

J.S.U College of Liberal Arts. Department Speech & Theatre

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be...? We were born to manifest the glory that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it is in everyone...and as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same.”

--Nelson Mandela

DRAMA 201-02: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

Spring 2015

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m

Room: Blackburn Auditorium

Instructor: Yohance Myles

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Office: Rm 112 Rose E. McCoy

Office Hours: MWF 2-4pm; Tues. & Thurs. 1-3pm.

Number: (601) 979-1357 **Main Office:** (601) 979-2426

Required Textbook:

Cohen, Robert. *Theatre Brief Version*. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, A Division of the McGraw Hill Companies, 7th. Edition, 2005.

Required Play Reading: Suggested by Professor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of drama and theatre history examining historical practices used in the modern theater. Attendance at theater performances and the reading of the representative plays are required open to all students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Introduction to Theatre is an appreciation course, designed to acquaint students with a basic understanding of Theatre as an art form. This class will also focus on practical and concrete approach to acting. However, we will work through different based acting methods/styles to stimulate and create impulses that develop a cognitive understanding of conceptual and realistic interpretations through theatre games, improvisation, monologues, and scenes for informal and formal productions.

From participating in the course the student will:

- Understand the basic fundamentals of creating, analyzing, comprehending, applying,

- integrating, and critiquing theatre.
- Develop spontaneous and imaginative performance skills (while learning to build a sense of ensemble);
- Work through a series of exercises designed to establish relationships, strengthen sensory recall and the ability to communicate memories, details and emotions through responses to objects, characters, situations and the environment.
- Understand what it means to listen to an acting partner and react to them within the confines of a theatrical situation (to react truthfully in the moment).
- Have a basic understanding of character relationships and status.
- Develop creativity, self-confidence and decision-making skills.

METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION & GRADING SCALE

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Test I	<u>100</u>	A = 900-1000
Test II	<u>100</u>	B = 800-889
Test III (Writing Assignment)	<u>100</u>	C = 700-799
Test IV Play Reading-	<u>100</u>	D = 600-699
Ensemble Building	<u>100</u>	
Midterm Exam	200	
Actor Play Report I Department Prod.	100	
Actor Play Report II	150	
Research Forum/Studio Night/Activity	100	
Daily Participation	200	
Final Exam (Scene presentation II)	200	
Extra credit option		
Total	1450	

Method of Course Evaluation: Jackson State University Student Instructional Rating System (SIRS) and Instructor evaluations.

Caveat: The professor may assign additional assignments throughout the course and/or provide an opportunity for the student to earn extra credit points.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Test I, II	
	Test will be based on chapter readings, vocabulary terms, notes, etc.
Test III	Writing assignment will based on material(s) discussed in class.
Test IV	Students will be tested on criteria outlined for said reading assignment.
Ensemble Building	
	Attendance is the number one focus of this assignment. Students will required to create an ensemble toward listening, being, and action skills. special focus upon reacting, and creating choice based upon what your partner is doing in the scene or class exercises.
Mid-term Exam	
	Exam will cover chapters/material learned from discussions held in class.
Actor Play Report I Department Production	
	Students are required to attend a departmental productions in order to foster interest and appreciation for the dramatic art. A (2) page (12pt font, Times New Roman, and double spaced). Actor play report must be turned in the following class session after the closing of show production. No Exceptions. This is only an <u>acting critique</u> that focuses on one performance. Students are expected to discuss physical, vocal, and emotional engagement of the actor's effectiveness. This includes highlights of material discussed in class also. See instructor for details.
Play Reading Report I	
	Students are required to read the assigned play by the professor to stimulate and increase knowledge of scene structure, character analysis, playwriting, and theatrical imagery. Students will be expected to write a 3-4 page report on the assigned play. See instructor for specific details about paper structure and clarity.

Research Forum/Studio Night/Activity	
	Students are required to attend (1) outside departmental activitiy that serve to mature them as students and art advocates. Students are required to write a 2–3 page report about event. If students attend off-campus events, with approval from professor , proof of attendance must accompany written report as required evidence.
Daily Participation	
	Students will be expected to participate in class discussions with a positive and empathetic energy. Some class discussions may include theatrical games/exercises.
Final Exam	
	Exam will cover final chapters/ material learned from chapters discussed in class.
Extra Credit Options	
	The criteria for extra credit will be given by the professor depending on the circumstances/matriculation of the student progress in class.

INTRO TO THEATRE DR 201-01
GRADING EVALUATION FORM

Test I 100 points

Test II 100 points

Test III 100 points

Test IV..... 100 points

100 points for all passed quizzes. Based on +100 point grading scale.

**** --10 points deducted for lateness on quiz day.**

Ensemble Building..... 50 points attendance
50 points participation

Excessive lateness/tardiness..... --10 points deducted daily.

Lack of participation..... – 5 points will be deducted each ensemble/group assignment.

Mid –term 100 points

Actor Play report I 50 points – attendance
Department Production 50 points – paper structure & clarity

Play Reading Report 50 points – purchase of play
50 points – paper structure & clarity
50 points – meeting deadline

**** 10 points deducted if paper is late.**

Research forum/ Studio Night/..... 50 points -- attendance
Activity 50 points – report and paper structure

Daily Participation..... 100 points – attendance
50 points – participation in class exercises

Final Exam 100 points

**** Points are deducted from each graded area if said criteria's are not to its maximum potential. Please put forth all efforts in completing all assignments with dedication, clarity, and professionalism. No Exceptions. Stay focus!**

*****Please be advised that there are no mid- term grades given. Some materials are subject to change throughout the course of the semester. It is impossible for any student to make speedy progress in a class based upon one/two completed assignments or attendance. The professor will give individual conferences throughout the semester so that students can keep track of their growth and matriculation. Also be reminded that your final grade is a total grading of all completed work and assignments.***

