

**Jackson State University**  
**DR 201: Introduction to Theatre (CRN 91016)**  
**Fall 2012**

## **I. Instructor Information**

- A. Name: Patrick Benton
- B. E-mail address: william.p.benton@jsums.edu
- C. Office: UPA 302 (backstage hallway, stage right)
- D. Conference hours: Wednesday & Friday 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 3:00 pm
- E. Cell: 601-714-8711

## **II. Course Information**

- A. Course name and number: Introduction to Theatre, DR-201
- B. Section number: 01
- C. Meeting time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00– 10:20 am
- D. Meeting location: UPA 102
- E. Credit: 3 semester hours
- F. Course description: A survey of drama and theater history examining historical practices used in the modern theater. Attendance at theater performances and reading representative plays are required.
- G. Objectives: DR-201 is an appreciation course, designed to acquaint students with theatre as an art form; however, the class also includes practical exercises and a studio component. By participating in the course students will be able to
  - 1. Understand the fundamentals of creating, comprehending and critiquing theatre;
  - 2. Develop spontaneous and imaginative performance skills, while learning to build a sense of ensemble;
  - 3. Work through acting exercises designed to establish relationships, strengthen sensory recall and the ability to communicate memories;
  - 4. Learn to respond to the given circumstances including objects, characters, situations, as well as the environment;
  - 5. Improve listening skills and the ability to react spontaneously in a theatrical situation;
  - 6. Utilize status and character relationships as they appear in a theatrical context; and,
  - 7. Increase creativity and self-confidence and while also honing decision-making skills.

## **III. Textbook and Course Materials**

- A. *Theatre: Brief Edition* by Robert Cohen. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN 978-0077333515
- B. Four Major Plays (*Doll's House*, *Ghosts*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *The Master Builder*) by Henrik Ibsen
- C. Basic school supplies: notebook, pens, pencils, highlighters, etc.

## **IV. Grading**

- A. Grading scale
  - A            900 points or above
  - B            800 - 899 points
  - C            700 - 799 point
  - D            600 -699 points
  - F            599 points or below

## B. Method of evaluation

1	Paper	100 pts	= 100 pts	10 %
2	Projects	200 pts each	= 400 pts	40 %
3	Tests	100 pts each	= 300 pts	30 %
	Participation	200 points	= 200 pts	20 %
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>			<b>= 1000 pts</b>	

## C. Graded components

1. Students will present one **paper**, worth 10% of the final grade.
  - a. The paper will be typed and at least 500 words.
  - b. The paper will respond to the performances, direction and design of the JSU Theatre production of *The Color Purple*, which runs Oct 31 through Nov 5.
  - c. The paper will be due at the beginning of the class period on November 6.
  - d. Late papers will be assessed a ten point penalty per class period.
  
2. Students will present two **projects**, worth 40% of the final grade.
  - a. The first project must be an acting project.
  - b. The second project will be selected from the following areas: acting, directing, scenic design, costume design, light and sound design, playwriting, or producing.
  - c. Late projects will be assessed a ten point penalty per class period.
  
3. Students will take three **tests**, worth 30% of the final grade.
  - a. Tests will focus on lectures, reading material, studio exercises and projects.
  - b. Students will be assigned a grade of zero if they are absent on a test day.
  - c. Each student may make-up one and only one test at the end of the semester.
  
4. Students will be graded on **participation**, worth 20% of the final grade.
  - a. Theatre is a collaborative art form, and your classmates need you to succeed.
  - c. Students must be respectful and supportive of the work of their classmates.
  - d. Examples of activities which might result in a lower participation grade include, but are not limited to:
    - i. Using a cell phone or other texting device during class;
    - iii. Entering or leaving the classroom during a student scene or presentation;
    - iv. Talking to others during a student scene or presentation;
    - v. Failing to have necessary materials for class;

- vi. Being dressed inappropriately for activities;
- vii. Failing to participate in activities;
- viii. Sleeping in class

## **V. Academic Dishonesty Policy**

All acts of academic dishonesty (such as cheating on exams, plagiarizing another person's work as one's own, having another person write a paper, fabricating research data, presenting excuses which are untrue for failing to meet academic and professional standards) are a violation of University policy, and will result in appropriate penalties.

