

THA 2140G - INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE (3-0-3)  
MWF/11:00-11:50 am/DFAC 2040  
Fall '09

Instructor: David Wolski  
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Office Hours: MTW: 1:00-2:30 pm and by arrangement  
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*Text:* Theatre (8<sup>th</sup> edition) by Robert Cohen  
Anthology of Living Theater (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Edwin Wilson & Alvin Goldfarb

*Purpose of the Course:*

To give the student a general introduction to all aspects of theatre as a live performance and visual art.  
**OUTSIDE VIEWING IS REQUIRED.**

*Conduct of the Course:*

- 1) Lecture/Discussion - 3 (50 min.) lectures per week for a total of 43 meetings/term
- 2) Attendance - attendance at all lecture/discussions is expected. Three unexcused absences will be permitted. Tests, quizzes, and/or short writes, however, missed on those days cannot be made up (unless the instructor has prior notification). Absences for approved University events and serious illness are excused. In addition, the student will lose 5 POINTS PER ABSENCE over the allotted number (3). Students more than 10 minutes late for class will be considered ABSENT.  
  
The student is expected to complete the reading assignments on schedule. An enjoyable aspect of the class is to be able to share ideas and learn from each other. Participation will help borderline grades. You will be expected to attend performances of the Theatre Arts Department' productions.
- 3) Response - One (2-4 page) response paper is due the Wednesday following the close of a production. Responses are to be typed (or lose 10 points) and focus on specific criteria. Students may choose from 2 main productions as the basis of the response. If you write 2 responses, the second is extra credit! Response papers may be written on the student directed One Acts, but only for extra credit. Papers will ONLY be accepted on the DUE DATE! NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!
- 4) Quizzes - 4 unannounced quizzes will be given over material covered in reading assignments, lectures and performances viewed.
- 5) Short writes - 2 unannounced opinion/reaction papers will be administered based on reading assignments and lectures over the course of the term.
- 6) Exams - there will be two, a Midterm and a Final.
- 7) Academic Accommodation - If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581- 6583) as soon as possible.

*Evaluation:*

Each student will be evaluated on the success and effectiveness in meeting the requirements listed.

*Grading:*

1 Response Paper.....	50 pts.
Midterm Exam.....	80 pts.
Final Exam.....	100 pts.
4 Quizzes (@ 25 pts. each).....	100 pts.
2 Short Writes (@ 10 pts. each).....	20 pts.

TOTAL POINTS-----350 pts.

\* YOUR FINAL GRADE IS DETERMINED BY YOUR TOTAL POINTS \*

A = 90-100% of total points.....	315-350
B = 80-89% of total points.....	280-314
C = 70-79% of total points.....	245-279
D = 60-69% of total points.....	210-244
F = 59% and less.....	under 210

*Extra Credit:* There are a number of ways to earn extra credit points.

- 1) Volunteer for Production Work By working up to 15 hours in one of the Theatre's shops (scene, light or prop) the student may earn up to 15 points. That is, 1 point for each hour worked.
- 2) Write a Research Paper on a particular aspect of Theatre (5-page minimum) - 15 points.
- 3) Write an Additional Critique for a Theatre Arts Department production – 15 points.

ALL EXTRA CREDIT IS DUE BY DECEMBER 7TH. NO STUDENT MAY ATTEMPT TO EARN MORE THAN 15 POINTS OF EXTRA CREDIT.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS PRODUCTIONS – Fall 2009

STEP ON A CRACK

The Theatre

October 3 at 11 am

THE TEMPEST

The Theatre

November 13-14, 16-17 at 7 pm & November 15 at 2 pm

STUDENT DIRECTED ONE ACTS

The Movement Studio

December 4-5 at 7 pm & December 6 at 2 pm

THA 2140G - Introduction to the Theatre  
PLAY RESPONSE FORM

- A. Description
  - 1. Playwright and Title
  - 2. Number of Characters
  - 3. Setting(s)
  - 4. Time of Action
  - 5. Basic Mood
- B. Brief synopsis of plot (1 paragraph)
- C. What is the conflict of the play? Is it clear? Is it interesting? Why/why not?
- D. Why did the play arouse your interest and hold your attention? Or did it?
- E. What section(s) stood out strongly? Weakly?
- F. What character(s) did you find most memorable? Why?
- G. What actor(s) did you find most memorable? Why?

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE  
*Tentative Schedule/Subject to Change*

DATE		LECTURE/ACTIVITY	ASSIGNMENT
August	24	Introduction/Syllabus/ General Background	
	26	Tour of Theatre	
	28	What Is the Theatre?	Introduction/Chapter 1
	31	What Is a Play?	Chapter 2
September	2	What Is a Play?	
	4	The Ancients	Chapter 3
	7	LABOR DAY – No Class	
	9	Greek and Roman Theater	
	11	ANTIGONE	Read Play (in <u>Anthology</u> )
	14	ANTIGONE	

	16	The Middle Ages	Chapter 4
	18	Medieval Theater	
	21	The Renaissance	Chapter 5
	23	Renaissance Theater	
	25	The Royal Theatre	Chapter 7
	28	The Royal Theatre	
	30	The Modern Theatre: Realism	Chapter 8
October	2	Realism	
	5	STEP ON A CRACK Discussion	RESPONSE DUE
	7	Midterm Review	
	9	FALL BREAK – No Class	
	12	MIDTERM EXAM	
	14	THE GLASS MENAGERIE	Read Play (in <u>Anthology</u> )
	16	Midterms Returned/Grades Given	
	19	THE GLASS MENAGERIE	
	21	The Modern Theatre: Antirealism	Chapter 9
	23	Antirealism	
	26	The Musical Theatre	Chapter 10
	28	The Musical Theatre	
	30	Theatre Today	Chapter 11
November	2	Contemporary Trends	
	4	BLUE HEART	Read Play (in <u>Anthology</u> )
	6	BLUE HEART	
	9	The Actor	Chapter 12
	11	Stage Performers	
	13	The Playwright	Chapter 13

	16	The Playwright	
	18	THE TEMPEST Discussion	RESPONSE DUE
	20	TBA	
	23-27	Thanksgiving Break	
	30	The Director	Chapter 15
December	2	The Director and the Producer	
	4	Designers and Technicians	Chapter 14
	7	Designers	EXTRA CREDIT DUE
	9	TBA	
	11	Final Review	
	16	FINAL EXAM – 10:15-12:15 PM	

**Other Important Dates to Know:**

Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade – September 4

Last day to withdraw from a course with a "W" grade – November 6