

THE 4111: HISTORY OF THEATRE ON STAGE 2
ROOM MCCA2196
M/W/F 3:00-3:50 PM

COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: Continues the survey of THE 4110 from the 18th century to the present, with featured segments on African and contemporary world theatre. Particular emphasis on the 19th century and the emergence of modernist movements: realism, expressionism, Artaud, Brecht.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course is a survey of the global history of dramatic literature and stage performance from the eighteenth century to the present day. We will implement a global lens to study the history of theatre and its relation to the social, political, and cultural changes of the time and society. Periods are discussed in somewhat chronological order, concentrating on each era's culture, texts, theatrical spaces, and performance practices. Simultaneously, the course will also examine multiple voices through various lenses to acquire a more holistic understanding of "Theatre and Society" by interrogating who writes history and how that impacts our critical understanding of historical narratives.

The aim of the class is to give students a solid working knowledge of global theatre history in the context of the social and artistic movements within which performance in its many forms has existed and to convey an understanding of theatre as an art shaped through the centuries by a cultural dialectics of acceptance and rejection, artistic vision and political power.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Jashodhara Sen (Ph.D.)

E-mail: jsen@ufl.edu

Office: SoTD 0224

Phone: 352-294-9124

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:35 am-12:35 pm & Thursday 3:00-4:00 pm

[Book time with Sen, Jashodhara](#)

Instructor correspondence:

I prefer UF email over CANVAS messaging but will try to respond to both within 24 hours.

Website: <https://www.jashodharasen.com/>

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

- Introduction to the terminology and landscape of evolving theatre and performance histories through a global lens, including ethical considerations, guiding principles, and approaches associated with the field.
- The student will develop skills to write critical evidence-based essays, maintaining academic standards.
- Think critically about theatre and performance historiography
- Practice dramaturgy
- Gain introductory skills in facilitating in-class discussions/performance experiences.

Expectations for the course can be narrowed down to three axioms.

- Be Respectful
- Be Prepared
- Be Responsible

COURSE WEBSITE:

elearning.ufl.edu

Log into the e-Learning system **Canvas** with your Gatorlink ID and password. You will see THE 4111 as one of your courses.

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT:**

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help. If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me via email. **Even if we confirm our meeting after class, email me to confirm again.**

If requesting an appointment outside my office hours, give me times that you are available in the initial email. My office hours are posted above.

CONTENT WARNING:

We are building a community that fosters a safe, brave, and encouraging learning environment. If you find any materials, we cover in this course unsettling or challenging, please do not hesitate to share your feelings about the materials with me. Some texts may incorporate sexual and violent content, and these topics will be dealt with sensitively in class. I will give you advance notice when specific materials or content covered may contain images, language, or perspectives that some may find challenging. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering certain content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

**TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

There is no textbook for the class. Assigned readings and play texts are available through the class Canvas website. For class meetings, students must have a copy of the day's assigned reading either as a hard copy or a soft copy. **Please check Canvas before class so we are on the same page.**

WE WILL USE PLAYS AND CHAPTERS FROM:

Gainor, Garner, Puchner, eds. Norton Anthology of Drama, Vol. 2, 2nd edition. 2014. ISBN 9780393921519.

(Readings will be uploaded in PFD formats on Canvas. If you want to purchase a hard copy, check eBay and other used book websites: \$5:29-80:00.)

PLAYS TO BE READ FOR CLASS: Play PDFs provided.

- *Miss Julie* by August Strindberg, 1888
- *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell, 1916
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, 1959
- *Catastrophe* by Samuel Beckett, 1982
- *Fences* by August Wilson, 1985
- *Dance Like a Man* by Mahesh Dattani, 1990
- *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen, 2011
- *Drowning in Cairo* by Adam Ashraf El-Sayigh, 2022



GRADE BREAKDOWN

Attendance: 25 pts

Participation: 25 pts

Reading Responses: 30 pts

Paper abstract: 25 pts

Midterm: 100 pts

Final Paper: 100 pts

TOTAL: 305 pts

Extra credit: 15

GRADING

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance sheets are passed around every class. You are allowed one “unexcused” absence that does not require documentation and does not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.” Any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of half a full letter grade (5%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence. To be considered “excused,” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with me and/or area faculty to discuss the student’s continued participation in the course.

See the Student Handbook for more information.

You are absent for that session if you are more than 10 minutes late to class. If you come late a lot, that may also result in a cumulative count of absences.

NOTE: If you are having difficulties meeting the course requirements and are thinking about dropping, please reach out to me. I would like to have the chance to hear about what you are struggling with to see if there is a way to help you meet the outcomes of the course.

