Eastern Illinois University
THA 2140-001: Introduction To Theatre
M,W,F / 9:00am – 9:50am / Doudna Fine Arts Building 2040
Fall Semester 2012

Instructor: Christopher Gadomski
Office: 2045 Doudna Fine Arts Center
E-Mail: cgadomski@eiu.edu
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:00am – 11:30am
Friday 10:00am – 11:00am
Telephone: 581-3219

Texts: Felner, *THINK Theatre 2013*
Gainor, Garner Jr. & Puchner, *Norton Anthology of Drama (Shorter Edition)*

Prerequisites: None

Extra Costs: You will be required to purchase tickets for and attend the three (3) Theatre Department productions this semester. Tickets are $5.00

Class Description: A general introduction to all aspects of theatre as a live performance and visual art. Outside viewing is required.

Course Goals:

By the end of the course you will have gained the following:

1- A knowledge of the uniqueness of theatre as an art form.
2- An understanding of theatre movements and key theatre artists
3- A basic understanding of the theatre ensemble: Playwright, Director, Designers, and Actors
4- The ability to analyze both theatre and drama.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance & Participation	225
- Attendance (3pts.)	129
- Participation (2pts.)	86
Bio Project	25
Reaction Paper 01	50
Reaction Paper 02	50
Reaction Paper 03	50
Audition Project	50
Group Project	300
- Presentation	100
- Group Contribution	200
Quizzes (3 @ 100 pts. Each)	300
Mid-Term Exam	200
Final	250
TOTAL POINTS:	**1500**

Classroom Etiquette:

A. Please be respectful of everyone (both myself and your neighbors). Being respectful means:
   a. You need to be quiet so everyone can hear.
   b. You need to wait for someone to finish talking before you take your turn to speak.
   c. You don't laugh at or mock someone because you believe their opinion to be dumb.
B. Be open minded to new and/or different ideas and concepts
C. Turn off cellphones or leave them someplace else. See me beforehand if you **NEED** to have your phone on for a valid reason.
D. Absolutely NO texting in class. See point "C" above.
E. Try.

Conduct of the Course:

1. **Attendance -** Attendance at lectures is expected. You will be permitted three (3) unexcused absences without penalty. Tests and quizzes missed on days of unexcused absences cannot be made up unless I have been given prior notification. Absences for Approved University events and serious illnesses are excused. Students more than ten (10) minutes late will be considered absent. Students five (5) minutes late will be considered tardy. Two (2) tardies will count as one (1) unexcused absence.

   Students will lose five (5) points from final grade average per absence over the allotted number (3)

2. **Performance attendance –** You are required to attend the University productions of "***A Strindberg Café***", "***Almost Maine***" & "***A Christmas Carol***". There will be a written assignment regarding each play. Each production will cost you only $5 and are held in either of the two theatre spaces at The Doudna Fine Arts Center. It is wise to make reservations prior to attending as some shows have been known to sell out.

   To make reservations call 581-3110 or e-mail **doudnatix@eiu.edu**
   To purchase tickets online go to: **http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/theatre.php#** and click on the show you need to see

3. **Academic Accommodation –** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583.

4. **Cell Phones –** As noted earlier, please turn off all phone and electronic devices during this class as a courtesy to your fellow students and myself. This of course includes texting. Students caught texting will lose credit for that class period. Also, headphones and MP3 players are not allowed unless circumstances and myself allow it.

   This policy also applies to any live performance you attend. It is extremely rude to use any sort of electronic device during a concert, play, or any other live performance.

5. **Reading –** Reading is due the day it appears on the syllabus and you need to have that play read by the time we convene for class. I've made reading for this class very light with only one play "***Oedipus the King"*** (Gainor, Garner Jr. & Puchner, *Norton Anthology of Drama (Shorter Edition)* pg. 93). This play is not only important to the class, but also influential in more of our modern day culture than you may realize. Make sure you read the play, and read it on time.

6. **Paper Writing –** All papers submitted in this class must have 1.5 spacing and 1" margins on all sides. The font must be 12 point ***Times New Roman***. Please see to it that your name appears on each page and that the pages are stapled together.

