

THR 1013: Intro to Theatre
Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday 9:30-10:20 AM
Location: WC LL7

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Office Hours: M/ W 1-3pm
TH 10-11am

Theatre Mission Statement

University Theatre is centered on the core belief that if we work as professionals during our rehearsals, labs, projects, classes, and internships, we can achieve success both here in our program and onward, through the graduates of our program. We seek to educate students in all aspects of the theatrical arts. Analytical skills, problem solving, and cooperative endeavors are promoted through the creative process of theatre productions. This collaborative process is the basis for all of the theoretical and practical work we do in creating theatre. We prepare students for graduate study and for professional employment in the theatre and related fields and we provide students with a wide range of skills and experience which can be used in a variety of careers.

Catalog Course Description

This course provides a basic introduction to the theatre experience. Because the world of theatre is diverse, this course will, of necessity, be diverse. The primary areas of focus will include: the Audience; the Performers and the Director; the Playwright, Purpose, Point of View, and Genre; Dramatic Structure; Dramatic Characters; and, the Designers, Environment, and Visual Elements. Ultimately, the aim will be to examine how all of the various elements of theatre interact to generate the total theatre experience. Production participation and laboratory hours required.

Course Objectives

- To introduce the students to the many elements which make up the theatre experience.
- To build an understanding of the theatrical vocabulary for both artists and the engaged collaborator.
- To develop an awareness of the purpose(s) of theatre in performance and everyday life.
- To introduce methods of inquiry into the significance of structure, character, and idea in dramatic literature
- To examine the individual roles of theatre artists.
- To examine the interaction within the community of theatre artists, exploring the collaborative nature of theatre.

Required Texts and Materials

“The Theatre Experience” 13th edition Edwin Wilson
PDF of *The Diary of Anne Frank* Kesslemen

Attendance and Participation

This class is a mixture of discussion and experiential learning and you must be present to learn. Three absences will cause your grade to drop one letter. Each absence after three will drop your grade another letter. Attendance is also mandatory at both the Fall production and showcase.

Tardiness is unprofessional and unacceptable in this class. Three late arrivals will be counted as an absence. Arrive early and be in your seat ready to begin before 9:30 a.m. Please come prepared to work and participate.

I am aware that sickness and other emergencies do occur. Please email me before class to give notice of your emergency. The email prior to class and a signed, dated excuse from a doctor or clinic is necessary in order to keep the absence from penalizing your grade. You must actually visit the nurse or doctor for a valid excused absence. After 9 absences, regardless of reason, the student will fail the course.

Cell Phones/ Mobile Devices Electronics

If you bring a cellphone/ electronic device into class, make sure it is turned completely off and put away inside a backpack or purse where it cannot be seen. I strongly advise you to NOT use a cellphone/ electronic device in our rehearsal or classroom space. This includes personal iPods, electronic games, and mp3 players, etc.... They are distractions from the short amount of time we have to do our work. The exception to this are the university iPads which we may use to observe or record performances. However, class time should be focused on our classroom collaboration.

Why are policies in this class so strict?

The nature of theatre is highly collaborative. Whether you are in a production or class, an entire ensemble is depending on your work. There is always someone, or many, who are looking for you to be completely present and prepared for each day's work. As a part of this class, you are effectively part of a company and should behave in a respectful, professional, responsible, and committed manner. We should treat those in our class as we would a fellow colleague, remember theatre is a small world and the behavior and attitude you set now are the beginnings of how you will enter your career. Performances, and even exercises with just your classmates as audience, should be approached the way you would a professional production.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” — Aristotle

Americans with Disabilities Act

If any member of the class has a documented disability and needs special accommodations, the instructor will work with the student and the Student Success Center or the Jones Learning Center to provide reasonable accommodation to ensure the student a fair opportunity to perform in this class. In order to plan for optimal success, please advise the instructor of the disability and the desired accommodation as soon as possible. Students are strongly encouraged to notify the instructor during the first week of classes. Without ample planning/preparation time, we cannot assure the availability of needed accommodations in a timely manner.

Academic Integrity

All student work must be done in accordance with the University's Academic Integrity policy as stated in the Student Handbook. There will be severe grade penalties for acts of plagiarism, cheating, copying of another student's work, counterfeit work, theft of tests and unauthorized reuse of work. At the very least, a first offense may entail a reprimand, report of the incident to the academic Dean, the Provost, and the University Registrar, and a failing grade for the assignment/test; a second offense will result in a failing grade for the course. However, if the incident is sufficiently serious—e.g., an entire assignment borrowed almost word-for-word from an online site and turned in as one's own work— the instructor reserves the right to issue a failing grade for the course, even if it is a first offense.

Grading Scale

The student will be evaluated on a total points system in the following areas:

Tests: There are a total of three exams each worth 50 points. The first two will consist of a combination of multiple choice and discussion questions that may cover readings, performances, discussions, and lectures. The final will be a presentation and discussion. **150 points total**

Quizzes and Projects: There will be 14 open book quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions for a total of 10 points for each quiz and **140 points** for the semester. These are a way to guide you through the chapter.

