

Theatre 120: Introduction to Theatre
Section 001, 3 Credit Hours

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Spring 2004

MWF 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

Reynolds Studio Theatre

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Dr. David Callaghan

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Office hours: M, W, F 10:00-11:00 am; M, W, 2:00--5:00; TR 10:45-12:00

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Welcome to Introduction to Theatre!

Please read over this syllabus and address any questions immediately. Thank you and have a wonderful semester!

I. Course Content

This course will explore the various components of the theatrical process. You will develop the skills, knowledge, and vocabulary needed to view, analyze, and comprehend a variety of theatrical styles and genres (i.e., forms). In addition, you will enhance your understanding and appreciation of the theatre experience by directly participating in one aspect of theatre considered in class.

II. GEC Curriculum Requirement/Goals: This course is closely aligned with goals of the GEC as follows:

This course reflects the GEC goal that states, "students will acquire knowledge of the special 'languages' and symbolic structures of the fine arts, enabling them to understand and to reflect upon themselves and the world through works of art, music, dance, and theatre." We will discuss how the language and symbol systems of theatre are similar to and different from other forms. In addition, you will begin to see how theatre as an art form can help us to gain insight into the larger human condition, as well as how theatre both reflects and influences the culture in which it is created.

III. Required Text: Robert Cohen. Theatre: Brief Version, 6th ed. McGraw Hill, 2003. You will also be required to read the script (libretto) for our spring musical, A Class Act, which I will place on reserve in the library.

IV. Attendance/lateness Policy:

1. This course does not have an attendance policy per se, but to do well in this course you must attend on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to make-up any missed material. I reserve the right to change the class schedule if necessary. This course is equally weighted between text and lecture notes and your exams will reflect that balance accordingly. PLEASE DO NOT COME LATE

AS THIS IS VERY DISRUPTIVE TO ME AND YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS.
Consistent tardiness will result in a lowering of your grade at my discretion.

2. Attendance Policy as it Affects Grading:

a) Students who have unexcused absences on test days or due dates for projects and papers will receive a zero for that particular test.

b) Students with a doctor's excuse or other University approved absence may make up the exam, or turn in the paper or project late. However, it is the student's responsibility to arrange the make-up exam. The student must also provide qualified documentation of an excused absence. Please consult the Fledgling for more information on the University's policy for excused absences.

V. Assignments and Point Values

1. Exams: You will be given two in-class exams (100 points each) and a final exam (150 points). Each exam will consist of a variety of questions including possibly multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay. The final will be comprehensive, although material from the last third of the class will be emphasized. All three tests will contain material from the book AND class discussions, lectures, and videos.

2. Attend two (2) stage productions this semester. Of the two required shows, one (1) must be UM Theatre's spring musical, A Class Act, Palmer Auditorium, April 15-17. Your other required production could be a UM Theatre production in the Chichester black box theatre or an off-campus show. You will be required to write a production critique (1) of A Class Act and to provide a program and ticket stub for the 2nd production. The critique is worth 100 points; attendance of the 2nd play 50 points. I will provide a separate assignment sheet with details in the near future.

3. Read a play or book from a list that will be provided, and then meet with me individually to discuss the work during a fifteen minute oral exam. Specific written guidelines will follow, but you will need to schedule your meeting with me in advance. This outside project is worth 100 points and must be completed by Friday, April 23..

4. Your point breakdown, then, is as follows:

In-class exams	200 pts (100 pts. each)
Final exam	150 pts
Critique	100 pts
2nd play attendance	50 pts
Outside Project/Oral Exam	100 pts
Total	600 pts

Please speak to me if you're having trouble with any aspect of the course--I can probably help if you don't wait until the last minute.

VI. Grading

1. Point values and letter grades will be issued on each assignment, and your scale for final grades is as follows:

Grading Scale

600-540 of the total points equals an A; 539-480 = B; 479-420 = C; 419-360 = D; 359 and below = F.

VII. Late Assignments and Other Expectations

1. Late assignments will be penalized five points a day.
2. Type all written work. Elements of form (i.e.; legibility, organization, punctuation, grammar, etc.) and the overall quality of your writing will affect your grade.
3. Actively participate in all class discussions and be fully prepared for each class. In addition, please wear comfortable clothing that you can move in (including non-skid, comfortable shoes) when we deal with the "Acting" portion of the class.
4. Please do not eat or drink in the classroom as it is also a theatre. Thanks!
5. Safety First! In all acting exercises, it is your responsibility to follow directions and consider safety issues as you work.
6. Please make sure that your work is your own. Any acts of plagiarism will be taken seriously and students guilty of claiming credit for work that is not their own will face penalties for academic misconduct.

a) Quoted from the Student Fledgling:

"Academic Dishonesty is defined as CHEATING and PLAGIARISM.

