

**Jackson State University**  
**College of Liberal Arts**  
**Department of ART & Theatre**  
**Introduction to Theatre**

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

**Semester and Year:** Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Professor Prince Duren

**Office Location:** College of Liberal Arts Rm: 304

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

Thursday & 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

**E-mail:** prince.duren@jsums.edu

**Required Text:** “*The Theatre Experience 13<sup>th</sup>*” Edition by Edwin Wilson

**ISBN:** 978-0-07-351427-7

**Other Requirements:** The purchase of tickets and attendance of main stage productions:  
Stick Fly and The Drums of Sweetwater

**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: Stick Fly and The Drums of Sweetwater
- -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.
- -Weekly Quizzes on Assigned Readings (**You cannot makeup**)
- -Design Project
- -Compare & Contrast Assignment
- -Take two exams.
- -Scene Work
- -Theatre Artist Presentation
- -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.

### **CANVAS**

All assignments unless otherwise authorized must be turned in via the University's Canvas system by class time on the due date.

### **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 Canvas) 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 Canvas or an error on my part. If you have a university excuse that prohibits you from turning in your work, please turn in your work prior to your obligation to the university.

**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. I offer extra credit which means you will not be allowed to suggest extra credit for yourself.

**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:** Jimmy Mumford (The Art 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= 100

Scene Work= 100

Critique 1= 100

Critique 2= 100

Test One (Midterm) = 100

Design Assignment= 50

Final Project= 100 (Group 50 & Individual 50)

Daily Participation= 100 (All or none)

Total=1300

A= 1300 – 1170

A= 100 – 90

B= 1169 – 1040

B= 89 – 80

C= 1039 – 910

C= 79 – 70

D= 909 – 780

D= 69 – 60

F = Below 780

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 2017**

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

DATE	SUBJECT	FOR NEXT CLASS	NOTES
8/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Syllabus</li> </ul>	
8/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Syllabus</li> <li>What is Art? What is Theatre?</li> <li><b>Short Play Assignment</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 1: The Audience: Its Role and Imagination</li> <li>Read Pages 7-12 &amp; 17 - 22</li> </ul>	<p>Short Play Assignment is due next Tuesday <b>8/29</b> via Canvas. <b>Bring a copy of your answers to class.</b></p> <p>Auditions for play "Stick Fly" will be 8/28 @6pm in Rose E. McCoy Rm 117.</p>
8/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Short Play</li> <li>Discuss Pages 7-12 &amp; 17-22</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2 The Background &amp; Expectations of the Audience</li> <li><b>Read Pages 30 - 37</b></li> </ul>	<b>Weekly Quiz #1 will be next class (8/31). Quiz will be on pages 7 – 12 &amp; 17 – 22.</b>
8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 30 – 37</li> <li><b>Weekly Quiz #1</b></li> <li><b>Compare &amp; Contrast Assignment</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Pages 38 - 41</li> </ul>	Your compare and contrast assignment should be uploaded via Canvas by class time 9/7
9/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 38 – 41</li> <li><b>Deadline to have textbooks.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 4 Acting</li> <li>Read Pages 71 - 75</li> </ul>	<b>Weekly Quiz #2 will be next class (9/7). Quiz will be over pages 30 – 37 and 38 – 41.</b>
9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 71 - 75</li> <li>Compare &amp; Contrast Paper Discussion</li> <li><b>Weekly Quiz #2</b></li> <li><b>Scene Work Assignment</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read 78 - 79</li> <li>Chapter 6: The Director and The Producer</li> <li>Read Pages 106 – 110</li> </ul>	Scene Work Assignment is due 9/19.
9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 78 79 and 106 – 110</li> </ul>		
9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NO CLASS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scene Work Presentation</li> </ul>	
9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scene Work Presentations</li> </ul>	Scene Work Presentations	<b>If time permits, we will have Weekly Quiz #3 on 9/21. Quiz will cover 78 – 79 and 106 – 110.</b>
9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scene Work Presentations</li> <li><b>Weekly Quiz #3</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 6: Creating the World of the Play</li> <li>Read Pages 127 - 134</li> </ul>	
9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Chapter 6 Pages 127 – 134</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7: Dramatic Structure and Dramatic</li> </ul>	<b>Weekly Quiz #4 will cover pages 127 – 134 and 143 – 145</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characters</li> <li>Read Pages Read Pages 143 – 145</li> <li>Weekly Quiz #4</li> </ul>	
9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 143 – 145</li> <li><b>Weekly Quiz #4</b></li> </ul>	Mid – Term Review	<b>The Production “Stick Fly” opens.</b>
10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid – Term Review</li> <li><b>“Stick Fly” critique due via Canvas.</b></li> <li>Stick Fly Quiz</li> </ul>		Auditions for the play “The Drums of Sweetwater” 10/4 @6pm in the Rose E. McCoy Rm 117/
10/5	NO CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid – Term</li> </ul>	
10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theatre Artist Assignment</b></li> <li><b>Mid – Term Test</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8: Theatrical Genres Read Pages 169 – 173 178 – 181 &amp; 184 - 185</li> </ul>	<b>Theatre Artist Presentations will be on 10/17 and 10/19.</b>
10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 169 – 173, 178 – 181 &amp; 184 - 185</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theatre Artist Presentations</li> </ul>	
10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theatre Artist Presentations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theatre Artist Presentations</li> <li>Weekly Quiz #5</li> </ul>	If time permits, we will have Weekly Quiz #5. It will cover pages 169 – 173, 178 – 181 & 184 - 185
10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theatre Artist Presentations (If Needed)</li> <li><b>Weekly Quiz #5</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9: Scenery Read Pages 209 - 213</li> </ul>	
10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 209 - 213</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10: Stage Costumes 221 – 223</li> <li>Weekly Quiz #6</li> </ul>	Weekly Quiz #6 will cover pages 209 – 213 & 221 – 223.
10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 209 – 213 &amp; 221 – 223</li> <li><b>Weekly Quiz #6</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 11: Lighting &amp; Sound Read Pages 251 – 254</li> <li>Design Assignment</li> </ul>	
10/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages 251 – 254</li> <li><b>Design Assignment</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 12: Musical Theatre Read Pages 267 – 270 &amp; 274 &amp; 275</li> </ul>	Design Presentations will be 11/7 & 11/9.
11/2	NO CLASS		
11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Presentations</li> <li>Final Project Assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Presentations</li> </ul>	Weekly Quiz #7 will cover pages 267 – 270 & 274 & 275.
11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Assignment</li> <li><b>Weekly Quiz #7</b></li> </ul>	Chapter 13 Global Theatre Today Read Pages 293 - 295	<b>Final Project will be the day of final exam. “The Drum of Sweetwater” opens. Play closes 11/13</b>
11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Pages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 14:</li> </ul>	Weekly Quiz #8 will

	293 – 295 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today is your Prof. Birthday. Give him a <b>type written</b> note saying HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have lowest grade removed.</li> <li>• <b>“The Drums of Sweetwater critique is due via Canvas.</b></li> <li>• The Drums of Sweetwater Quiz.</li> </ul>	Contemporary Theatre in the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Pages 317 – 320</li> <li>• Weekly Quiz #8</li> </ul>	cover pages 293 – 295 & 317 – 320.
11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss Pages 317 – 320</li> <li>• <b>Weekly Quiz #8</b></li> </ul>		
11/21 & 11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
11/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Project Prep</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Project Prep.</li> </ul>	
11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Project Prep.</li> </ul>		
	Final Project on the Day of Final Exam		

## Bibliography

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

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