7. **Desire2Learn –** All assignments and grades can be viewed online at Desire2Learn.

   This web address should take you there: https://www.eiu.edu/eiuonline/
   If you still have trouble you can call the EIU Help Desk at 581-HELP (581-4357)

8. **Academic Integrity –** Committing plagiarism by copying the words or original ideas of another person without giving that person full and proper credit is an especially serious violation of the University academic dishonesty policy. If you violate this policy and are discovered you will be reported immediately for disciplinary action.

Assignments

1. **Bio Project** – For the second day of class, you need to write a bio of yourself. The bio should be no more than half a page and should take no more than a minute to present to the class. Your bio should contain the following:
   a. Your name
   b. Where you are from
   c. Your major & minor (if applicable)
   d. Any theatrical experience you may have had
   e. Something you enjoy (i.e. hobbies, sports, interests, etc…)
   f. Organizations you belong to (if applicable)

2. **Reaction Paper –** The Reaction Paper is due after each of the three (3) departmental productions and should be two (2) to four (4) pages in length. Additionally, your paper must include your program and ticket stub attached to it as further proof of your attendance. Papers missing any of these elements will not be accepted resulting in a grade of "0" for the assignment. Late papers will have 5 points deducted per day late.

   Reaction papers should thoughtfully discuss the play and critique the elements that comprise it (i.e. acting, directing, design elements). Your own opinion is what I'm looking for and you will not be penalized for negative views of the performances. What I'm really looking for is seeing that you put forth honest effort to discuss what you thought of the show and support those thoughts and opinions in an intelligent manner.

3. **Auditions –** To better appreciate one of the aspects of being an actor, you will be required to choose and memorize a short, one minute monologue to be delivered to the class.

4. **Group Project –** Because theatre is a collaborative art, you will have one group project to work on. Using "***Oedipus the King***", you will choose a group that will put together a concept for a production. Details on this will be forthcoming

5. **Quizzes -** Three (3) quizzes will be given over the materials covered.

6. **Exams –** There will be a Midterm and Final Exam

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be earned one of three (3) ways.

1. Audition for a production with the EIU Theatre Department. Five (5) points will be awarded for auditioning and an additional ten (10) points will be awarded for getting cast in and adequately fulfilling your responsibilities in the production.

2. Attending plays outside of EIU Theatre Department productions and all productions attended must be approved in advance. Only one (1) high school production may be attended for extra credit. To receive credit, you must turn in your program, ticket stub, and a short one-page summary of the production. The paper needs to have the same spacing and font as your assigned Reaction Papers. You will earn an additional five (5) points per production you attend on your final grade.

3. You may help out on a production here at EIU. Five (5) points per hour worked will be earned for up to a maximum of twenty-five (25) points total. A sheet obtained from me will be needed recording your hours and the signatures of crew heads who supervise you.

OR

You may work on the running crew of a show working behind the scenes of a play which will give you firsthand experience of what goes into running an actual live theatrical play. This will involve coming to **ALL** tech rehearsals the week leading up to the performance as well as **ALL** performances of the show. Successful completion of this will earn you an additional twenty-five (25) points.

Tentative Schedule
Introduction to Theatre
Fall Semester 2012
(Subject To change as needed)

Week One (1) – Aug. 20-24
- Introduction to the class
- Aug. 22 - Getting to know each other – **Bio Project Due**
- Theatre: A Global Experience – Chapter 1

Week Two (2) – Aug. 27-31
- Theatre Spaces – Chapter 9
- Theatre Spaces – Chapter 9 (***Tour of Theatre Spaces***)
  - Main Stage
  - Black Box
  - Outdoor Amphitheatre
- Understanding Plays – Chapter 3

Week Three (3) – Sept. 3-7
- **Monday, Sept. 3 - Labor Day – NO CLASSES**
- Understanding Plays – Chapter 3 – Continued
- Class reading of selections from various plays – **PART 1**

