

THE2000

Instructor

Hello and welcome to Theatre Appreciation! My name is Professor Molière (she/they) and I will be your instructor this semester. My Zoom office hours are by appointment. Please email me to set up a time to talk if you need.

I can be contacted by email at .

Because of the size of the class, grading is done by my teaching assistants. If you have questions about grades or extensions 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 Your TA" in this module. If you have questions about the course, quizzes, or just theatre in general, contact me.

Most of the questions to your answers are located in the syllabus. Look through this module thoroughly for answers to your questions before you reach out.

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 created 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
- Every week, take a quiz on assigned readings and videos
- Every week, you have to post on class Discussions board based on a prompt I will give you
- Attend three 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 texts from third parties and are waiting for delivery. I can't violate copyright laws by sending you pdf versions of plays. Playwrights make very little money -- please support their work.

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](#) [Links to an external site.](#) to read online but most students find that a physical copy is easier to read and study. It's your choice.

REQUIRED PLAYS:

I And You by Lauren Gunderson
ISBN: 9781623842772 - Playscripts.com

The Mountaintop by Katori Hall
ISBN: 9780822226031 - Dramatist Play Service

Tiger Style! by Mike Lew
ISBN: 9780822239826 - Dramatist Play Service

Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz
ISBN: 0822220008 – Dramatist Play Service

Kill Move Paradise by James Ijames
ISBN: 9780822240020 - Dramatist Play Service

Ten Acrobats In An Amazing Leap Of Faith by Yussef El Guindi
ISBN: 088145754X - Broadway Play Publishing

Angels in America Pt. 1 by Tony Kushner
ISBN: 9781559363846 - Theatre Communications Group

Some of these plays have epub versions available. Check the publisher's websites for details.

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.

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 you didn't answer the entire question
- The post is late
- Plagiarism (*see below*)

Papers: You will watch three theatrical performances and write a two-page paper about each one. Guidelines will be provided.

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

Late Work

Neither me nor my TA's are required to accept late work or provide an extension on quizzes. Should you need an extension due to sickness, please send me and your TA a doctor's note with a formal request. For all other emergencies, late work may be accepted on a case-by-case basis with a penalty. The best way to ensure that your extension is granted is to keep me and your TA updated about your needs as soon as possible. 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 and ask for help 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, someone who is invested in the accuracy of the material. Think of yourself as joining a community of thinkers that's been debating since the beginning of time. It's ok to agree with ideas in the community and use them to prove a point. You just need to tell me who said it first. College is not a system to beat. It's a space where, for four years, people like me want to know what you think.

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 a 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> [Links to an external site.](#).

Computer Problems

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

Walk-in: [HUB 132](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)

I am not a technology guru! If you have any technological issues, I will send you to these capable folks.

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/Links to an external site.>. I understand it can be an annoyance during a busy part of the semester but it helps me make the class better and hang on to elements that are working.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that is documented with [the Disability Resource Center](#) [Links to an external site.](#) 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.

Course Outline

Week 1 -

Syllabus Quiz

The Basics

Performative Acts Discussion Post

Week 2 -

Acting

Focus on I and You by Lauren Gunderson

Acting Quiz

Week 3

Directing

Stage Pictures Discussion Post

Directing Quiz

Week 4

Theatrical Design

Reading A Set Discussion Post

Theatrical Design Quiz

Week 5

Genre

Expressionism & Kill Move Paradise by James James Discussion Post

Genre Quiz

Week 6

African-American Theatre

Focus on The Mountaintop

African-American Theatre Quiz

Week 7

American Musical Theatre

Your Kind of Musical Discussion Post

American Musical Theatre Quiz

Week 8

Production Critique #1 Due

Week 9

Latinx Theatre

Focus on Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz Discussion Post

Latinx Theatre Quiz

Week 10

Spring Break

Week 11

Production Critique #2 Due

Week 12

Engaged Theatre

Documenting Life Discussion Post

Engaged Theatre Quiz

Week 13

Asian American Theatre

Focus on Tiger Style! by Mike Lew Discussion Post

Asian American Theatre Quiz

Week 14

LGBTQ Theatre

Focus on Angels in America Pt 1 by Tony Kushner Discussion Post

LGBTQ Theatre Quiz

Week 15

Creative Project Due

Week 16

Production Critique #3 Due

Grade Breakdown

Discussion Board Posts - 50%

Quizzes - 25%

Production Critiques - 15%

Final Creative Project - 10%

I do not curve grades or drop low grades. I round up final grades by .5 only.

