

Introduction to Theatre

Theatre 1030A Class meeting:

location: Hickman 146

time/day: TR 11-12:20

final exam: 12/15: 11am-1 pm

(two part exam: written and performance)

Instructor Lenig

Office: Hickman 149

Office phone: 540.2877

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Office Hours: 8-11am MW 9:30-11am T/R

by appointment

Texts: The Bedford Anthology of Drama, Jacobus

Additional Texts: American Theatre (Library)

Actors on Acting, Cole (on 2h reserve)

A Century of Innovation, Brockett (on 2h reserve)

A History of Theatre, Brockett (on 2h reserve)

Course Description: This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of theatre arts including the best of contemporary theatre and an appreciation of contemporary stagings. This includes:

- a history of acting, directing and theatrical performance
- an intro to improvisation
- the basic terminology of the stage
- script analysis and critical analysis of various plays in performance and text
- discussion of film and other related media that are theatrical in nature

Methods: Instruction is conducted by performance, lecture, discussion, internet resources, exercises, video, analysis of modern and classic scripts, laboratory experience in the areas of acting and play production.

Course Objectives: Students will become familiar with:

- * (a) basic theatre terminology
- * (b) important periods in theatre history
- * (c) the experience/process of performance
- * (d) performing scenes with others
- * (e) critical viewing of performances
- * (f) making a successful theatrical project

Policies: **Attendance: More than 3 unexcused absences fails the course.**

Excused Absences: Excused absences include only: documented illnesses, a death in immediate family, jury duty or an approved campus event.

Make-up work and Late papers: None.

Performance/presentation dates are firm. A missed performance is a zero

Instructor Contact: Yes

Staying Current/Quizzes: Unannounced quizzes may occur. Be prepared.

Laptops and cellphones: do not open, use or annoy me with those things in class. Text message buddy sue AFTER class. Play Nintendo DS while you are in the bathroom and smoke after school.

Don't walk in and out of class repeatedly. Take bathroom breaks before or after class. If you

have to go repeatedly during class, see a urologist or cut back on the Sundrops...

Dropping: The last day a student may drop the course is 11/1

Cheating: **Don't.** Students caught fail the course.

Behavior: Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Failure if you disrupt twice.

Typing: All Work will be typed! No exceptions!!!!

Tardy students: Don't be late. **2 lates drop a grade a letter grade. Don't apologize, be on time. Being on time shows proper respect.**

Apologizing does not.

No cellphones, laptops, or texting in class. Do not do it. It is annoying high school behavior.

Grading: Students will be evaluated on the basis of the completion of the following assignments:

Performance 1	10%	100 points
oral report	10%	100 points
lab work in Theatre (ushering, set building, acting, other chores...)	10%	100 points
4 Exams	40%	400 points
Performance 2	10%	100 points
Theatre essay	10%	100 points
Performance 3	10%	100 points
total	100%	1000 points

Grading Scale: in points

A = 900-1000 B = 800-899 C = 700-799 D = 600-699 F = below 600

Extra Credit:

(1) Attend the Film Series

Students receive **5 points** for EACH attendance **WITH a 100-200 word brief critical essay.**

(2) Support the play: Be an active contributing crew or cast member. Attend rehearsals. Act or build the set. **(up to 50 points possible!!!)**

Format of papers: all typed, preferably word-processed, free of errors in spelling, grammar and syntactical construction. All papers must be carefully proofread and intelligently constructed. Clothing: Wear comfortable clothing suitable for strenuous physical activity in class. **All written work will be judged by regular essay standards.**

Don't slack.

(3) Join Delta Psi Omega: the national honorary organization in theatre and contribute to community projects. We do a literacy project.

NO STUDENT CAN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE COURSE with a passing grade, WITHOUT ACHIEVING COMPETENCY IN COMPOSITION and COMMUNICATION SKILLS. REMEMBER THIS IS A CRITICAL THINKING AND CRITICAL WRITING COURSE.

