

Jackson State University
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Speech Communication & Theatre
Introduction to Theatre

Course Number and Title: DR 201-01 Introduction to Theatre

Semester and Year: Fall 2016

Instructor: Professor Prince Duren

Office Location: Rose E. McCoy Rm: 114

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9am – 12pm and 4pm – 5pm (Conference Hours)

Tuesday & Thursday 9am – 11:30am and 4pm – 5pm (Conference Hours)

Friday: By Appointment Only

College of Liberal Arts Meeting

Last Thursday of each month: 10am – 11am

Office Number: 601-979-3337

Main Office Number: 601-979-2426

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Required Text: *“The Theatre Experience 13th”* Edition by Edwin Wilson

ISBN: 978-0-07-351427-7

Other Requirements: The purchase of tickets and attendance of main stage productions:
A Streetcar Named Desire, The Wiz, and Black Nativity

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of drama and theater history examining historical practices used in the modern theatre. Attendance at theater performances and reading of the representative plays are required open to all students. Furthermore, this class is an exploration and hands-on study of the basic components of theatre. It is intended to introduce the student to all aspects of theatre by way of active participation including group projects and creative thinking. Theatre is an interactive art form which requires active participation from you, the student. This course will foster your personal creativity while promoting an understanding of the theatrical process and the integral role of theatre in society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To increase appreciation of theatre as an art and the role theatre plays, and has played, in our society.
- To provide students with a hands-on experience in the artistic and technical aspects of theatre.
- To promote understanding of dramatic history, literature, and form.
- To cultivate an understanding of the theatrical process and allow students to work in a collaborative format.
- To encourage personal creativity and aesthetics.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

The class is a series of lectures, discussions, assignments, and hands-on participatory exercises that explore the various elements of theatre. Playwriting, directing, acting and design principles will be discussed throughout the semester and you will be responsible for all lecture and assigned reading material. The final project involves group presentations. Students will be divided into

groups containing a playwright, stage manager, director, sound/costume designer, set/props designer and performers. Each group will develop and present a 10-15 minute play for the final exam.

HOMEWORK POLICY:

All homework must be typed and double-spaced. All homework must be turned in on time. You homework must be uploaded onto Blackboard unless otherwise authorized. You will never submit work handwritten.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Attend the main stage productions: A Streetcar Named Desire, The Wiz, and Black Nativity
- Pass a quiz on each of the production listed above.
- Write a critique on each of the productions listed above. If you fail the quiz, your critique WILL NOT count.
- Daily Quizzes on Assigned Readings (**You cannot makeup**)
- Design Project
- Compare & Contrast Assignment
- Take two exams.
- Complete classroom projects.
- Participate in class exercises and discussions.
- Participate in and complete written requirements for the final project.

PROJECT/TEST DISCUSSION POLICY

I am happy to discuss the grades you receive on your tests and projects. Please wait at least 24 hours between the time I will return the test/project and the time we discuss it. This gives you time to re-read your own work and/or sections of the book, as well as to read any comments that I have written.

BLACKBOARD

All assignments unless otherwise authorized must be turned in via the University's Blackboard system.

REQUIRED PRODUCTIONS SCHEDULE:

Please review this information carefully. You are required to attend the main stage play productions! **There is no substitution to this requirement.** You will also have to purchase tickets to the productions which are \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the Rose E. McCoy Box Office, a participant in the production, or from me. A quiz will be given on each production and a typewritten critique (uploaded via Blackboard) will be due at the conclusion of the run for each show. A detailed outline of what is to be included in your critique will be provided. **Please note that if you don't pass the quiz, your production critique WILL NOT be accepted.**

ATTENDANCE: Due to the cumulative nature of this course, attendance at every session is mandatory. Your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade after three absences; a letter grade of F will be given after five absences. Use your absences wisely. Please arrive to class on

time. Tardiness is unprofessional and is not fair to me or to your peers. You will have missed class if you are not there for the entire class period. That is, staying for only half the class time, coming in 5-10 minutes before the end of class, or consistently coming in 5-10 minutes late does not mean that you attended. **3 Tardies equal one absence.** If you come in after roll has been called or an attendance sheet has been passed, it is your responsibility to let the instructor know at the end of that particular class of your attendance. Moreover, do not expect me to cover any missed material.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: I expect all assignments to be turned in on time. Your assignment must be turned in by you. I will not accept any late assignments. The only exception is if there's some malfunction with Blackboard or an error on my part.

EXTRA CREDIT: Extra Credit is at the professor's discretion. Please keep in mind that extra credit will not move mountains. For example, if you are failing the class, doing a plethora amount of extra credit (at the end of the year) will not result in a passing grade.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: There are certain basic standards of classroom civility that should be adhered to, particularly in a theatre course. Etiquette does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment, or other features of a comfortable and pleasant classroom community. Classroom etiquette does, however, include the following:

- 1.) Displaying respect for all members of the classroom community, both your instructor and fellow students.
- 2.) Attentiveness to and participation in lectures and peer feedbacks.
- 3.) Avoidance of unnecessary disruptions during class such as private conversations, reading campus or any type of newspaper, and **DOING WORK FOR OTHER CLASSES**. This includes any and every aspect of communicating via social media.
- 4.) Avoidance of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom community.

These features of classroom etiquette do not comprise an exhaustive list. Rather, they represent the minimal sort of behavior that helps make the classroom a pleasant place for all concerned.

