

Eastern Illinois University
THA 2140G-002: Introduction To Theatre
T,R/9:30am – 10:45pm / Doudna Fine Arts Building 2040
Fall Semester 2017

Instructor: Christopher Gadomski
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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday – 11:00am-12:00pm
Special appointments to meet with me will be made if you cannot see me during my office hours.
Texts: Wilson/Goldfarb, *THEATRE the lively art*
Gainor, Garner & Puchner, *Norton Anthology of Drama (Second Edition) Vol. 1&2*

Prerequisites: None

Extra Costs: You will be required to purchase tickets for and attend the EIU Theatre Arts Department production of *NEXT TO NORMAL* this semester. Tickets are \$5.00
You will also be required to see the Charleston Community Theatre production of *ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID*. 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 forms both within the United States & around the world
- 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	150
- 5 pts. per class session (x30 sessions)	
Bio Project	10
Quiz –Assigned Reading – <i>Oedipus The King</i>	20
Quiz – Assigned Reading – <i>TBA</i>	20
Critique Paper 01 – <i>Always A Bridesmaid</i>	50
Critique Paper 02 – <i>Next To Normal</i>	50
Research Paper	300
Audition Project	100
Group Project	300
Quizzes (9 @ 10 pts. Each)	90
Final Exam	150
<u>TOTAL POINTS:</u>	<u>1240</u>

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 both expected and graded. Each class session is worth five (5) points. You will be permitted three (2) 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 five (5) minutes late will be considered tardy. Students more than ten (10) minutes late will be considered absent. Two (2) tardies will count as one (1) unexcused absence.
2. **Performance attendance** – You are required to attend two performances this semester. The first is the Theatre Arts Department production of *Next To Normal* (hereafter *N2N*). In addition to seeing *N2N* you are required write a critique paper about the performance. *N2N* will be held in The Theatre (Proscenium Mainstage) in The Doudna Fine Arts Center.

The second production will be the *Charleston Community Theatre* production of *Always A Bridesmaid* which will be performed in the Tarble Arts Center. To purchase your ticket for the CCT performance you must call in advance to reserve your ticket and then pay for it at the door using either cash or check. They **WILL NOT** accept debit or credit cards.

If you are concerned about being able to afford purchasing tickets you also have the option of ushering for the production of *N2N*. To be an usher for a production you need to sign up at the box office located in the main concourse of The Doudna Fine Arts Center. To usher you need to wear black shoes and pants and a white top. Ushers show up 15 minutes before the house opens and perform duties such as taking tickets, handing out programs, and helping patrons find seats. Once the house doors close and the show is ready to start you will be permitted to find your own seat and view the performance for **FREE**.

Each production will cost you only \$5.

3. **Students With Disabilities** – If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through the OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.
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 of Chapters in your Wilson/Goldfarb book as well as selected plays from the Norton Anthology are due the day they appear on the syllabus. You need to have each assigned play read by the time we convene for class as there will be a short quiz on the play at the beginning of the class period.
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*. All papers should have a separate title page that has your name, the date, and the title of the paper. Please see to it that the pages are stapled together.
7. **Late Assignments** – All assignments turned in after the assigned due date/time will be docked 10 points per day late.
8. **Desire2Learn** – All assignments, notes, attendance records 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)

9. **Academic Integrity** – Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.
10. **The Student Success Center** - Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Assignments

1. **Bio Project** – Your first project this semester. You need to write a short biography 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
 - d. Any theatrical experience you may have had
 - e. Something you enjoy (i.e. hobbies, sports, interests, etc... Please try to list something other than eating, sleeping, and hanging out with friends.)
 - f. Organizations you belong to (if applicable)
2. **Critique Paper** – The Critique Paper is due at the top of the class period immediately following the closing performance of each of the two (2) productions you are required to see and should be a minimum of two (2) full pages in length (full page means top to bottom). As proof of your attendance you must submit your show program **with your name written on it** at the top of the class immediately following the performance. Failure to turn in your program will automatically lose 25% of the points allotted to the assignment. Additionally at the EIU performance you must bring your PantherCard to swipe it with the House Manager at the end of the performance to prove attendance. At the CCT performance you must have your program signed by one of the company members immediately following the performance.