Evaluation of essays:

Mechanical error (for EACH error)

Spell, punctuation, proofing, minor sentence 5 points

Construction error (for EACH error)

Sentence sense, frag, run-on, paragraphing 10 points

Struc/works cited/text notes (for EACH error)

Complexity/thesis/exemplification 10/20 points

Shallowness/hyperbole/generalization

Immaturity/off topic/incoherent auto failure.

Assignments:

1. **Perform 1:** Improv: A. Each student will rehearse an improv with one other student.
 B. 1st day: half an hour to create a brief scenario and walk through it.
 C. 2nd day: half hour to rehearse and polish it
 D. 3rd class: perform it: complete costumes, make-up
2. **Essay:** 500 words, four sources, thesis, argumentative essay/oral report
3. **4 exams** covering lectures, tapes, CSCC play productions, student presentations, texts, etc. All material mentioned in class is fair game.
4. **Perform # 2:** Class Play: Class script: produced, directed, acted and presented by the class. This year to dedicate the new Hickman building the class play will be performed in the new facility.
5. Usher or perform a larger function as a member of the crew in play production... (TBA)
6. **Perform 3:** Five minutes of Personal Performance or Improv ...

7. Attendance of all CSCC productions this semester: (sign-in sheet after performance)
8. **Oral report** All students will be called upon to give 2 oral report on assigned readings/plays. Students are expected to be prepared, stand/give a cogent analysis and argument about the material. The instructor will assign the thesis for the oral report question.



THEA 1030: Intro to Theatre

Tentative Schedule: subject to change

- * **Graded assignments**
- * **Required Attendance**

9/1: Unit 1: Modern theatre
 lecture: Now: contemporary performance/theatre, performance art
 lecture/demo: intro to improvisation
 ***Performance one: improv (due 9/22)**
 ***Essay #1: play (discussion) (due 9/10)**
 ***Oral Pres: Classic Theatre (due 9/10)**
 films: Swimming to Cambodia, Betrayal, Goldstein, Cinderella
 read:
 9/3: Betrayal _____
 9/8: Fences _____
 9/10: Translations _____
 9/17: Rising of the Moon
 Bedford: Writing about Drama 1783-1795
 9/22: Introduction
 Contemporary Theatre 1330-1342
 ***Exam #1 (9/24)**
 9/24: Unit 2: Greeks/ Renaissance
 lecture: Greeks, Renaissance drama
 read:
 9/29: Orestia _____ (Agamemnon)
 Greeks 29-40
 10/1: Lysistrata _____
 10/6: Hamlet _____
 10/13: Midsummer Dream _____
 10/15: Chik/Love Suicides 621 _____
 Bedford: Renaissance 236-246
 films: Much Ado About Nothing, Hamlet, Forbidden Planet, Tempest, Medea

Break: 10/19-20

***Exam #2 (10/22)**
 10/27 :Unit 3: Neoclass/Romantic
 lecture: French neoclassicism, Restor. era
 German Romanticism; Ibsen
 ***10/29: Oral project: Neoclassical drama**
 read:
 11/3: The Rover _____
 * **Crew Usher Production**
 11/5: The Misanthrope
 Bedford: 517-530) 17th century
 film: Tartuffe (RSC version);
 11/10: Moliere (RSC version)
 lecture: Realism: 19th c.
 Chekhov/Realism/melodrama/Stanislavsky
 * **Performance Two: Class play (11/12)**
 Read: 11/17: Dolls house _____
 ***Exam 3: 11/19**
 11/19: Wilde: Importance
 11/24: Shaw: Mrs. Warren _____
 Bedford: Women in 19th Century (871-888)
 film: Uncle Vanya, Hedda Gabler, Master
 12/1: Unit 4: Modernism/20th c. Avant Garde,
 Modernism:
 Brecht/Beckett, contemporary
 * **Oral Reports on Modernism (12/3)**
 12/8: Glaspell: Trifles _____
 Kushner: Angels _____
 Mother Courage _____
 Bedford: ABBEY THEATR
 film: Brecht, Waiting For
 Godot, Sweeney Todd, Nickolas
 Nickleby, King Lear (Brook)
 ***12/10: Exam #4:**
 ***Performance 3: 5 minutes**
 12/ : 11-12noon