Week Four (4) – Sept. 10-14
- Come to class having read Sophocles' "***Oedipus the King***" - Discussion
- Begin video "Oedipus"
- Finish video "Oedipus"

Week Five (5) – Sept. 17-21
- Sept. 17 - **QUIZ #1**
- The Audience Response – Chapter 2
- The Audience Response – Critiquing - Chapter 2

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE – "*A Strindberg Café*"
Sept. 21 & 22 @ 7:30pm and Sept. 23 @ 2pm
In the Doudna Fine Arts Center Black Box Theatre – Student Tickets $5
Reservations call 581-3110 or e-mail doudnatix@eiu.edu
To Purchase online go to: http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/theatre.php#

Week Six (6) – Sept. 24-28
- The European Written Tradition and Its Genres – Chapter 4
- The European Written Tradition and Its Genres – Chapter 4 – Continued
- Class reading of selections from various plays – **PART 2**
  - Sept. 28 - ***"A Strindberg Café"*** Papers Due @ beginning of class

Week Seven (7) – Oct. 1-5
- Performance Traditions – Chapter 5
- Performance Traditions – Chapter 5 - Continued
- **Fall Break – NO CLASSES**

Week Eight (8) – Oct. 8-12

- Tour Of Scene and Costume Shops ***(TENTATIVE)***
- Oct. 10 - **MID-TERM EXAM**
- Class reading of selections from various plays – **PART 2**

Week Nine (9) – Oct. 15-19

- Alternative Paths To Performance – Chapter 6
- Alternative Paths To Performance – Chapter 6 - Continued
- Making Theatre Happen – Chapter 14 (pgs. 324-336)

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE – "*Almost Maine*"
Oct. 17, 18, 19 & 20 @ 7:30pm and Oct. 21 @ 2pm
In the Doudna Fine Arts Center Main Stage Theatre – Student Tickets $5
Reservations call 581-3110 or e-mail doudnatix@eiu.edu
To Purchase online go to: http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/theatre.php#

Week Ten (10) – Oct. 22-26

- Theatrical Design: Art & Technology In Partnership
- Theatrical Design: Art & Technology In Partnership
- Oct. 26 - **QUIZ #2**
  - Oct. 26 - ***"Almost Maine"*** Papers Due @ beginning of class

Week Eleven (11) – Oct. 29-Nov. 2

- The Director – Chapter 08
- Scene Design – Chapter 11
- Scenic & Costume Design – Chapters 11 & 12

Week Twelve (12) – Nov. 5-9

- Costume Design – Chapter 12
- Light & Sound Design – Chapter 13
- **Group Project Assigned & Discussed**

Week Thirteen (13) – Nov. 12-16

- The Actor – Theatre's Living Presence – Chapter 7
- The Actor – Theatre's Living Presence - Chapter 7 - Continued
- Nov. 16 - **Audition Projects Presented To Class – Day 01**

Week Fourteen (14) – Nov. 19-23

- Thanksgiving Break – **NO CLASSES**

Week Fifteen (15) – Nov. 26-30

- Nov. 26 - **Audition Projects Presented To Class – Day 02**
- The Unsung Heroes of Theatre – Chapter 14 (pg. 337)
- Nov. 30 - **QUIZ #3**
  - After **Quiz #3** is finished you should use remainder of class period to get together with your group to work on your group project.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE – "*A Christmas Carol*"
Nov. 28, 29, 30 & Dec. 1 @ 7:30pm and Nov. 2 @ 2pm

In the Doudna Fine Arts Center Main Stage Theatre – Student Tickets $5
Reservations call 581-3110 or e-mail doudnatix@eiu.edu
To Purchase online go to: http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/theatre.php#

Week Sixteen (16) – Dec. 3-7

- **Final Group Projects Presented**
- **Final Group Projects Presented**
- **Final Group Projects Presented** , Friday, Dec. 7 - Last Day of Class
    - Dec. 7 - ***"A Christmas Carol"*** Papers Due @ beginning of class

Week Seventeen (17) – Dec. 10-14

- **FINALS WEEK**
    - Tuesday, Dec. 11 @ 8:00am – 10:00am