Late papers will have 5 points deducted per day late. Papers not meeting the two page minimum requirement will automatically lose one letter grade. As with all papers, a cover page with your name and title of paper (*Insert Name Of Play Here Critique Paper*) is expected. Papers missing title page will automatically lose a letter grade.

Critique 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. **IDO NOT WANT A SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY.**

In your critique of the play, be sure to include a critique of each of the following:

- Acting
- Scenery
- Costumes
- Lighting
- Props

Failure to omit one of the above items will negatively affect your grade on this paper. Finally, when critiquing performers or designers, be sure to reference your program so you can use proper names for each actor or designer as well as proper names for characters portrayed in the play.

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. The project grade will be broken down as follows:
 - i. Under 15 seconds = 0 points
 - ii. 15 seconds = 25 points
 - iii. 30 seconds = 50 points
 - iv. 45 seconds = 75 points
 - v. 60 seconds = 100 points
4. **Research Paper** – There is one (1) research paper due on Thursday of Mid-Term week. Your paper needs to be a minimum of 4 pages and will be on a topic of your choosing that relates to an aspect of live theatre. A hand out with more information on this is forthcoming.
5. **Group Project** – Because theatre is a collaborative art, you will have one group project to work on. Using "*Oedipus the King*", you will be assigned to a group that will put together a concept for a production. Details on this will be forthcoming.
6. **Quizzes** – There will be nine (9) short quizzes given at the top of class the day following the conclusion of a chapter lecture. Each quiz will have ten (10) multiple choice questions and take no more than 5-10 minutes.
7. **Exams** - One (1) Final Exam will be given this semester. The Final Exam will be comprehensive over all lectures covered throughout the semester and may contain questions from other subjects (outside of the lectures) covered throughout the course of the semester. There will be a study guide for the final exam and there will be nothing on the exam that isn't contained in the study guide. Furthermore, many of the questions on the Final Exam will be taken directly from the quizzes you take throughout the semester. We will also have a Final Exam review session on the final day of class. The Final Exam review is done in game show style similar to TV's *JEOPARDY!* And you will be eligible to earn extra credit points during class at that time.

Extra Credit

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

1. Audition for the Fall 2017 production of *N2N* and Spring 2018 production of ***DANCING AT LUGHNASA*** will be on Tuesday, Aug. 29th, 2017 beginning at 6:30pm in the Black Box Theatre. Five (5) points will be awarded for auditioning and an additional twenty-five (25) points will be awarded for getting cast in and adequately fulfilling your responsibilities in the production. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., in The Globe Studio, DFAC 1080.

Please prepare a contemporary audition monologue – 1 minute or less. For first time auditioners a reading from the script if no monologue is prepared. Bring a resume' and a headshot (if you have one available). Other paperwork will be picked up at the registration desk when you sign in. Bring a listing of any unavailable times or days in your Fall schedule (excluding day time class schedules).

Call backs will be on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 in the Black Box and The Globe of the Doudna Fine Arts Center from 6:30-9:30pm. Cast lists will be posted outside the Theatre Dept. Office (DFAC 2080) by Noon on Friday, September 1st, 2017.

2. Attending plays outside of your two required performance viewings. 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 two page minimum critique 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. Be sure to check with me before attending an outside production to see if I approve it for use as extra credit.
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. Check with me **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** if you're interested in working on a production crew as crew positions tend to fill up quickly by theatre majors and minors.

Tentative Schedule
Introduction to Theatre
Fall Semester 2017

(Schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Week One (1) – Aug. 22 & 24

Aug. 22. - Introduction to the class - Getting to know each other – **Bio Project**

Aug. 24 - Chapter 1 – Theatre Is Everywhere

- Read *Oedipus The King* from your copy of The Norton Anthology of Drama Vol. One for Tuesday

Week Two (2) – Aug. 29 & 31

Aug. 29 - Quiz on *Oedipus The King*.