Shop Assignments: You must log in a total of 10 hours during the semester in the production of our shops. This is an all or nothing assignment. You either put in 10 hours or receive no credit.

There will not be partial credit. A sign in book will be in the shops. **Total 20pts**

Production Reflection Papers: You are required to see both university productions this semester and write a reflection paper based on the rubric handed out. 5 points of credit will be given for turning in a ticket stub and program. The other 15 will be evaluated on the written paper. **Show dates are as follows:**

***The Diary of Anne Frank* Nov 2-3 @ 7:30pm; Nov 4 @ 2pm**

Student Showcase Dec 1 @ 7:30

I am giving you these dates ahead of time so that you are able to work your schedule around these times.

Quizzes	140 pts
Test 1	50 pts
Test 2	50 pts
Space Project	10 pts
Costume Project	10 pts
Set Project	10 pts
Light Project	10pts
Collaboration Project	10pts
Participation	100pts
Reflection 1	20 pts
Reflection 2	20 pts
Shop Hours	20 pts

Final	50 pts
Total	500 pts

Schedule

Our progression through these exercises are on the syllabus but may be flexible as we progress through them. I reserve the right to alter these plans. Most classes will begin with a group warm-up and/or group exercise.

Date	Class Activity	Homework
Wed Aug 22	Introduction/ What is Theatre?	
Fri Aug 24	What is Theatre cont.	Read Chp 1 Wilson
Mon Aug 27	Actor and the Audience Chp 1	Chp 1 quiz due
Wed Aug 29	Actor and Audience cont.	Read Chp 2
Fri Aug 31	Discuss Audience	Chp 2 quiz due
Mon Sept 3	No Class Labor Day	
Wed Sept 5	Discuss Audience	Read Chp 3 Spaces
Fri Sept 7	Tour spaces	Chp 3 quiz due
Mon Sept 10	Discuss theatre space	
Wed Sept 12	Theatre Space Project	
Fri Sept 14	Finish project and discuss	Read chp 6
Mon Sept 17	Introducing the Playwright	Chp 6 quiz due
Wed Sept 19	Basics of Structure	Read Chp 7
Fri Sept 21	Dramatic Structure	Chp 7 quiz due
Mon Sept 24	Dramatic Characters	
Wed Sept 26	Workshop Dramatic Structure and Characters	Read chp 8
Fri Sept 28	Discuss Genre	Chp 8 Quiz due
Mon Oct 1	Discuss Genre	
Wed Oct 3	Discuss Genre	
Fri Oct 5	Genre party	
Mon Oct 8	Test 1	Read chp 9
Wed Oct 10	Discuss Set Design	Chp 9 quiz due; Interview question for Set/ Props Design
Fri Oct 12	Set Design Interview and in-class project	Read chp 10
Mon Oct 15	Discuss Stage Costumes	Chp 10 quiz due
Wed Oct 17	Out of class costume project No class	Interview questions for Costume Design; <i>Anne Frank</i> due to be read by Mon Oct 29
Fri Oct 19	Fall Break	

Mon Oct 22	Class interview and present projects	Read Chp 11
Wed Oct 24	Discuss Light and Sound	Chp 11 quiz due; Interview questions for Light and Sound Design
Fri Oct 26	Light Sound interview and in-class project	
Mon Oct 29	Finish project and discuss	
Wed Oct 31	<i>Anne Frank</i>	Rubric for viewing production given Shop hours should be complete
Fri Nov 2	<i>Anne Frank</i>	Read Chp 4
Mon Nov 5	Discuss the Actor	Chp 4 Quiz due; Interview questions for Actor
Wed Nov 7	Actor interview/ Acting Games – wear movement clothing	
Fri Nov 9	Acting Games – wear movement clothing	Read chp 5
Mon Nov 12	Discuss the director	Reflection Paper 1 due Chp 5 quiz due Interview questions for director
Wed Nov 14	Director Interview/ and presentation	
Fri Nov 16	Collaboration Exercise / Stage manager	
Mon Nov 19	Test 2	Read Chp 12
Wed Nov 21	Thanksgiving – no class	
Fri Nov 23	Thanksgiving – no class	
Mon Nov 26	Discuss The Musical	Chp 12 quiz due
Wed Nov 28	Watch Musical	Rubric for 2 nd Reflection given
Fri Nov 30	Watch Musical and discuss final	Read Chp13 Attend Showcase Dec 1
Mon Dec 3	Discuss Global theatre today	Chp 13 Quiz due Read Chp 14
Wed Dec 5	Discuss Contemporary Theatre	Reflection Paper 2 due Chp 14 quiz due
Thur Dec 6	Reading Day	
Mon Dec 10 10:30-12:30	Final	