

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

Department of Communications and Theatre

TH 210 Introduction to Theatre

Office: Comm Building #205

3 Credit Hours

CB 131

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To help students become educated theatre-goers whose enjoyment of theatrical events is enhanced by critical perspective and understanding of the elements which constitute the art of theatre.
2. To gain an understanding of the relationship between production elements of the theatre. This includes the playwright, script, director, designer, actor, etc.
3. To gain an understanding of the different occupations in theatre.
4. To study different genres of theatre and the structure of a play.
5. To give an overview of the history and future of theatre.
6. To understand the difference between professional and student criticism of theatre and critique all elements of design, direction and performance in a live theatrical production.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:

- **Theatre(6th Edition)** by Robert Cohen (or Brief Version)
- **Brighton Beach Memoirs** by Neil Simon
- **A Streetcar Named Desire** by Tennessee Williams
- **The Piano Lesson** by August Wilson
- Purchase of One \$5 Student ticket and the viewing of UNA's Fall Theatre production to write a critique. Performances are in Norton Auditorium on the UNA campus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Assigned readings from the main text and the 3 supplementary plays listed above.
2. Exams on readings listed above, handouts, class discussion and lectures.
3. Critique for fall theatre production.
4. Production Workbook from one of the plays read for class.
5. In class discussion of readings and observations from live theatre and film viewings in class.

GRADING:

Grades will be determined by the following point system:

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| 1. Quizzes from play reading/video viewing | 5@ 25 points (will drop lowest score) |
| 2. Written Critique | 1@ 100 points |
| 3. Major Exams | 2@ 50 points |
| 4. Production Workbook Project | 1@ 100 points |
| 5. Participation/Attendance | 100 points |
| | Total: 500 points |

Final grades will be determined by the total number of points earned as follows:

A= 450-500

B= 400-449

C= 350-399

D= 300-349

F= 0-299

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is required. Much of your learning in this class will be based on discussions we have on the topics under study. Two absences will be dropped without penalty. For each subsequent absence, **ten (10)** points will be deducted from your cumulative point total at the end of the semester,(from your attendance/participation grade).

Class will begin on time. Late arrivals will not be tolerated. If you are more than 10 minutes late you will be counted absent for that class. Roll will be taken at the beginning of class through a sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to sign in. This is a large class and you must take responsibility for yourself. Three tardies (less than 10 minutes late) will equal one absence. **IF THE DOOR TO THE CLASSROOM IS SHUT, YOU ARE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LATE, AND YOU MAY NOT ENTER!!!!**

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Any late assignment will be counted off a FULL LETTER GRADE (10 points per 100 points) for EACH DAY it is late. This includes weekends. If you miss a quiz, YOU MAY NOT MAKE IT UP. I WILL DROP YOUR LOWEST QUIZ GRADE AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.**
- 1. **Assigned Reading-** All reading assignments are required and must be completed by the date on the class calendar. You will be tested on the main text and all play readings.
- 2. **Quizzes-** There will be a quiz on all plays read (3) and two on video viewings.
- 3. **Play Critiques-** Papers must **be at least 4** pages in length (typed, double spaced, 1-inch margin, 10 or 12 point font only). This is so we can discuss and critique as a class the same production. Mark you calendar now. There are no excuses. I will accept early papers. Adequate time is given for these papers to be turned in.
- 4. **Production Workbook Project-** You will choose one of the plays read in class and produce a “workbook” for a show as you might produce the show. An outline for this project will be handed out in class. This is a chance to really let your imagination take over. What if you had an unlimited budget, the choice of any actor, director and theatre for your show!!
- 5. **Major Exams-** Two major exams will be given at the mid-term and final. These will come from text and play readings, handouts, class discussion and film viewings in class.

UNA STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES

“It is the policy of the University of North Alabama to afford equal opportunity in education to qualified students. Therefore, a student who has a disability that inhibits the student’s ability to meet course requirements and who desires accommodations must contact the instructor and Developmental Services within the first three class meetings of the semester (within the first three days during summer terms). The goal is to develop a timely accommodation plan and to file an Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodation Form. Course requirements will not be waived but accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, provided that students act within the first three class meetings in working with the instructor to develop an accommodation plan. If a disability is identified later in the semester, a non-retroactive accommodation plan will be developed at that time.”

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THEATRE PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarism is the representation of the work of another person as one’s own. Since scholarship, communication, and art depend on the honest representation of achievement, plagiarism is a very serious offense.

Materials used in student papers, speeches, and electronic media productions are expected to be the student’s own work unless properly identified as the work of others. Identification consists of quotation marks, foot or end notes, indentation or spacing change, usually in combination, in written work. A speaker may indicate “According to...” or other words to attribute quoted materials. Electronic productions such as films, tapes, laser or video discs, compact discs, etc., should use means appropriate to the work.

In some cases attribution may not be necessary, for example, if a phrase or section is so commonly known that there could be no possibility of believing the student was claiming the work to be his/her own.

If an instructor believes a student to have committed plagiarism, he/she will refer the work to the department head for investigation. If the department head concurs that plagiarism has occurred, the student will receive a grade of **F** or **WF** in the course in which the plagiarism occurred. During this process, the student will be permitted to bring evidence that the plagiarism has not occurred.

Additional sanctions by the University are possible, including expulsion.

Guidelines for PRODUCTION WORKBOOK

- You will choose one of the plays we have read this semester—*Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* or *The Piano Lesson*.
- You will write a 3-4 page paper (typed) explaining all aspects of your production as if you were the producer. You will explain the following elements of your production: **(70pts)**
 1. What play is to be produced
 2. Why you chose this play
 3. What theatre the play is to be staged in
 4. What type of audience you are trying to target
 5. Who will direct your show and why
 6. The directors “concept” for the show—if it is the same that the play suggests, you need to say this...
 7. Who will design the set for your show and why
 8. Who will design the costumes for your show and why
 9. Who will design the lighting for your show and why
 10. Who will design the sound for your show and why
 11. Who will act in your show and why you picked these particular actors—you must list ALL the roles in the play, not just the “lead” ones. You can provide pictures if you have them (from magazines, etc.)
- In a 3-ring binder notebook you will include the paper you wrote and the following elements: **(30pts)**
 1. A sketch or picture of the stage in the theatre you are using
 2. Drawings, magazine pictures, photographs, fabric samples, etc. of the type of “set” your show will have. If you have more than one location in the play make sure you include all the different sets. I don’t expect you to draw these, just provide “ideas” from other pictures that would inspire your set designer.
 3. Drawings, magazine pictures, photographs, fabric samples, etc. of the type of costumes your costume designer would use.(see #2 above)
 4. Any special lighting or sound (effects or music) that will be used in your production.
 5. Any other supporting elements for your production.