

Syllabus

Instructor

Hello and welcome to Theatre Appreciation! My name is [Dr. Charlie Mitchell](https://arts.ufl.edu/directory/profile/1669) (<https://arts.ufl.edu/directory/profile/1669>). Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions about the course that go beyond what is covered in the syllabus and FAQ. I can be contacted in three ways:

1) You can email me through the Canvas email system or through your own email program at cmitchell@ufl.edu (<mailto:mmailto:%20cmitchell@ufl.edu?subject=Question%20about%20Theatre%20Appreciation>). Please allow at least 24 hours for a response.

2) You can call me 352-273-0515 during office hours (Tuesday/Thursday 12-2pm). If I don't answer, be sure to leave a name and call-back number.

3) You can reach me [through Zoom during office hours](https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94424949949) (<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94424949949>) (Tuesday/Thursday from 12- 2pm). Click on "Zoom Conferences" on the left menu if you have trouble with this link. Due to Covid restrictions, I can not meet students in my physical office.

Contacting me is not "bothering" me. It's my job as your professor to help you do your best.

Because of the large size of the class, grading is done by my teaching assistants. If you have questions about grades on specific assignments, you should contact them directly. To find contact information for the TA assigned to you, click on the page "How to Contact my TA" in this module.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to expose you to live theatre so that you will better appreciate its cultural importance and the processes that make live theatre happen. Over the course of the semester, you will look behind the scenes in order to explore the collaborative processes that make live theatre 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. 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 underrepresented Americans will provide a context for understanding how cultural identity has 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 and creative projects that interpret the symbology of theatrical texts.

Course Requirements

In order to be successful in this course, all students must participate fully in the activities listed below:

- Close readings of assigned textbook chapters, plays, and posted material
- Watch video lectures and supplementary videos
- Take a weekly quiz on assigned readings and lectures
- Post on the class' Discussions board based on a prompt
- View theatrical performances and write a critique about each one

- Produce a creative project based on a required play

A full schedule of assignment due dates can be seen by choosing the Calendar button on the left hand side of the screen.

Required Texts

All of the texts below are required. You can purchase any edition of these plays from any source but get them all at the beginning of the semester. Don't wait. After a few weeks, unsold books in the campus bookstore are returned to the publishers. No exceptions will be made for students who have ordered from third parties and are waiting for delivery. I can't violate copyright laws by sending you pdf versions of plays.

TEXTBOOK:

Theatrical Worlds - Beta Version (University Press of Florida, 2014). This book was developed in response to the high cost of theatre textbooks which commonly retail between \$90 and \$120 for new editions. [A free pdf version is available \(http://opensourcetheatretextbook.wordpress.com/\)](http://opensourcetheatretextbook.wordpress.com/) to read online but most students find that a physical copy is easier to read and study. It's your choice.

REQUIRED PLAYS:

Doubt by John Patrick Shanley

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

M. Butterfly by David Henry Hwang

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity by Kristoffer Diaz

Machinal by Sophie Treadwell

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman (Note: The bookstore may have ordered a version which includes an additional piece entitled *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*. You are only responsible for *The Laramie Project*.)

Honky by Greg Kalleres. (Note: This play sometimes sells out at the bookstore and online copies can be quite pricey. If you go to Dramatists Play Service, they have affordable copies.

[\(https://www.dramatists.com/\)](https://www.dramatists.com/) [\(https://www.dramatists.com/\)](https://www.dramatists.com/)). Make sure you verify that the author is Greg Kalleres. (There is a book by the same title on Amazon; this is NOT our text).

How the Class is Conducted

There is no live component to this course -- it will be conducted entirely online. Instead of going to a classroom, you will do the assigned reading, watch video lectures or listen to audio material.

The course includes the following assignments:

Quizzes: You will take multiple choice/true-false quizzes based on the material assigned. Almost all quizzes are worth a total of 20 points. You may not take the quiz after the due date and time.

Discussion Board: You will also be asked to find information or offer ideas and post it for the rest of the class. *Meaningful* posts that are *on topic*, fulfill the requirements, and use college-level writing will receive 10 points. If you are awarded fewer than 10 points, it is usually for the following reasons:

- Lack of depth in your answer
- Opinions that are not supported by details
- Lack of proofreading, i.e. improper spelling, grammar, punctuation
- Using slang or instant message language (ex. lol, omg, yolo etc.)
- The post is off topic or didn't answer the entire question
- The post is late
- Plagiarism (see *below*)

Papers: Due to the pandemic, you will view three specific online performances and write one paper about each one. I will email you details about how to watch them.

Creative Project: At the end of the semester, you will be responsible for a creative project based on your interpretation of the play *Honky*. Instructions will be available in the last module.

Late Work

I will accept late work up to 24 hours after the deadline but you will receive a a 20% point deduction. Please update your personal calendar with due dates to make sure that you do not miss any assignments.

Understand Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation at this university and will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize, I will fail you for the course. Cutting and pasting *any* text from a website without attribution (no matter how much) is plagiarism. That includes plot summaries. I understand getting behind and panicking when due dates arrive but you are better off telling me you screwed up rather than risk your academic future. Besides, plagiarism is easy to catch. All of my TA's are trained to find it and we are assisted by very good detection software. Other Honor Code violations include soliciting quiz answers from other students, writing a paper about a show you did not see, or uploading anything from this course to an outside website. The penalty is the same.

So how do you avoid plagiarism? Simple - always cite your sources. It is fine to build upon the ideas of others or use them to support your own argument. All you have to do is give the original thinker credit. Look to reliable sources with some kind of institutional stamp -- a news organization

or university entity for example. Think of yourself as joining a community of thinkers that's been debating since the beginning of time. It's ok to agree with their ideas or use them to prove a point. College is not a system to beat. It's a space where we want to know your opinion based on what you saw or read.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Make-ups

I will accept makeup work under the following conditions: medical illness documented by a physician; serious family emergency, military obligation, and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty or subpoena). For university activities and other events that fall on the deadline, I expect you to complete your work in advance.

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

Computer Problems

Computers crash and internet connections fail. If you are having computer problems, please contact the UF Helpdesk:

Walk-in: [HUB 132](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/about/business-hours/) [_ \(http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/about/business-hours/\)](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/about/business-hours/)

Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)

Course 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/> [_ \(https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/\)](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that is documented with [the Disability Resource Center](https://disability.ufl.edu/) [\(https://disability.ufl.edu/\)](https://disability.ufl.edu/) and wish to discuss accommodations, contact me as soon as possible so I can arrange longer times for quizzes. If you have a learning disability that has NOT been documented, contact the DRC at 352.392.8565 or email accessuf@dso.ufl.edu.

<mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu>

Grade Scale

Grading is based upon the scale listed below.

- A 93-100
- A- 90-92
- B+ 87-89
- B 83-86
- B- 80-82
- C+ 77-79
- C 73-76
- C- 70-72
- D+ 67-69
- D 63-66
- D- 60-63
- E 59-

[Click "Next" below to advance]