

DR 310 Development of Theatre

“Art serves us best precisely at that point where it can shift our sense of what is possible, when we know more than we knew before, when we feel we have – by some manner of a leap – encountered the truth. That, by the logic of art, is always worth the pain.”

– T.S. Eliot

Fall 2016

MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm

CRN 91136

Room: 117 Performance Studio/Rose McCoy Auditorium

Professor: Dr. Nadia Bodie-Smith

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Office Hours: MWF 3:30-5pm pm or appt.
TR 10-12pm

Box Office Hours: Everyday as needed

Required Course Materials:

Students are responsible for securing copies of course materials in time to complete assignments related to them.

Living Theater A History 6th edition by Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb

Anthology of Living Theater 3rd edition by Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb). Assigned plays are in the required anthology or provided in a packet.

A three-ring binder for class materials, which should include: notes, evaluations, syllabus, outlines, handouts, quizzes and presentations.

Key to Readings: LT = Living Theater ALT= Anthology of Living Theatre P = Packet

Prerequisites: DR 201, 202, 204, 205

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The history of the physical theater, drama, and the participants from the Egyptian origin of theater ritual through the Greek classical theater to Elizabethan England. This is a two-semester course (DR 310 & DR 311). Drama 310 overview begins with dramatic practice in Egypt (ca. 350 B.C.) through the nineteenth century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course the students will be able to:

1. Utilize a solid working knowledge of past periods, styles, conventions, texts, events, and people that form a common vocabulary for present-day theatre practitioners.
2. Recognize the various ways past societies have conceived of and practiced what we call theatre.
3. Apply, actively and critically, a historiographic awareness of the past to present practices and circumstances.

METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION & GRADING SCALE

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Daily Participation	100	A = 900-1000
Theatre Workshops (25pts each) (Acting Scenes, Directing Scenes, Playwriting Stage Reading, Research Forum Session)	100	B = 800-889
Play Report 1 (<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>)	100	C = 700-799
Play Report 2 (<i>The Wiz</i>)	100	D = 600-699
Play Discussion Leader w/ outline & questions	100	F = 599 and Below
Class Presentation I	100	
Quiz 1-15 (10pts each)	150	
Midterm Exam	100	
Final Exam (extensive essay questions)	150	
Extra credit option is provided at Professor's discretion		
Total	1000	

Special Note: All majors must have an "A" "B" or "C" in order to pass the course.

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Quiz 1-15	
	Quizzes will consist of a list of items — names, concepts, objects, etc. — from the texts and lectures. You will be asked to identify the items and

	very briefly describe their significance. Follow class schedule below for assigned times. Quizzes are scheduled for the first 5 mins of class, and cannot be made up. Be on time.
Presentations	
	Students are expected to present <u>one</u> chapter of textbook detailing social, political movements, innovations, theatrical approaches (acting, design practices) names and concepts that are integral to the time period. Students must present using note cards, and prepared discussion questions for a minimum of 40 minutes. If student presenters are unprepared, they will be asked to leave and will not only lose points for the presentation but also for the assigned quiz.
Midterm /Final Exams	
	The exams test your raw knowledge of the periods, styles, events, people, and texts we study. They will consist of multiple choice and short answer responses. The exams are each worth 150 points. Note that Midterm and Final Exams cover material from the book, from the plays, <i>and</i> from class lectures. You should not expect to pass the test simply by reading the text book (otherwise, why come to class at all?). The Final exam is non-cumulative, only testing material covered from the Midterm on.
Play Discussion Leader	
	Students are required to lead <u>one</u> discussion based on the play reading for that week. Discussion should be at least 30 minutes complete with outline or note cards with questions for class. Discussion handout will be provided.
Play Report	
	Students are required to attend <u>two</u> department productions. Actor play report will be provided.
Workshops	
	Students are required to attend <u>four</u> department activities that serve to mature them as students and theatre advocates. No written work is required, and students will receive points for attendance. If students attend an off-campus event, with approval from professor, written work will be required as evidence.
Daily Participation	
	Students will be expected to participate with a positive attitude. A perfect and punctual attendance in itself will result in a B+ grade for participation; to receive an A requires <i>active</i> participation (i.e. comments and questions that reveal thoughtfulness and preparation). If you are shy about speaking in class, <i>please</i> let me know by seeing me during my office hours.
Extra Credit	Extra credit option is presented at the Professor's discretion

COURSE POLICIES

PARTICIPATION

This course will be taught with a seminar focus, involving a combination of lecture presentations and discussion-centered sessions. I expect students to come to class prepared, to read all assigned readings, to vigorously participate in all in-class discussions, and to contribute a positive demeanor, one conducive to promoting an environment wherein all members are free to express ideas and thoughts.

