INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE, HONORS

THA 2190G-001 TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 p.m. 2040 Doudna Fine Arts Center Fall 2013

Jenni Passig

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Or by arrangement

Please note: Occasionally, I will have committee meetings that necessitate my being out of the office. On these occasions, I will post a notice and reschedule my office hours. If the rescheduled times are not convenient for you, please don't hesitate to contact me so that we can set up a meeting at another time.

Texts:

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

Purpose of the Course:

Introduction to the Theatre is a general introduction to all aspects of theatre as a live performance and visual art. Upon completion of this course you should have gained an understanding of theatre movements, both in the United States and Internationally, knowledge of the uniqueness of theatre as an art form, a basic understanding of the ensemble process of theatre and the ability to analyze theatre and drama. Outside viewing is required.

Conduct of the Course:

- 1) Class meets for 2/75-minute lecture/discussion per week
- 2) Students are expected to participate in discussions by being prepared for class, reading assignments, etc.
- 3) Attendance Policy:

Regular class attendance is required. An important component of this class is the discussion/participation.

- Two (2) unexcused absences will be permitted. 10 points will be deducted from the total score for EACH absence over two (2). EXCUSED ABSENCES include medical/family emergencies and approved school functions.
- Sorority/fraternity functions, "My ride is leaving early," or "I overslept" are **not** acceptable excuses.

- Any student more than 10 minutes late for class will be considered absent.
- Unless it is an absolute emergency AND I have been informed, absences on quiz or test days will result in a "o" for that grade and cannot be made up.
- An enjoyable aspect of this class is being able to share ideas and learn from each other. Therefore, you will be expected to complete the assignments on schedule.

4) Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to comply with University rules and regulations on academic integrity and honesty. These rules and regulations are summarized in the Student Conduct Code (http://www.eiu.edu/~judicial).

Disciplinary sanctions may be imposed for violations of these rules and regulations.

5) Cell phones:

The use of cell phones, pagers, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes and examinations is prohibited. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

6) Use of Laptops during class/exams:

Students may use laptops during class to take notes. Accessing the Internet, sending and receiving emails, etc. is not acceptable. Students who abuse the laptop privilege will be asked to keep their laptops stowed during class. Laptops may not be used during examinations.

7) Professionalism:

Students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct in class. Students who engage in unprofessional behavior (such as tardiness, sleeping, reading non-class materials, talking, text messaging) may be asked to leave the classroom.

Course Assignments:

1) Performance Attendance:

You are required to attend the three (3) Department of Theatre Arts productions this semester. Shows and dates are listed at end of syllabus.

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. To purchase by phone call 581-3110 or in person at the Doudna Box Office.

To purchase tickets online go to: http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/theatre and click on the show you need to see.

2) Response Papers:

Three (3) 2-4 page responses are due the Tuesday following the close of a production. Responses are to be typed (or lose 10 points). 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 "o" for the

assignment. Papers will ONLY be accepted on the DUE DATE! NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

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 honest views of the performances. 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) Quizzes:

Four (4) quizzes will be administered over the course of the semester. Each quiz will equal 25 points.

4) Exams:

Three (3) exams will be administered over the course of the semester. Each test will equal 100 points.

5) Ten Line Play Project

You will be asked to write a ten line play on a subject matter of your choice. We will read these aloud in class and decide on three or four to "stage" in class. Specific details will be made available closer to this project.

6) Reading:

You will be required to read three plays in your provided text, There are not specific points given for reading, but you will be quizzed on information from the plays.

7) Group project:

You will be assigned to a group of five people in which you will all select one of the three plays read this semester and develop a "concept" for the play as if it were to actually be produced. Details of this assignment will be given out with your group assignment.

8) Research Paper:

Two of the three required plays for reading are assigned. You will choose one additional from the anthology provided and write a research based paper on some aspect of that play, i.e. the play in production, playwright, genre, time period, etc. The paper should be between five (5) and seven (7) pages, be appropriately documented and in MLA format. Additional details will be provided during the course of the semester.

9) Final Exam:

The final exam will consist of a 150-point exam given during the finals period.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be earned one of four (4) ways.

