

THA 2140
Introduction to Theatre
M, W, F 8:00 – 8:50

Karen Eisenhour
Office: DFAC 2047
Phone: 581-3121
E-Mail kaeisenhour@eiu.edu

***If you contact me by email please be sure to put the course number (or name) in the subject line in addition to the subject of the email please do not leave this blank in your email. Examples for subject line: Class absence/sick ~ Intro to Theatre or Project 1 questions THA 2140. This will help me track our correspondence in a more efficient way. Thanks!**

Fall 2017 Office hours

Mon., Wed. & Friday 9:00 – 10:30
Or by arrangement

Note ~ due to various committees I am on, I may have a meeting during my office hours. I will gladly arrange an alternate meeting time.

Texts:

Edward Wilson & Alvin Goldfarb: THEATRE THE LIVELY ART 9TH EDITION
Gainor, Garner, Puchner: THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF DRAMA 2ND EDITION VOLUME ONE
Gainor, Garner, Puchner: THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF DRAMA 2ND EDITION VOLUME TWO

Catalog description:

(3-0-3) F, S. A general introduction to the arts of theatre covering all aspects of theatre as a live performance and visual art, including acting, designing, directing, and playwriting. Attendance or viewing of assigned theatrical productions required. Purchase of tickets may be required for admission to performances. No background in or knowledge of the theatre is required

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, the student will have a working knowledge of the following ~

- ❖ The uniqueness of theatre as an art form.
- ❖ A basic understanding of the theatre ensemble: actors, designers, directors, etc.
- ❖ Know how to analyze plays and apply this knowledge practically as well as theoretically.

Attendance Policy:

Since this is primarily a discussion & lecture course attendance is important, you will be allowed 2 absences, EVERY UN-EXCUSED ABSENCE BEYOND THIS WILL RESULT IN A 10 POINT LOSS FROM YOUR FINAL GRADE. Also note, entering the class late not only causes a disruption, you may miss valuable information therefore TWO TARDIES WILL EQUAL ONE ABSENCE. If you are late, it is your responsibility to come to me after class and make sure I mark your attendance. If you are ill or have another excused absence (see college catalog), see me as soon as possible and I will not deduct the 20 points from your grade. You must also call before class if you are too ill to attend. IF YOU ATTEND EVERY CLASS, YOU WILL HAVE 20 POINTS ADDED TO YOUR FINAL GRADE IN THIS SECTION.

Please note that from time to time I will email you information so please keep an eye on your EIU email. I will information ranging from images that might help in the lecture for that day to alternate instructions for projects.

Cell Phone:

Cell phones, and electronic devices are not allowed in this class. If you have a situation where you must be available to be contacted by phone, please let me know so appropriate arrangements can be made.

This also means you are not allowed to Text in my class. Please keep your focus on the class itself and do not distract those around you or yourself.

Assignment Policy:

Assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of the class period they are due. If this is not possible, they are to be put in my mailbox (or given to me in the Costume Shop DFAC 1020) no later than 5:00 **that same day**. However, if they are in my mailbox (or given to me in the Costume Shop), they will be considered late and 5 points will be deducted from the final grade. Also note: for every class day the assignment is not handed in it will be considered late and 5 points will be deducted for **EACH** day.

Note: You will only be allowed to make up a test if you have an excused absence and you have contacted me before the class period the test is given.

Note: During examinations, the following are not permitted: cell phones, PDAs, iPods/mp3 players, pagers, laptops or any other electronic computing device.

***Please note: If you have an excused absence, the work may be handed in late with no penalty but please see me (well before the due date) to discuss the reason it is late and a potential new due date. I am not an OGRE; if you have a problem with an assignment, please see me. I MAY have a solution.

Theatre Arts Production Schedule Fall 2017

You will be required to see the following theatre production: **You will be required to purchase a ticket so please budget accordingly. The dates provided below will also help you budget your time. Please purchase your tickets in a timely manner so you will be sure to have seats to the night you wish to attend.*

Next to Normal

November 8, 9, 10, 11 7:30

November 12 2:00

A contemporary American family copes with the unpredictability of a mother's ongoing struggle with mental health issues in this intimate, surprising musical filled with humor. Winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and eleven time Tony Award nominee. There will be an audience talkback immediately following the Friday November 10 performance.

Next to Normal contains adult themes and language.

Ticket Prices
General | \$13.00
Senior | \$11.00
Students | \$5.00

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

To Purchase online go to: www.doudnatix.com

A critique will be due following the close of the performance. This paper should be 3 – 5 pages (or more if you have more you want to express) type written, double-spaced using standard margins and font size. Please do not add extra space between paragraphs and do not put a title block on the top of each page. Use the following outline in preparing your paper as a guide. Please be sure your paper is in a narrative form. I do not want to see your paper written in an outline format. There is no wrong answer as long as the script and production can support your ideas. You need to cite **SPECIFIC** details from our production. If your critique is not specific to our production, your grade will suffer. The most important function of this paper is to start you looking at theatre in a critical way, form ideas and be able to support them. Remember, I would like play titles are underlined. I expect this technique to be used in your papers. If you do not use this technique, 1 point will be deducted each time the error is made.

Assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of the class period they are due. If this is not possible, they are to be put in my mailbox no later than 5:00 p.m. that same day. However, if they are in my mailbox, they will be considered late and 5 points will be deducted from the final grade. **NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE.** **Please note: If you have an excused absence the work may be handed in late with no penalty but please see me to discuss the reason it is late **PRIOR TO THE ASSIGNED DUE DATE** and a potential new due date will be scheduled.

If you are having problems with any assignment, please see me during my office hours or at an arranged time and I will be more than happy to sit down and discuss possible solutions to your problem.

Design/production project (This project may be turned in at any time during the semester once it is completed.)
--

You will be asked to do the following for this project:

1. Select one of the play titles designated for the production project.
2. Take notes on the play.
3. Create a concept for the play
4. Select one of the production areas covered in class to do this project. (Each area will have specific requirements related to the specialty)

Complete details will be provided as the project deadline approaches. **Please do not panic with this assignment.** I realize that everyone has different levels of artistic abilities and the assignment is designed with this in mind! I want you to have fun with this and be creative!

Play options for this project from you text THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF DRAMA 2ND EDITION ~ VOLUME TWO

1. TRIFLES by Susan Glaspell (1882 – 1948)
2. FENCES by August Wilson (1945 – 2005)

Format for papers in general ~

- Please either double space your 1 ½ space your paper.
- Use Times New Roman with a font size no bigger than 12.
- Standard margins
- Please put your name on the upper right-hand corner (you do not need to put the class number etc. If you elect to do this, please do not double space this)
- If you have multiple pages, please be sure to staple them together. (Please put your name on the first page only)

Short write for Trifles and Fences (2 parts of the assignment)

You will hand the following ~

1. Your initial notes on the script. Please have them organized & typed. You may use bullet points to present your notes.
2. You will then have a written narrative (paper 1 – 2 pages)

Please address the following ~

What is the theme of the play?

How can it connect to current events? Or not? Why/Why not?

Who is the protagonist? Why do you feel this is true?

Who is the antagonist? Why do you feel this is true?

What type of reaction did this play bring to you? (Example.... did you like it? Did it make you sad? Did you dislike it? No matter what type of reaction.... please explain/support it.)

Short write ~ Buried Child

This is a 1 -2-page paper (typed). It may be longer if you wish. ☺

I want this to be **your** opinion about Buried Child. Please be sure to use the script to support your ideas/thoughts.

Please address the following ~

What is the theme of the play?

How can it connect to current events? Or not? Why/Why not?

Who is the protagonist? Why do you feel this is true?

Who is the antagonist? Why do you feel this is true?

What type of reaction did this play bring to you? (Example.... did you like it? Did it make you sad? Did you dislike it? No matter what type of reaction.... please explain/support it.)

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

4 Tests @ 100 points each.....	400 points
1 Response paper.....	150 points
3 Short writes on plays (due before play discussion) @ 50 points each...	150 points
Midterm.....	100 points
Final.....	100 points
Design/production project.....	200 points
Total	1100 points

GRADING SCALE:

1100 - 990 = A, 989 - 880 = B, 879 – 770 = C, 769 - 660 = D, 659 and below = F

Please do not throw out papers, tests or anything with a grade on it. If there is a discrepancy in the grades, this will be the only means for us to double check numbers and addition. I may have recorded your grade incorrectly and this will be the only way to double-check this as well. Without the original documentation, I will not be able to check/change your grades.

EXTRA CREDIT CHOICES ~ (all extra credit work is due by 12/4/17)

You may earn **up to** 25 points extra credit by doing **ONE** of the following:

1. You may work 25 (or more! ☺) hours in the costume shop. You must then write a 2 – 3-page paper on your experience. You must pass the costume shop safety test (the time to take the test is not included in your hours), This is a great way to learn how the backstage operates and experience our facility first hand. If you want to do this but you don't know how to sew.... that is o.k. we will teach you!
2. You may work back stage on a running crew for one show. This is a large time commitment to the show; you must attend EVERY PERFORMANCE AND DRESS REHEARSAL as well as passing a safety test, and then write a paper on the experience (2-3 pages typed). Please see me if this interests you.
3. You may audition & be cast in a show and then write a paper on the experience (2-3 pages typed). See below for details. **You do not need to be a major to be cast in a show.**
4. You may read a play FROM YOUR BOOK (your choice as long as it is not a play covered in class) and do a THOROUGH paper on it. Critique it as if it were one of the shows produced, cover the outline in the syllabus, discuss how the issues in the play are related to society, your impressions of the play & the overall impact. If you wish, you could tackle design concepts & possibly “cast” the show with famous actors supporting why you selected these particular actors. This should be at least 8-10 pages and as with all papers, typewritten.
5. You may go and see Joshua Kane: Gothic at Midnight a Tribute to the Masters of the Macabre. This is part of the Doudna Fine Arts Center Premiere Event Series. This event takes place Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 in Dvorak Concert Hall. The ticket price is \$7.00 for Students, \$16.00 for General admission and \$13.00 for seniors. You will attend the event, and then write a 2 – 3-page paper (typewritten) covering your overall reaction to the performance. Be sure to connect the paper to what we have learned in class until this point, did you enjoy the evening, what was unique to this show? Please be sure to include your ticket and program with the paper. I will be there so please find me at the end of the evening and I will initial your program and answer any questions you might have.
 - Please purchase your tickets early so you can ensure you have a seat. I am not sure how quickly this event will sell out.