## **VI. Attendance / Tardy Policy**

- A. Students are expected to punctually attend all class meetings, although the attendance policy allows for occasional emergencies.
- B. Students who do not answer roll at the beginning of class will be marked tardy.
- C. Being tardy three times is the equivalent of being absent once.
- D. Students who miss more than 15 minutes of a class period will be marked absent for the entire class period.
- E. Students who miss more than three classes will have their final grade lowered by one letter.
- F. Students who miss more than five classes will have their final grade lowered by two letters.
- G. Students who miss more than seven classes will be assigned a grade of "F" and dropped from the class.

## **VII. General Policies**

- A. Absolutely no electronic devices are permitted in class.
- B. Absolutely no food is permitted in class (unless it is part of a scene).
- C. Students should use Standard English in all assignments.
- D. Students must read and follow the policies and procedures in catalogs, handbooks and other print and electronic publications of Jackson State University.

## **VIII. Studio Policies**

- A. Students should expect to warm up physically and vocally at the beginning of studio sessions.
- B. Students should wear clothing that allows a wide range of movement without being revealing.
- C. Students should feel free to bring a mat or towel if they are uncomfortable lying on the floor.
- D. Students should understand that adult themes sometimes emerge in the theatre, just as in life.
- E. Students should speak with the instructor if they are uncomfortable with the dramatic content of the course.

## **IX. Emergency Procedures**

- A. Students should monitor the JSU website and local media for notice of class being cancelled due to weather or other emergency.
- B. Students should closely follow the instructor's instructions if inclement weather or any other disturbance occurs during class hours.

## **X. Special Needs Learners**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you are encouraged to contact the ADA Coordinator and Compliance Officer, P. O. Box 1799, Jackson, MS 39217, telephone (601) 979-2485 as early as possible in the term.

## **XI. Diversity**

Jackson State University is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation and geographic area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others.

## **XII. Grievances**

Any student who has a grievance and/or complaint must first discuss the issue with the professor. If there is no resolution at the student/professor level, the student can then address his/her complaint through the appropriate channels of administration:

**Coordinator of Theatre Studies:**

**Director of Theatre:**

**Chair, Dept of Mass Comm, Speech & Theatre**

**Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts:**

Mrs. Nadia Bodie (Rose McCoy Building)

Dr. Mark Henderson (Rose McCoy Building)

Dr. David Coulson (e-Center)

Dr. Thomas Calhoun (Liberal Arts Building)

Please note that documentation of a meeting at each level is required before the student may request a meeting at the next level.

**XIII. Schedule**

	<b>date</b>	<b>day</b>	<b>start</b>	<b>end</b>	<b>assignments / due today</b>
AUG	21	TUE	9:00	10:20	Introductions
	23	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 1: What Is the Theatre?
	28	TUE	9:00	10:20	Chapter 2: What Is a Play?
	30	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 3: The Actor
SEP	4	TUE	9:00	10:20	Studio
	6	THU	9:00	10:20	Studio
	11	TUE	9:00	10:20	Studio
	13	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 4: The Playwright
	18	TUE	9:00	10:20	Chapter 5: Designers & Technicians
	20	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 6: The Director
	25	TUE	9:00	10:20	TEST ONE
	27	THU	9:00	10:20	Studio
OCT	2	TUE	9:00	10:20	Studio
	4	THU	9:00	10:20	PROJECT ONE
	9	TUE	9:00	10:20	PROJECT ONE
	11	THU	9:00	10:20	Studio
	16	TUE	9:00	10:20	Chapter 7: Theatre Traditions: East and West
	18	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 8: The Modern Theatre
	23	TUE	9:00	10:20	Ibsen
	25	THU	9:00	10:20	Studio
	30	TUE	9:00	10:20	TEST TWO
NOV	1	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 9: The Musical Theatre
	6	TUE	9:00	10:20	Studio / <i>THE COLOR PURPLE</i> paper
	8	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 10: Theatre Today
	13	TUE	9:00	10:20	Studio
	15	THU	9:00	10:20	Chapter 11: The Critic
	20	TUE	<b>NO CLASS</b>		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
	22	THU	<b>NO CLASS</b>		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
	27	TUE	9:00	10:20	PROJECT TWO
	29	THU	9:00	10:20	PROJECT TWO
DEC	TBA	<b>FINALS WEEK</b>			TEST THREE (FINAL EXAM)

Please note: Schedule is subject to change.