Begin class viewing of *Oedipus The King*

Aug. 31 - Class viewing of *Oedipus The King*

Sept. 1 – Deadline to drop course with no grade

Week Three (3) – Sept. 5 & 7

Sept. 4 – Labor Day ***NO CLASSES***

Sept. 5 – Conclude viewing of *Oedipus The King* followed by class discussion of *Oedipus The King*

Sept. 7 - EIU Writing Center Representative Comes To Class To Explain The Writing Center

- Research paper parameter sheet handed out and explained.

Week Four (4) – Sept. 12 & 14

Sept. 12 – Tour of Theatre Spaces – *Wear comfortable walking shoes*

- ***Research Paper Topic Due Today by End of Class Period***

Sept. 14 – Chapter 2 – The Audience

Week Five (5) – Sept. 19 & 21

Sept. 19 – Chapter 3 – Creating the Dramatic Script

Sept. 21 – Chapter 4 – Theatrical Genres

- You should have your research materials for your research paper by today.

Week Six (6) – Sept. 26 & 28

Sept. 26 – Chapter 5 - Acting for the Stage

Sept. 28 – Chapter 6 – The Director

Week Seven (7) – Oct. 3 & 5

Oct. 3 - Chapter 7 - Theatre Spaces

Oct. 5 – World Theatre Traditions – *Day 1*

Week Eight (8) – Oct. 10 & 12 – MID-TERM WEEK

Oct. 10 – World Theatre Traditions – *Day 2*

Oct. 12 – Choose play to read over the weekend from Norton Anthology.

- Mid-Term Research Papers Due

Oct. 13 – Fall Break ***NO CLASSES***

Week Nine (9) – Oct. 17 & 19

Oct. 17 – Come to class having read _____. Quiz and discussion to follow.

Oct. 19 – Chapter 8 - Scenery

Week Ten (10) – Oct. 24 & 26

Oct. 24 – **Group Projects Assigned and Discussed**

Oct. 26 - **Audition Projects** – Come to class having memorized your one minute monologue and present it to the class.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE – *Always A Bridesmaid*

Oct. 27 and 28 @ 7:30pm and Oct. 29 @ 2pm

In the lower floor of The Charleston Elks Lodge, 720 6th St – Tickets \$5

Week Eleven (11) – Oct. 31 & Nov. 2

Oct. 31 – Chapter 9 – Stage Costumes

Nov. 2 – In Class Work Day for Group Projects

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE – *Always A Bridesmaid*

Nov. 2 and 3 @ 7:30pm and Nov. 4 @ 2pm

In the lower floor of The Charleston Elks Lodge, 720 6th St – Tickets \$5

Week Twelve (12) – Nov. 7 & 9

Nov. 7 – Class discussion of *Always A Bridesmaid*. Critique papers e-mailed to me before class begins.

Nov. 9 - Behind the Scenes – The many artists and crew members required to bring a show to life.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE – *Next To Normal*

Nov. 8-11 @ 7:30pm and Nov. 12 @ 2pm

In the Doudna Fine Arts Center - The Theatre (Proscenium Mainstage) – Student Tickets \$5

To purchase by phone call 581-3110 or e-mail doudnatix@eiu.edu

To Purchase online go to: <http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/theatre.php#>

Week Thirteen (13) – Nov. 14 & 16

Nov. 14 – Class discussion of *Next To Normal*. Critique papers e-mailed to me before class begins.

Nov. 16 – In Class Work Day for Group Projects

Week Fourteen (14) – Nov. 21 & 23

Thanksgiving Break – ***NO CLASSES***

Week Fifteen (15) – Nov. 28 & 30

Nov. 28 – Group Projects Presented **DAY 01**

Nov. 30 – Group Projects Presented **DAY 02**

Week Sixteen (16) – Dec. 5 & 7

Dec. 5 – TBA

Dec. 7 – Final Exam Review Day

Week Seventeen (17) – Dec. 13

FINALS WEEK

Wednesday, Dec. 13 - **FINAL EXAM**

- 8:00am – 10:00am