PARTICIPATION (25 points)

This course relies on developing a community of researchers, writers, and artists responding to each other’s work. Your participation grade is determined by your active, thoughtful, and informed participation in class discussion (distinct from mere attendance) as well as your contribution to the classroom community. Not adhering to these guidelines will result in a greatly reduced participation grade. Tardiness, particularly repeated tardiness, will significantly decrease your participation grade.

Please see the University attendance policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

READING RESPONSES (30 points)

Three plays out of eight have an associated reading response that can be completed online until the class period in which the play is discussed. A reading response is writing about your thoughts or your reaction(s) to a reading. A reading response is not a formal paper but should be well-thought-out, fully developed, and carefully written. An effective response will demonstrate your artistic and intellectual engagement with the play, supported by examples and specific details to further your observations. You will write a “diary entry” for this assignment describing your engagement with the play. Each response should be at least 500 words. Please follow the Times New Roman or Calibri Font style, 12-point, double-spaced; if you decide to cite outside sources, please use MLA style citation, 8th or 9th Edition. Write clearly and use proper punctuation marks.

Citation is not mandatory but highly encouraged.

The responses must be uploaded to Canvas under the designation discussion board. The reading responses will be available to our entire classroom community to react, comment, and communicate on each other’s reading responses. You will comment on at least one peer’s entry to earn full credit for this assignment.



PAPER ABSTRACT (25 points)

An abstract is a concise paragraph spanning 150 to 250 words, offering readers a brief insight into the content and structure of your essay. It articulates your thesis or central idea, outlines key points, and hints at potential implications or applications derived from the discussed research within the paper.

See more information about how to write an abstract [HERE](#).

MIDTERM COMPREHENSIVE EXAM (100 points)

The exam, comprising both multiple-choice and brief response questions, will be made available on Canvas post-class and must be completed within the specified timeframe. It serves as an evaluation of your comprehension and involvement with theatre history, plays, and performances spanning from the first day of the class to the exam week. It’s important to note that this exam does not permit the use of reference materials; it is not an “open book” examination.

FINAL PAPER (100 points)

This class requires you to write an academic essay. You can choose a play, a style, or a performance genre for this assignment. If you propose a play or topic, we are NOT discussing this semester, please talk to me ahead of time for consideration. We will not discuss the fundamentals of essay writing, but if you need a quick review, please come to my office. Here are some points to consider before you choose your topic.

1. An academic essay should **answer a question** or **analyzes a text**.
2. It should have a **thesis statement** (answer to the question) and an **argument**. **An argument is your perspective on the topic, which is objective and not an emotional response without evidence.**
3. An academic essay should include relevant **examples**, supporting **evidence**, and **information** from academic texts or credible sources.

Your final paper will be a short four-page or 1000–1200-word paper on any of the plays, theories, playwrights, styles, or performance genres we are studying in class. If you choose to write about a play, the paper will include a biographical summary of the playwright, an

analytical overview of the play, and a brief discussion of the play's production history, including contemporary productions.

DO NOT write "compare and contrast" papers between two plays or authors we studied. The information required for this paper will have to be discerned only from books and peer-reviewed journal articles, one newspaper or magazine article sourced from a reputable newspaper and magazine, and only one source can be a recognized website. For this research paper, you need a minimum of five and a maximum of 14 references. Arrange this paper across several paragraphs and thematically connect them. **Avoid citing Wikipedia as a credible academic source.**

You will receive a detailed rubric for this assignment. For this final paper, I encourage all of you to visit: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

EXTRA CREDIT: Choose Your Own Adventure (15 points)

There are many ways to earn extra credit. All require approval from me via email or a meeting during office hours to discuss details. Please email or meet me during office hours to see how many points you can get for your chosen activity. Some opportunities will be announced in class. Examples of Choose Your Own Adventure activities **include writing a short response between 500-800 words of one of the plays we are reading in class by the due date**, performing in University or community productions (director's signature and/or program required), or volunteering as an usher, working backstage for shows, etc.

Course Fees: Course fees cover the cost of coupons for all theatre productions. **

Score Percent Grade Points

934-1000	93.4-100	A	4.00
900-933	90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
867-899	86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
834-866	83.4-86.6	B	3.00
800-833	80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
767-799	76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
734-766	73.4-76.6	C	2.00
700-733	70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
667-699	66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
634-666	63.4-66.6	D	1.00
600-633	60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-599	0-59.9	E	0.00

NOTE: The grading scale is calculated in proportion to the 100-point scale.

