

THEATRE APPRECIATION THE2000 – Summer 2019

Professors: Virginia Marie & Savannah Simerly

Lecture: Monday-Friday

Period 2 (9:30 AM – 10:45 AM)

Fine Arts, Bldg. B – Room 0103

Office Hours: By appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to expose you to live theatre so that you will better appreciate its complexities and cultural importance. Over the course of the semester, you will look behind the scenes in order to explore the collaborative processes that make it work. In addition to studying some of the literature, theories, history, forms, and styles of theatre, you will explore how influences such as ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and economic class shape the experience of theatre in the United States. You will also learn to write and speak critically about theatrical production. This course fulfills a general education and diversity requirement.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. In-class lectures will provide the framework for understanding the theatrical arts and how they connect to the human experience. Additional instruction will come through textbook and play reading augmented by the watching of live theatre.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES FOR DIVERSITY

Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage students to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups in the United States. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values in relation to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced by other persons and groups. Lectures will emphasize the struggles and theatrical contributions of marginalized groups while the reading discussion of assigned plays by “hyphenated” Americans will provide a context for understanding how cultural differences have been negotiated in this country.

GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Content: Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline.

Communication: Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline.

Critical Thinking: Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives,

using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed in various ways. Exams and quizzes on assigned readings will test mastery of content. Communication and critical thinking will be tested through the writing of papers that critique live performance, creative projects that interpret the symbology of theatrical texts, and performance in class discussions.

REQUIREMENTS

- You will do a close reading of all plays and supplemental material. There will be several quizzes given throughout the semester based on your reading.
- You will see two specific shows and write a production critique about each one.
- The final project will be a Production Project. Pulling from materials and experiences from this semester you will present a pitch for a show of your choosing to be added to a theatre's season. You will be presenting orally to the class as well as submitting a written assignment. You will receive specific guidelines towards the end of the course.
- There will be two exams and a final based on the lectures and assigned reading. A topic list will be provided for each exam. Exam dates are provided on the Course Outline but are subject to change.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Theatrical Worlds, ed. Charlie Mitchell (University Press of Florida)

Doubt by John Patrick Shanley

Fences by August Wilson

Laramie Project by Moises Kauffman

Machinal by Sophie Treadwell

Marisol by José Rivera

CANVAS

Grades, additional readings, and paper/project guidelines will be posted on the class website in Canvas. Log on to <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (no "www"), click the blue button that reads "e-Learning in Canvas," and then enter your Gatorlink username and password. This course should appear if you are officially registered. If you require assistance, start with the UF Computing Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>. I cannot add students to Canvas.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

For this class, you are required to see *Second Chances*. You will be given a coupon which you will take to the O'Connell Center ticket office and trade it for a ticket. Their hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00pm-5:30pm and Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Tickets will be available two weeks before the show opens. Do not call the box office to reserve a ticket. You must go in person.

Second Chances: August 2nd, 3rd (7:30pm) & 4th (2pm); Black Box Theatre

More details to come; visit <https://arts.ufl.edu/academics/theatre-and-dance/current-season/>

A “Production Critique” will be due shortly after the close of *Second Chances*. Likely, your teachers will not be able to proof read your papers. If you desire writing assistance, please visit the UF Writing Studio. You can find more information at <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Extra Credit Opportunity:

The *only* extra credit offered in this course is providing proof that you have seen a Hippodrome Theatre production or other production (with instructor approval before viewing). Details will be provided in class.

PARTICIPATION GRADE

This grade will be based on your degree of involvement in discussion sessions as well as attendance (see below), and conduct at shows. Simply showing up to class is not enough to earn an A in Participation. If you have any questions about the course or course material, contact us. If you have questions about missing grades, contact us.

Instructor will excuse students that use electronic devices during classes. Excused students will receive an absence for the day and a zero for any work done for the day in which students were excused.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to attend all lecture. You are responsible for all material covered. If you miss a class, get the notes from a peer. The following attendance policy begins the first day you are enrolled in the course: You can miss ***TWO*** unexcused classes without penalty. Your ***third unexcused absence*** will automatically assure that the highest grade you can receive in the class is a B, and ***four unexcused absences will earn you a failing grade for the entire course.***

The following absences are excused: illness (doctor’s note required), religious holidays, and participation in official university activities. Weddings, job interviews, and other life events do not count as excused absences. If you have a logistical problem that is preventing you from arriving to class on time, notify us immediately.

Being late three times equals one absence. Share all attendance documentation with instructors. If absent, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain the information given in class from another student.

If student is over 20 minutes late from the beginning of class, student will receive an absence for the day.

NOTE: Any absence during a Final Presentation Day will count as TWO absences.

LATE WORK

Late assignments will be docked 10% per day late.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Three Exams - 30 %

Production Critique - 25 %

Quizzes - 15 %

Final Project - 20 %

Attendance/Participation - 10 %

SCALE

A 93-100 Superior Effort

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86 Good Effort

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76 Average Effort

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 63-66 Minimum Effort

D- 60-63

F 59-

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found in the online catalog at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

CLASS CONDUCT Classes of this size demand a mutual respect to function positively. Therefore, there will be **no cell phone use (including texting), sleeping, eating, drinking, doing work for other classes, reading, or disruptive talking.** If you engage in any of these behaviors, you will be ejected.

HONOR CODE

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." ***If you cheat on a test or quiz, or plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class.*** Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

AVAILABILITY

If you are ever in need of assistance, have questions, or would like to discuss anything pertaining to the course please email us. Again, we do not have formal office hours but we can make ourselves available before or after almost any class with sufficient notice.

EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>. Your ongoing enrollment is confirmation that you understand and will comply with the requirements of this course. I reserve the right to alter this syllabus if necessary.