All papers, exams, projects and extra credit papers/projects not picked up by students will be retained in my office for one year. After that time, these Records will be destroyed.

Theatre events that might be of interest:

[Theatre Majors, Minors & Others Meeting](#) Tuesday 8/22/17| 05:30 PM

Meeting for majors, minors, and others interested in Eastern's theatre program, performing in shows or working in costume or scene shops, or helping with productions.

Meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Globe Studio at Doudna Fine Arts Center.

[Open Auditions](#) | Tuesday 8/29/17 06:30 PM

Auditions for *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Next to Normal* will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Globe/Theatre/Black Box in Doudna Fine Arts Center. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. in The Globe Studio, DFAC 1080.

Call backs will be held on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 in the Globe/Theatre/Black Box of the Doudna Fine Arts Center from 6:30-9:30pm.

Cast list will be posted outside the Theatre Dept. Office (DFAC 2080) by Noon on Friday, September 1, 2017.

Copies of the scripts are available on the library website under reserves. It is listed as class THA0000, Kevin Doolen is listed as the professor, and the password is 0000.

24-hour Play Festival

Saturday, September 23, 2017 in **The Black Box** and **The Globe**, conducted by Anne Thibault.

I encourage you to look at the Doudna Fine Arts Center page ~ <http://www.eiu.edu/doudna/> There are a lot of exciting events coming to Doudna this year as well as performances and shows done by Eastern. This site covers the events for the entire year You might find something of interest to bring you back to the building next semester as well! ☺

Additional information to note~

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>)

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 OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2005, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

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.

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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Tentative course schedule ~ subject to change

Aug.	21	Introduction to the course/review syllabus/class expectations
	23	What is theatre & why is it important?
	25	Tour of the theatre wing & where to locate our box office (Mr. Wolski will be our tour guide!)
Sept.	28	Continue what is theatre & why is it important?
	30	The audience, why are they important, what is your role as an audience member?
	1	The audience continued
	4	Labor Day ~ No Class
	6	TEST 1
	8	Playwright
	11	Parts of a play, how best to read a play
	13	Reading a play continued
	15	Theatre, the physical space
	18	Theatre, the physical space
	20	Theatre, the physical space
	22	Discuss <u>Buried Child</u> by Sam Shepard (we will apply our 'parts of the play') for this discussion. Due ~ Short write
	25	TEST 2
	27	Actor
	29	Actor
Oct.	2	Actor
	4	Creating "The world of the play" ~ Design Process/communication
	6	Design Process Continued
	9	Design process/review
	11	Midterm
	13	Fall Break ~ No Class
	16	Discuss <u>Trifles</u> by Susan Glaspell for Production project Due: notes on script & your initial response(s) to the play (This will count as the short write)
	18	Finish <u>Trifles</u> discussion
	20	Director
	23	Director
	25	Discuss <u>Fences</u> by August Wilson for Production project Due: notes on script & your initial response(s) to the play (This will count as the short write)
	27	Finish <u>Fences</u> discussion
	30	TEST 3
Nov.	1	Publicity/Promotion
	3	Dramaturg
	6	Costume Designer
	8	Costume Designer
	10	Hair and makeup design

	13	Scenic Designer
	15	Scenic Designer
		Discuss progress on Production project
	17	Discuss <u>Next to Normal</u>
		<u>Next to Normal ~ Paper Due</u>
	20	NO CLASS ~ THANKSGIVING BREAK
	22	NO CLASS ~ THANKSGIVING BREAK
	24	NO CLASS ~ THANKSGIVING BREAK
	27	Prop Designer
		Due: a written play concept & the area you are going to present as well as potential approach to production project.
	29	Props continued
Dec.	1	TEST 4
	4	Lighting Designer
	6	Lighting Designer
	8	Sound Designer
		Production Project Due no later than today

YOUR FINAL IS THURSDAY DECEMBER 14, 2017 FROM 8:00 – 10:00

Note: Your written final is not comprehensive. It will cover from midterm on....however I do expect you to know common terms & basic information that we have been consistently using since the start of class.

Thank you for your hard work, have a safe break.
--