Cheating is the giving or receiving of aid whether written or oral, or otherwise, in order for a student to receive undeserved credit for work that is his/her own responsibility. Plagiarism occurs when a student uses the words or the ideas of another without acknowledging that they belong to someone else."

b) Please read the university's definition of and policy on plagiarism listed below:

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: To claim as one's own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the following:

using the exact words of another person's work/writing without acknowledgment of your source through the use of quotation marks and correct citation/documentation;

rephrasing a passage by another writer without giving proper credit;

using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement;

using a piece of writing for one course that was already used in a previous course (or in courses in which you are simultaneously enrolled) without express permission from both instructors to do so; and presenting fabricated or falsified

citations or materials.

Please consult with the instructor of this course if you are unsure about how to document sources. Cheating on exams is also an affront to the principle of academic honesty. At the very least, an assignment on which plagiarism or cheating has occurred will receive no credit, i.e., a "zero," and an Academic Dishonesty Incident Form concerning the incident will be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. A plagiarist/cheater is also subject to failure in the course and/or appearance before the Justice Council.

(Approved by Faculty Senate, Spring 2000)

Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

January

M 12 Introduction; review course syllabus and expectations

W 14 What is ART and what is THEATRE? (Introduction and Chapter 1)

F 16 Continued; Theatre Spaces (Pages 118-123)

M 19 No class--MLK holiday

W 21 Theatre Spaces (Chapter 7)

F 23 The Critic and Criticism/Censorship (Chapter 3)

M 26 Types of Drama (Pages 30-38)

W 28 Continued

F 30 Continued

February

M 2 Play structure (Pages 39-51)

W 4 No class-American College Theatre Festival

F 6 The Playwright and New Play Development (Chapter 4)

M 9 Continued

W 11 Exam #1

F 13 The Director (Chapter 6)

M 16 Review exams; The Director

W 18 *The Director-Guest Speaker (s)

F 20 The Modern Theatre/style (Chapter 8)

M 23 The Actor (Chapter 3)

W 25 Continued

F 27 Continued

March

M 1 Guest Presentation-The Actor

W 3 Acting Exercises-Group A

F 5 Acting Exercises-Group B

M 8 Group A presentations

W 10 Group B presentations
F 12 Exam #2

M 15 The Design Process (Chapter 5)
W 17 Continued-Guest Speaker (s)
F 19 Continued
Spring Break

M 29 The Design Process
W 31 Commercial & Non-Profit Theatre/The Producer (Pages 348-358)
April
F 2 No class-Individual meetings for Oral Exams

M 5 Regional Theatre/Arts in the Community
W 7 Musical Theatre (Chapter 9, pages 277-285)
F 9 Musical Theatre (Pages 286-293)

M 12 Musical Theatre; preview A Class Act
W 14 No class
F 16 No class-Individual meetings for Oral Exams

M 19 Discuss A Class Act; watch Moon Over Broadway
W 21 Continue video
F 23 Finish video and discuss. **Critiques for A Class Act due and Oral Exams must be completed by this date.

M 26 Current trends in theatre (Chapter 10). ** Any outstanding programs/ticket stubs are also due on this date.
W 28 Continued; Review for Final Exam as needed

FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 3rd, 10:30 a.m.--12:30 p.m., Reynolds Studio Theatre.

ADA Statement: Students who may need disability-related academic accommodations or who have emergency medical needs are encouraged to contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (campus telephone 6250). This office is located in Student Support Services in the rear of Main Hall. You must have a Classroom Accommodation Request letter provided by that office in order to receive accommodations in this class. Academic accommodations may be provided, but no essential course requirements will be changed. You may contact your professor or Deborah McCune with any questions.

Student E-mail:

Please Note: The University has established e-mail (UMail) addresses

(userID@umail.montevallo.edu) as one of the official means by which the University communicates with students. Faculty will use the UMail system as one of the methods to communicate with students and to distribute appropriate class materials effective Fall 2003. Students should access links on the University's web site for UMail instructions, tips, and guidelines for management of UMail accounts or contact the Division of Student Affairs or the Office of Computer Services. It is the students' responsibility to monitor their accounts regularly. Messages over 60 days old are subject to an automated purge by the UMail system.