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

GRIEVANCES:

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-Smith (Rose McCoy Building)

Department Chair: Dr. Mark Henderson, (McCoy Building)

Dean of College of Liberal Arts: Dr. Mario Azevedo (Liberal Arts Building)

Student complaint forms are available in the Speech & Theatre Department's main office Room 100.

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.

Grading Scale

8 Weekly Quizzes (50 points each)= 400 **(Cannot Makeup)**

Short Play Question= 50

Compare and Contrast= 100

Theatre Artist Presentation= 50

Scene Work= 50

Critique 1= 100

Critique 2= 100

Critique 3= 100

Design Assignment= 100 (Group 50 & Individual 50)

Test One (Midterm) = 100

Test Two= 100

Final Project= 100 (Group 50 & Individual 50)

Participation= 100 (All or none)

Total=1450

A= 1450 – 1305

A= 100 – 90

B= 1304 – 1160

B= 89 – 80

C= 1159 – 1015

C= 79 – 70

D= 1014 – 870

D= 69 – 60

F = Below 870

F= Below 60

Method of Course Evaluation (e.g. SIRS, mid-semester evaluation by student, peer evaluation, faculty diary)

**Introduction to Theatre
Tuesday and Thursday
Fall 2015**

***Schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.**

DATE	SUBJECT	FOR NEXT CLASS	NOTES
8/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Introduction & Syllabus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Syllabus 	
8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Syllabus What is Art? What is Theatre? Short Play Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1: The Audience: Its Role and Imagination Read Pages 7-12 & 17 - 22 	Short Play Assignment is due next Thursday 9/1 via Blackboard. Bring a copy of your answers to class.
8/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 7-12 & 17-22 The Role of the Audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2 The Background & Expectations of the Audience Read Pages 30 - 34 	Quiz #1 will be next class.
9/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 30 – 34 Discuss Short Play Quiz #1 Compare & Contrast Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Pages 35 - 41 	Your compare and contrast assignment should be uploaded via Blackboard by class time 9/8
9/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 35 – 41 Deadline to have textbooks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3 Theatre Spaces: The Audience Views the Stage Read Pages 46 - 52 	Quiz #2 will be next class.
9/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 46 -52 Theatre Artist Assignment Quiz #2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read 52 – 58 & 63 	Theatre Artist Presentation 9/20 .
9/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 52 – 58 & 63 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Acting Read Pages 71 – 75 	
9/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 71 – 75 Quiz #3 	Theatre Artist Presentations	

9/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theatre Artist Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #4 Read Pages 78 – 79 & 82 – 83 Chapter 5: The Director and Producer Read Pages 95 - 98 	
9/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #4 Discuss Pages 78 – 79 & 82 – 83 Discuss Chapter 5: The Director and Producer Pages 95 – 98 Scene Work Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Pages 106 - 109 	Scene Work Presentations will be on 10/4.
9/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 106 – 109 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scene Work Rehearsal 	
9/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scene Work Rehearsal Quiz #5 A Streetcar Named Desire Opens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scene Work Presentations 	.
10/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scene Work Presentations 		A Streetcar Named Desire Closes 10/3 Critique 1 is due via Blackboard 10/4 @ 11:30am.
10/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Mid-Term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Midterm cont. 	
10/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Mid-Term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test One (Midterm) 	
10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test One (Midterm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: The Playwright Read Pages 128 – 133 	
10/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 128 – 133 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #6 	
10/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #6 		

10/24 & 10/27	NO CLASS: HOMECOMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Assignment 	
11/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Assignment Discuss Pages 143 – 145 and 148 – 150 155, 158 - 164 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theatre Genres Read Pages 169 – 173 Musical Theatre 268 - 270 	Design Assignment due 11/8 .
11/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 169 – 173 and 268 – 270 THE WIZ OPENS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Presentations Quiz #7 	
11/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Presentations Quiz #7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 13: Global Theatre Today Read Pages: 293 – 295 317 – 320 	THE WIZ CLOSSES 10/7 Critique 2 due via Blackboard 11/8 at 11:30am.
11/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Pages 293 – 295 317 – 320 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #8 Final Project Assignment 	
11/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #8 Final Project Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Project Preparation 	
11/22 – 11/24	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
11/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Project Preparations 		
12/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Project Dress Rehearsal 		
11/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Project Preparations 		
12/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Project Dress Rehearsal 		
12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLACK NATIVITY OPENS 		Critique #3 due via Blackboard on the day of final.
			Final Project Presentations on the day of Final.

Bibliography

Beckerman Bernard, *Dynamics of Drama: Theory and Method of Analysis*, Knopf, New York, 1970

Beckett Samuel, *Waiting for Gadot*, Copyright 1954. Grove Press.

Jones Edmond, Robert, *The Dramatic Imagination*, Theater Arts, New York, 1941

Kerr, Walter, “*We Call It ‘Live Theatre,’ but Is It?*” New York Times, 2 January 1972.
Copyright 1972 by the New York Times Company.

The Performance Group, *Dionysus in 69*, Noonday, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, New York, n.d.

Stanislavski. Constanin. *An Actor Prepares*. Routledge. 1989

Wainstein, Michael. *Stage Directing: A Director's Itinerary*. Focus Publishing. Newburyport. 2012

Wilson, Edwin. *The Theatre Experience*. 12th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education

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