

Eastern Illinois University
Department of Theatre Arts
Spring Semester 2013

THA 2140G -005: Introduction to Theatre

Instructor:	Nicholas Shaw 2043 Doudna Fine Arts Center 581-5958 neshaw@eiu.edu Office Hours: MW 10:00 am to 11:30 am R 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm Also by appointment
Class Meets:	TR, 11:00 am -12:15 pm Doudna Fine Arts Center 2040
Texts:	Felner, <i>Think Theatre</i> , 1 st ed. Gainor, Garner Jr., and Puchner, <i>Norton Anthology of Drama</i> , 1 st ed. <i>New York Times</i> Online Theatre Articles.
Extra Costs	You are required to purchase tickets for <i>Dutchman/Florence</i> , <i>25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee</i> , and <i>Cloud 9</i> .
Class Description:	A general introduction to all aspects of theatre as a live performance and visual art. Outside viewing required.
Credit Hours:	3.00

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: actors, designers, directors, ect.
4. The ability to analyze both theatre and drama.

Conduct of the Course

1. Attendance- Attendance at all lectures is expected. Two unexcused absences will be permitted. Tests and quizzes missed on those days cannot be made up (unless the instructor has prior notification). Absences for approved University events and serious illness are excused. Students arriving after 11:00am will be marked tardy. Students arriving to class after 11:10am will be marked ABSENT. Two tardies will be counted as an unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence past the two allotted will lose 50 points off of the final point total. You will be expected to participate in all group activities and group discussion in each day of class.

2. Performance Attendance- You are required to attend the University productions of *Dutchman/Florence*, *25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee*, and *Cloud 9*. There will be a written assignment regarding each play. The production costs \$5.00 and are held at the Doudna Fine Arts Center. It is wise to make reservations prior to attending

3. Reading- Reading is due the day it appears on the calendar. If the calendar says *Hamlet* is due on a particular day, then you must have it read before you enter class that day. We have two texts for this course, which will be noted on the calendar as THINK and Norton. We will be reading five plays this semester; *The Bacchae*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Hamlet*, and *Waiting for Godot*. The class will choose the fifth play. We will vote to choose one of the following; *The American Play*, *M. Butterfly*, or *Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches*.

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

5. Academic Integrity- Committing plagiarism by copying the words or the 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 you will be reported immediately for disciplinary action. The complete standards of student conduct can be accessed at www.eiu.edu/~judicial/code.html.

5. Cell Phones- Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. This is a courtesy to your fellow students and myself. This includes TEXTING! Students caught texting will lose credit for that class period. Also, headphones are not allowed unless I give permission during an open work session. This rule also applies to ANY LIVE PERFORMANCE. It is extremely rude to use any sort of electronic device during a concert, play or any other live performance.

7. 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 Arial. Please put your name on each page of a multiple page paper.

8. Desire2Learn – All assignments and grades can be viewed on our class Desire2Learn site. All written assignments can be turned in on Desire2Learn. <http://www.eiu.edu/online/> Anything submitted after 10:00 pm on the due date will be marked as late.

Assignments

1. Reaction Paper- The Reaction Paper is due after each of the three Departmental Productions. Each paper should be 2 to 4 pages. They should focus on all aspects of the production.

2. NYT Articles- Six articles must be chosen and commented on throughout the semester. The article must be turned in with a one-page discussion of the article. It should be typed and 1.5 spaced. Use 1" Margins and 12 point Arial font. Please label the due date or the article number.

3. Theatre in the Workplace Project- This will be a paper/presentation project. Each student will identify a future profession or vocation related to his or her major. A one-page paper and a 2 to 3 minute presentation will be given drawing on the parallel aspects of theatre and the occupation.

4. Theatre Topic Paper- This will be a two-part paper. It will be comprised of a research style paper and then a personal reflection on the topic. Instructor must approve topics on date specified on the calendar. Your paper will be a total of five pages of text and an additional page for your work cited page.

5. Group Project- There will be one group project during the semester; each group will lead the group discussion on the day the reading for that play is due. Each group will be responsible for creating a concept and designs for their production. At the end of the semester each group will present their production to the class. We will work on this project as a class and in small groups in and out of class throughout the semester.

6. Quizzes- Four quizzes will be given over material covered. Unannounced pop quizzes may be given. These will be part of your participation grade.

7. Exams- There will be a Midterm and Final Exam.

Schedule

See attached schedule for due dates and assignments. Schedule is subject to change.

Extra Credit

Up to 100 points of extra credit may be earned. All extra credit is due on the Monday before exam week. The points can be earned in three ways.

1. You may earn extra credit by attending plays. All productions must be approved in advance. You may only attend one high school play for extra credit. In addition, you must turn in your program, ticket stub and a one-page summary of the production. You will earn 20 points on your final average for each play you attend.
2. You may read a play. You must write a 2 page summary and critique of the play. A maximum of 20 points will be given for each summary turned in.
3. You may help out on a production here at EIU. 5 points will be given for each hour worked on a production. An hour sheet must be submitted with signatures from the crew heads. No more than 20 points will be given from this category.

Evaluation

Participation	200 pts
Critiques (3 @ 50 pts. each)	150 pts.
NYT Article(6 @ 25 pts. each)	150 pts.
Theatre in the Workplace Project	150 pts.
Theatre Topic Paper	200 pts.
Group Project	300 pts
Presentation	200 pts
Group Discussion	100 pts
Quizzes (4 @ 100 pts. each)	400 pts.
Midterm Exam	200 pts.
Final Exam	250 pts.
TOTAL POINTS	2000 pts.

A = 90%+ of total points.	1800 - 2000
B = 80-89% of total points	1600 - 1799
C = 70-79% of total points	1400 - 1599
D = 60-69% of total points.	1200 - 1399
F = 59% and less.	under 1199