Perfect and punctual attendance in itself will only result in a B+ grade for participation; to receive an A requires *active* participation (i.e. comments and questions that reveal thoughtfulness and preparation). If you are shy about speaking in class, *please* let me know by seeing me during my office hours. The choice not to actively participate in discussions will have a negative impact on your final grade.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important to achieving your best work in this 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. This means that you have been absent too many times to maintain continuity in improvement.

Please arrive to class on time. Tardiness is unprofessional and is not fair to me or to your classmates. You will have missed class if you are not present for the entire class period. This is, staying for only half the class, coming in 5-10 minutes before the end of class, or consistently coming in 5-10 minutes late does not mean that you attended. There will be a quiz at the beginning of each presentation day, and sometimes on play discussion day, so tardiness will affect your quiz grades. Additionally, three tardies equal one absence. If students arrive after roll has been called, it is your responsibility to alert your professor at the end of that particular class, so that your absent mark in the grade book may be changed to a tardy. I appreciate calls when you know you will be late but a call does not mean that I will not mark you tardy. If you have to be absent or arrive late (on days you are not presenting), Arrange for one of your classmates to take notes for you. You are responsible for any material covered or announcements made on days you are absent

This class requires extensive work outside the classroom. I do expect a considerable amount of effort from you in this course, both in terms of book work (writing and reading) and in terms of critical thought (stretching your imagination beyond what's familiar for you). I have every confidence, however, in your ability to rise to this challenge, and I believe you will find the journey rewarding. However, if your current workload is too heavy, you are welcome to take this class when you have adequate time.

LATE WORK POLICY – All work is due as indicated on the course schedule. Because of the seminar style in which this course is taught, no late work will be accepted. If you are scheduled to present or lead a play discussion, but must miss a class due to illness or emergency, notify me *in advance* if at all possible. Plan ahead.

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, 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 17999, Jackson, MS 39217, telephone (601) 979-3704 as early as possible in the term.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

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.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Students are expected to be attentive and respectful toward their classmates and to help each other on tasks.

At minimum, such respect involves arriving on time to class, silencing and putting away all cellphones/smartphones, putting away earphones, refraining from side conversations (including text messaging), keeping outside reading material stored away, and staying awake. If you feel tired, excuse yourself and splash water over your face. Students will not be allowed to sit and nod off. Participation points will be deducted daily from those who engage in disruptive or disrespectful behavior. A sleeping/slouching and wearing earphone even though the device is turned off is disruptive behavior. If behavior continues students will be warned and then asked to leave. Students often use their phones to set date reminders and the like; please write down reminders on paper. You are free to add them to your electronic devices at a later time. Laptops and iPads are only to be used to enhance the learning experience. Infractions will be dealt with on an individual basis.

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 your Professor'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 campus security and appropriate actions(s) will be taken.

Avoid making racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our classroom community.

If arriving late to class, please enter quietly/quickly when others are presenting. No need to explain why you are late at that time. It is distracting and unfair to your classmates.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS

Come to class and turn in assignments on time. No, really: coming to class and turning in your assignments on time is a valued strategy for students. The number one problem people have with this class involves keeping up with weekly assignments. Just doing the quizzes and exams will not earn you a passing grade.

Take responsibility for your performance in the class throughout the semester. It's your responsibility to make sure that I have received, graded, and recorded your assignments. Finals week is too late to fix problems (like a paper you thought you handed in two months ago but that didn't actually get to me). Let me know if you have questions or concerns. I don't know if you're upset or confused about something until you tell me. I am eager to address frustrations or questions, but I rely on you to make me aware of them. Motivate yourself to read and prepare. I can't guarantee that everything we study will immediately appeal to you. But what you can be proud of is that if you set weekly manageable goals, you will achieve your desired outcome- GO FOR IT!

BOOK POLICY- Students are required to have textbooks on the first day of class. If a student has not obtained his/her book by the second week of class, points will be deducted daily from the student's final participation grade each day until the student has the purchased the book.

GRIEVANCES

Any student who has a grievance and/or complaint must first discuss the grievance and/or complaint with the professor and complete a student complaint form 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 in the following order:

Coordinator of Theatre Studies:	Dr. Nadia Bodie-Smith (Rose McCoy Building)
Department Chair:	Dr. Mark G. Henderson (Rose McCoy Building)
Interim Dean of College of Liberal Arts	Dr. Mario Azevedo (Liberal Arts 2nd floor)

Note: Documentation of a meeting (student complaint form) at each level is required before the student may request a meeting at the next level.

Bibliography

- Brockett, Oscar G. *History of the Theatre*. 9 ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2003.
- Brown, John Russell. *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Theatre*. Oxford, NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 2001.
- Watson, Jack, Grant McKernie. *A Cultural History of Theatre*. White Plains, NY: Longman Publ. Group, 1993.
- Wilson, Edwin, Alvin Goldfarb. *Living Theater: A History* 6 ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2012.
- . *Anthology of Living Theater*. 3ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2008.
- Worthen, W.B. *The Harcourt Brace Anthology of Drama* 3 ed. Harcourt College Publ., 2000.