1. Audition during the Fall Auditions on Monday, 8/26/13. 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. You will earn an additional five (5) points per production you attend on your final grade.
- 3. You may help out in either the Theatre Department's scene shop or costume shop. 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.
- 4. 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.

Grading Scale:

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Ten Line Play Project	25 pts.
Quizzes 4 @ 25pts.	100 pts.
Response Papers 3 @ 50 pts.	150 pts.
Exams 3 @ 100 pts.	300 pts.
Group Project	125 pts.
Development 75 pts.	
Presentation 50 pts.	
Research Paper	150 pts.
Final Exam	<u> 150 pts.</u>

TOTAL 1000 pts.

A = 90-100%	900-1000 pts.
B = 80-89%	800-899 pts.
C = 70-79%	700-799 pts.
D = 60-69%	600-699 pts.
F = below 60%	599 and fewer pts.

Important Note: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Tentative-Subject to Change)

	Introduction to the course, review of syllabus Bring The Norton Anthology of Drama to class. Read Lysistrata for next class period.						
	Quiz #1 on <i>Lysistrata</i> . View <i>Lysistrata</i> and Lysistrata Project Conclude viewing of <i>Lysistrata</i> . Class discussion if time permits. Read Ch. 1 for next class period.						
	 Class discussion of <i>Lysistrata</i> and Ch. 1-Theatre: A Global Experience Read Ch. 2 for next class period Ch. 2 The Audience Response Read Ch. 3 for next class period 						
	Ch. 3 Understanding Plays TEST #1 REVIEW						
09/17 -	TEST #1 CH. 1-3 Read Ch. 4 for next class period						
09/19 -	Ch. 4 The European Written Tradition and Its Genres						
09/24 -	Conclude Ch. 4 discussion. Discuss STINKIN' BADGES RESPONSE PAPER #1 DUE! Read Ch. 5 for next class period						
09/26 -	Ch. 5 Performance Traditions, Video samples Read Ch. 6 for next class period						
10/01 -	QUIZ #2 CH.4-5, Ch. 6 Alternative Paths to Performance Read Ch. 7 for next class period, TEN LINE PLAY Due next class!!!						
10/03 -	Discuss Ch. 7 The Actor, TEN LINE PLAY Due! Read Ch. 8 for next class period						
10/08 -	Ch. 8 The Director TEST #2 REVIEW Ch. 6-8						
10/10 -	TEST #2 Read Ch. 9 for next class period						
10/15 -	Tour of Facilities, Ch. 9 Theatre Spaces and Environments Read Ch. 10 for next class period						
10/17 -	QUIZ #3 CH. 9, Ch. 10 Approaches to Design						
•	Conclude Ch. 10 discussion Read Ch. 14 for next class period						
10/24 -	Ch. 14 Making Theatre Happen						

10/29 -	TEST #3	REVIEW-	Ch. 10 &	14, Discuss	LITTLE SHOP
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- 10/31 **TEST #3**
 - Read Ch. 11 for next class period
- 11/05 Ch. 11 Setting the Stage
 - Read Ch. 12 for next class period
- 11/07 Ch. 12 Dressing the Character
 - Read Ch. 13 for next class period
- 11/12 Ch.13 Lighting and Sound Design, Group Project Assigned Read Streetcar Named Desire for next class period
- 11/14 **QUIZ #4 Streetcar**, Begin viewing of *Streetcar*
- 11/19 Conclude viewing Streetcar, Discuss ONE-ACTS,
- 11/21 Group Presentation Work Period RESEARCH PAPER DUE!
- 11/25-11/29 THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 12/03 GROUP PRESENTATIONS DUE
- 12/05 GROUP PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED Final Exam Review Ch. 11-13
- 12/09 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Final Exam

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS PRODUCTIONS - Fall 2013

I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges!

Black Box Theatre

September 20 - September 21 at 7:30 p.m. September 22 at 2 p.m.

\$5 Students

Little Shop of Horrors

Produced in conjunction with the Department of Music
The Theatre

October 23 – October 26 at 7:30 pm October 27 at 2pm

\$5 Students

An Evening of Tennessee Williams Black Box Theatre

November 15- November 16 at 7:30pm November 17 at 2pm

\$5 Students