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-

How to Succeed in an Online Course

Do the course in the correct sequence

Jumping around won't help your understanding of the material. Do the work as it is laid out in each module. In other words, do all of the reading and watch all of the videos before you move on to the discussion post and quiz. Most post and quiz pages are locked until you view the main page of the module.

Schedule class times for yourself

This course is not self-paced -- there are strict deadlines that you can find on your Calendar. Schedule regular times during the week for you to "attend class." This will help you to manage your time well. If you wait until just before the deadline to do the work, you are inviting a lot of stress into your life.

Read everything twice

Take your time and make sure you understand the material. If you need help, email me. Please allow 24 hours for a response. I can't help right before a deadline.

Take notes on videos

As you watch the videos, stop them when you hear a major point and take a moment to make notes on paper or in some kind of word processor in a separate window. This helps you do better on quizzes.

Back up your work

Computers can fail at any time so back up your discussion posts, production critiques, and creative project to an external hard drive, thumb drive or a cloud service. When you post something to Canvas, double check to make sure you uploaded it correctly. If you don't see it on Canvas, my TA's can't give you a grade.

Trust what you know

Quizzes are not meant to trick you. There are no "degrees of true." There will always be one correct answer.

Frequently Asked Questions

QUIZZES, GRADES and FEEDBACK:

Are there any meetings for this class?

No. This section of Theatre Appreciation is intended to exist entirely online -- there is no live component.

When are the exams for this class?

There are no exams. There are weekly discussion posts, quizzes, three production critiques, and a creative project which takes the place of a final.

Are the quizzes open book?

The quizzes are timed so hunting through the textbook is not considered the best use of your time. Highlighting important passages in the textbook and starting and stopping videos in order to take quick notes is a far better strategy.

I have an issue with the grading of my discussion post/production critique/creative project.

You will need to contact the grader assigned to your group (see the page "How to Contact My TA" in the first module). Allow at least 24 hours for a response. If your issue is not resolved through your grader, contact me as soon as possible.

What if I have a concern about a particular quiz question?

Feel free to contact me and describe the question. Keep in mind that the quiz questions are randomized so telling me the question number won't help me. Also, make sure you tell me the name of the quiz.

Where do I find comments from graders?

When you click on "Grades," you should see a list of assignments and scores attached to them. On the right, you will see an icon. When you hover your mouse over it, it will say "See Rubric Results." Click on that icon to see any comments. This will be especially important when your first paper is graded. It will allow you to do better on the next one.

This is a big class with multiple graders who don't always work at the same pace. Don't be concerned if your work isn't graded immediately. Allow up to a week for turnaround.

Is the Creative Project a group project?

No. Each student does his/her project individually.

How do I figure out my grade?

It's set up as a point system so you can ignore any group percentages Canvas shows you. The formula is [total points earned] divided by 450 [total points possible]. Any .5 grades are rounded up (ex. 89.5 becomes 90).:

This video tutorial will show you how to navigate the Grades screen in screen in Canvas:

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS:

My internet connection does not work. What do I do?

Call the Help Desk at 352-392-HELP.

What do I do if my computer freezes during a quiz?

If you attempted to take the quiz *before* the deadline, email me and I can reset it for you. Keep in mind that I can check to see when you tried to access the quiz.

A video is not playing. What do I do?

Web browsers and video content do not always play well together. Try restarting your browser. If that does not work, try shutting down your computer and restarting. If that doesn't work, try another browser. If you think the problem is with your computer, contact the Help desk. If you think the problem rests with the video content, email me. Many of the videos for this class are housed through a campus service called MediaSite. When asked for a name and password, enter the same ones you use for your UF email account.

REQUIRED SHOWS:

The syllabus says we have to see three shows. Where and when are they? How much do they cost?

By taking this class, you've already paid for the three shows. I will email you later in the semester and explain how to claim your tickets and where to see the shows.

LIFE:

I'm having a tough time this semester and it's affecting my work. What do I do?

There are a number of resources on campus to help you. [The Counseling and Wellness CenterLinks to an external site.](#) is the best place to start. There is nothing wrong with asking for a little help.

I have a disability and need special accommodations. What is the first step?

There are resources on campus to assist you. The Disability and Resource Center website is [here](#)Links to an external site..

Sample Syllabus