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance is important to achieving your best work in this class. Teamwork is the basis of any theatrical endeavor. That fact and the performative aspect of this class mean that attendance is **VITAL**. You need to be present to learn and practice skills introduced in class. A student's final grade will be reduced by **one letter grade** after three absences; the student will receive a grade of "F" after seven absences. **"Remember you are allowed three absences. It is wise to save these for emergencies."**

This course will involve a combination of lecture and group participation sessions. In order to foster a exciting, smooth, and intellectual course, I expect each member of the class to come to class ready to constructively support your colleagues (if an individual does not show up, the ensemble suffers and cannot reach its full potential), to read and study all assignments, to fully commit to participating in all discussions, and to contribute a positive energy in promoting a safe environment where all members are free to express ideas and thoughts. The choice not to actively participate in discussions will have a negative impact on your grading throughout the course. You will be deducted points for non participation in class activities.

Please arrive to class on time. Tardiness is unprofessional and is not fair to yourself and the class. **FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE LASTING IMPRESSIONS**. And, constantly coming in **5-10** minutes late does not mean that you have been attending class. If you come in after roll has been called, it is your responsibility to immediately bring it to the instructor's attention at the end of that class session. **REMEMBER 3 LATE TARDIES = 1 ABSENCE**.

"THIS CLASS REQUIRES PARTICIPATION AND OCCASSIONALLY OUTSIDE REHEARSAL HOUR TIMES. IF YOUR CURRENT WORKLOAD IS TOO HEAVY, YOU ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THIS CLASS WHEN YOU HAVE ADEQUATE TIEM. DO NOT TAKE THIS STATEMENT LIGHTLY! FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THIS WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN A STUDENT FAILING THE CLASS."
Professor Myles.

If you are involved in any extra-curriculum activities, group organizations, or student productions it is your responsibility to turn in all approved University excused absentes forms to the professor. Please remember to plan accordingly. Be mindful that regardless to the outside obligations one might have it is not the professor's responsibility to make accommodations for any activities that interfere with said class time or class work. We are all responsible adults so let's make sure we approach our work and responsibilities with a focused mind and integrity. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

LATE WORK POLICY – All work is due indicated on the course schedule. If a class presentation, discussion, quiz or exam is missed, students are allowed to make it up. The work must be made up within a reasonable time (within a week). If late work is turned in after the one-week grace period, there will be an automatic 10% reduction of grade. All arrangements for missing work must be made prior to the time the assignment is scheduled. If such

arrangements are not made, then no make-up options will be given and you will receive a zero for that assignment. Having a computer or printer problem at the last minute, having a paper due in another class, being involved in production, or wanting to leave early for breaks for whatever reason are not legitimate reasons for late work. **PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.**

**** Make-up and late work is not allowed in this course training. Due to the fact that this is a hands-on training and participatory lecture/exercise course it is in the full understanding of all students who are enrolled to adhere to this written documentation that there will be no make-up, or late work accepted by the professor. This course is designed to function at a rate that is comprehensive and complementary towards time and individual growth. Failure to complete work/tasks assigned by the professor will be determined by the prioritizing, focusing, and commitment of all students enrolled.**

Classroom Decorum. There are certain basic standards of classroom decorum/conduct that should be adhered to by the members of this class. Good decorum/conduct does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment or other features of a comfortable and pleasant classroom. Classroom decorum does, however, include the following:

- Display of respect for all members of the classroom, both your instructor and fellow students.
- Your professor is expected to give you constructive feedback for the assignments. If you are not in agreement with the feedback or would like to further discuss any comments, you do so at the instructor's assigned office hours or by appointment.
 - Any disagreement expressed outside of office hours that may appear disrespectful and/or threatening to your professor and classmates will be immediately reported to campus security and appropriate action(s) will be taken.
- Attentiveness to and participation in lectures, group activities, workshops, and other classroom exercises.
- Avoidance of unnecessary disruptions during class sessions, such as private conversations, passing around gossip notes, sharing of food or candy, reading of magazines or newspapers, and doing work for other classes. Please place phones on vibrate at the beginning of class, as it can be disruptive to the rest of the class. Please do not respond to or initiate a text. **Due to the disruptive nature of cell phones and other technology use in the classroom, the professor will give no more than one warning to discontinue texting or any related activity. Excessive use of cell phone use will result in student(s) being asked to exit from the classroom. If problem continues will be asked to either drop class or appropriate actions will be take in having student removed for disruptive conduct and insubordination towards professor.**
- Avoidance of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom community.

- These features of classroom decorum do not comprise an exhaustive list. Rather, they represent the minimal sort of behaviors that help to make the classroom a pleasant place for all concerned.
- **DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE ROOM WHEN OTHERS ARE PRESENTING.**

Dress Attire: This class is physical in nature. Please wear clothes that will allow you to breathe and move freely. Tight clothes and dangling jewelry may restrict movement. Guys, no hats, and please make sure your pants fit you. Ladies suggested clothes like jeans, shorts, or pants are required due to ample amounts of movement. IF POSSIBLE PLEASE NO SKIRTS. NO FLIP-FLOPS.

Class Inter “Action”: If you find yourself in a uncomfortable situation with any fellow classmates while working/participating during class please meet with the professor at once. I cannot fix a problem unless I know about it.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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.

SPECIAL NEEDS LEARNERS

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

GREVIANCES

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

Coordinator of Theatre Studies: Dr. Nadia Bodie (Rose McCoy Building)
Department Chair: Dr. Mark Henderson (Rose McCoy Building)
Dean of College of Liberal Arts Dr. Mario Azavedo (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.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

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