**Please note that if you need to discuss any graded materials with me, please recognize the 24/7 grade policy that I follow in my classroom. If you have any issue with a paper or an exam grade, I request that you wait 24 hours to think it over, then write me an email to make an appointment with me to discuss how you can improve your grade and go over any questions. This process must be initiated within a week from the date the grade is published in your grade book.

COURSE SCHEDULE

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS OR VIA EMAIL

MONTH	WEEK/DATE	TOPIC	READING/VIEWING/DUE DATES
January	Week 1 M 8	Introduction, Welcome	Syllabus & Review
	W 10	EUROPE: The 18th Cen. Stage: Romanticism and Melodrama	Read: "Romanticism and Melodrama" (PDF on Canvas)
	F 12	A Brief Introduction to ISMS	
	Week 2 M 15	MLK Day	No Class
	W 17		Workshop on Academic Writing
	F 19	Euro-American Realism and Naturalism	
	Week 3 M 22	Discussion of <i>Miss Julie</i>	Read: <i>Miss Julie</i> by August Strindberg Reading Response#1 Due by 3:00 PM
	W 24		Discussion continues
	F 26	A Brief Intro to Feminism and Theatre	
	Week 4 M 29	Discussion of <i>Trifles</i> Susan Glaspell	Read: <i>Trifles</i> by Susan Glaspell Reading Response#2
	W 31	The Effects of modernism & postmodernism in theatre	Epic Theatre: Bertolt Brecht
February	F 2		Read: "Brecht's Epic Theatre as a Modern Avant-Garde and Its Influence on Postmodern Theatre/Drama" by R. Basuki
	Week 5 M 5		Read: <i>Catastrophe</i> by Samuel Beckett, 1982
	W 7		Discussion continues
	F 9		What is Performance Studies?

		Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Performance	Watch before class: https://hemisphericinstitute.org/en/hidv1-collections/item/1979-wips-rschechner.html
	Week 6 M 12		In-class viewing: Coco Fusco and Guillermo Gómez-Peña: <i>The Couple in the Cage: Two Undiscovered Amerindians Visit the West</i>
	W 14		Discussion continues
	F 16		Guest: Bharatanatyam Dancers
	Week 7 M 19		Read: <i>Drowning in Cairo</i> by Adam Ashraf El-Sayigh (PDF on Canvas) please don't share the script without permission
	W 21		Guest:
	F 23		Discussion continues
March	Week 8 M 26	Contemporary American Theatre: The Revolutionary Artistic Movements	
	W 28		Read: <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry Reading Response#3 Due by 3 PM
	F 1		Discussion continues
	Week 9 M 4		
	W 6		Read: <i>Fences</i> by August Wilson, 1985
	F 8		Discussion continues
	Spring Break 9-16		
	Week 10 M 18	Contemporary Indian Theatre	Read: "Contemporary Indian Theatre" E. Mee
	W 20		Read: <i>Dance Like a Man</i> by Mahesh Dattani
	F 22		Discussion continues Midterm opens after class and closes on Sunday, 14th at 10 AM
	Week 11 M 25	Representation Matters	Third-World Feminism Discussion and in-class exercises

April	W 27		Read: Esteban Muñoz. "What's Queer about Queer Studies Now?" (PDF)
	F 29		Discussion continues
	Week 12 M 1		In-class working session Extra Credit Final Due Date
	W 3	Pop-culture and Theatre	
	F 5		Read: <i>She Kills Monsters</i> by Qui Nguyen
	Week 13 M 8		Discussion continues
	W 10		Final paper workshop
	F 12		Final Paper Workshop
Last Two Weeks Week 14 M 15	Community and Theatre: Theatre of the Oppressed	Read: Theatre of the Oppressed (PDF on Canvas)	
W 17	TO Workshop: Image and Forum Theatre	Games For Actors and Non-Actors	
F 19	Forum Theatre	In-class working session	
Week 15 M 22		Forum theatre performance	
W 24 FINAL PAPER DUE		In-class working session	

By decision of the faculty in the School of Theatre and Dance, the following statement is included on all departmental syllabi: Since production is the laboratory for all theatre courses, attendance at all mainstage Department of Theatre and Dance productions is required of students enrolled in classes with the following prefix designations: THE, TPA, TPP, ORI. Critiques of and/or responses to these productions may be required. Attendance at all related events is encouraged.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

IMPORTANT: Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://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 accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. 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/>.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a respectful manner to the instructor and fellow students. Please avoid cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in the discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Counseling and Wellness Center Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scsr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

Online Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.