle East, as well as those of Native Americans.
 - b. Examining the development of theatre in Europe and Asia.
4. Explain and interpret normal and stylistic elements of the literary or fine arts by
 - a. Reading synopses of 11 important plays, ranging from Greek to modern, and including representative works by Asian, African American, and women playwrights.
 - b. Viewing and writing critiques of two plays using Aristotle's elements of theatre as a basis.
5. Demonstrate creative and aesthetic understanding by
 - a. Creating and performing in original group improvisational scenes.
 - b. Designing and applying theatrical makeup for the stage.
 - c. Creating and participating in "theatre games" – vocal and physical warm-up exercises used by actors prior to a performance.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to submit five observation reports based on the following:

1. A theatre class other than Theatre 100: Introduction to Theatre. This class observation may be selected from the following:

Thea 131-01	Intro to Acting	MWF	2:00-2:50	SMU 104
Thea 131-02	Intro to Acting	MWF	2:00-2:50	SPAC 117
Thea 243	Makeup	TTh	8:35-9:50	SPAC Mkup Room
Thea 410	Dramatic Literature	MWF	11:00-11:50	SPAC 214
Thea 435	Hist of Amircan Musical	TTh	2:00-3:15	SPAC 214
Thea 441	Scene Design	TTh	11:00- 12:50	SPAC 214
Thea 492-S01	Costume Crafts	MWF	12:00-12:50	SPAC Cost Shop

2. A play rehearsal
3. A play audition or a session of set/costume construction.
4. A non-collegiate play or musical.

5. A college play or musical - **in addition to** the play or musical used for the critique assignment.

Students will be required to attend a play or musical (in addition to those used for their observation reports) and write a full-length critique based upon Aristotle’s six elements of criticism: plot/structure, character, theme/thought, diction, music, and spectacle.

State University Theatre Plays/Performances:

<u>Nuts</u>	Feb. 16-19, 23-26	Fishback Studio Theatre	7:30 p.m.
<u>Nuts</u>	Feb. 27	Fishback Studio Theatre	2:00 pm.
<u>The Taming of the Shrew</u>	Apr. 13-16	Doner Auditorium	7:30 p.m.
<u>The Taming of the Shrew</u>	Apr. 17	Doner Auditorium	2:00 p.m.
Spring Student Showcase	Apr. 28	Fishback Studio Theatre, PAC	7:30 p.m.

Attendance Policy

Class role will be taken at each class session. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of five points per absence. Medical and family emergencies are legitimate excuses for an absence, but you need to provide a written explanation of your absence to the instructor as soon as you return to class. All university-excused absences should be cleared in advance.

Evaluation Policy

- Assessment and evaluation of your performance in this course will be based on the following:

Three multiple choice exams worth 100 points each	=	300
Five written observation reports worth 10 points each	=	50
Quizzes (multiple choice, true/false, short answer) worth a <u>total</u> of 150 points	=	150
A written critique worth 100 points	=	100
Attendance worth 200 points (-5 points per each unexcused absence)	=	<u>200</u>
Total possible points	=	800
- While each section uses the same text and covers the same content, each instructor is responsible for the exams in that section. There is no “standard” exam for this course.
- The final grade will be based on the following scale:

90-100%	=	A
80-89%	=	B
70-79%	=	C
60-69%	=	D

Dishonesty Policy

Any student behaving dishonestly – any form of cheating or plagiarism – will be dealt with according to the University Disciplinary Policy and will meet with the instructor to determine further action.

- Academic Dishonesty Statement.** Plagiarized reports or papers will result in the student receiving zero points for the assignment. Additional action may be justified depending upon the severity of the offense.
- Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated.** Plagiarism, copying or cheating will result in no credit for that assignment. Severe or repeated offenses will result in further disciplinary action such as the reduction of the final grade and formal reporting of the incident to the student conduct committee.

3. **Academic Integrity.** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or lying will result in the student receiving zero points for the assignment and a semester letter grade one letter lower than their point total. Additional action may be justified depending on the severity of the offense.

Cheating and Plagiarism Policy

The following actions will not be tolerated and if detected will be reported to the appropriate authorities for disposition.

1. Cheating: An act of deception by which a student misrepresents that he or she has mastered information on an academic enterprise that she or he has not mastered.
2. Plagiarism: The offering of, as one's own work, the words, ideas or arguments of another person without appropriate attribution by quotation, reference or footnote.
3. Fabrication: The intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
4. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Those who intentionally or knowingly help or attempt to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty are also subject to penalty.

ADA

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Nancy Hartenoff-Crooks, Coordinator of Disability Services (605-688-4504 or Fax, 605-688-4987) to privately discuss your specific needs. The Office of Disability Services is located in room 125, the Wintrode Student Success Center

Freedom in Learning

Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Student who believes that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should first contact the instructor of the course to initiate a review of the evaluation. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/ or dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Schedule

all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date they are assigned

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/14	Course Introduction	
2	1/17	NO CLASSES	
	1/19	What is Theatre	Chapter 1
	1/21	What is a Play?	Chapter 2
3	1/24	The Components of a Play	Chapter 2
	1/26	The Ancients	Chapter 3
	1/28	The Ancients	Chapter 3
4	1/31	The Middle Ages	Chapter 4

	2/2	The Middle Ages	Chapter 4
	2/4	The Renaissance	Chapter 5
5	2/7	The Renaissance	Chapter 5
	2/9	Review for Exam 1	
	2/11	Exam 1 (Covers Chapters 1-5 and Lectures)	
6	2/14	Theatre of Asia	Chapter 6
	2/16	Theatre of Asia	Chapter 6
	2/18	The Royal Theatre	Chapter 7
7	2/21	NO CLASSES	
	2/23	Modern Theatre – Realism	Chapter 8
	2/25	Modern Theatre – Realism	Chapter 8
8	2/28	Modern Theatre – Anti-Realism	Chapter 9
	3/2	The Musical Theatre	Chapter 10
	3/4	NO CLASSES	
9	3/7	Spring Break	
	3/9	Spring Break	
	3/11	Spring Break	
10	3/14	The Musical Theatre	Chapter 10
	3/16	Theatre Today	Chapter 11
	3/18	Review for Exam 2	
11	3/21	Exam 2 (Chapters 6-11 and lectures)	
	3/23	The Actor	Chapter 12
	3/25	The Actor	Chapter 12
12	3/28	The Playwright	Chapter 13
	3/30	The Playwright	Chapter 13
	4/1	Theatre Spaces – Doner Auditorium	
13	4/4	Designers and Technicians	Chapter 14
	4/6	Theatre Spaces – PAC	
	4/8	Make-up – Lecture	
14	4/11	Make-up – Application	
	4/13	Costumes	
	4/15	The Director	Chapter 15
15	4/18	TBA	
	4/20	Lighting/Sound – All Paperwork Due	Chapter 14
	4/22	NO CLASSES – EASTER	
16	4/25	NO CLASSES – EASTER	
	4/27	The Critic	Chapter 16
	4/29	Review for Final	

Final Exam: MONDAY, MAY 2nd 9:00 – 10:45am