



INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

Fall 2017 ENGL 113-01
MWF 2:00-2:50 EH 266

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Office Hours: M/W/F 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00 PM-2:00PM; Thursdays by appointment.

SYLLABUS adapted by Amanda Anderson

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of theater and its use and effect in culture. Includes historical and production points of view. Students will view and critique live plays and/or musicals. (This is not a performance course). We will attend DSU's theater production. Further details will be announced in class.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbook: *Theatre: A Way of Seeing*, 7th ed. by Milly Barranger

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the roles of critic and the reviewer
2. Write a review of a live theatrical performance
3. Write a critique of a play
4. Become familiar with the various theatrical forms
5. Become familiar with theatrical terminology
6. Become familiar with aspects of stage work

CONDUCT OF CLASS

Instructional methods will vary as appropriate, including lecture, class discussion tests/quizzes, viewing live shows, script writing/reading, demonstration, audio and visual media, as well as limited hands-on work in the theater.

METHOD OF EVALUATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Students will receive a final course grade (A, B, C, D, F) based on tests results, reaction papers, class participation. Written exams and quizzes may include objective, short answer, and essay questions.

1. Quizzes and exams
2. Attendance and participation
3. Short papers/homework assignments
4. Reviews and Critiques
5. Short presentation

Grade Symbol	Grade Points	Numeric Values
A	4.00	93-100
A-	3.67	90-92
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	70-76
C-	1.67	68-69
D	1.00	60-67
F	0.00	0-59

BASES FOR GRADE EVALUATION

Class Participation 15%

Quizzes and Homework 20%

Play Reviews 15%

Critique and Presentation 20%

Midterm Exam 15%

Final Exam 15%

Please note that in addition to the above point system, the instructor will take into account classroom participation, commitment to learning, attitude, and other factors when calculating final grades.

*NOTE: Any plagiarism will result in automatic failure for the semester regardless of prior grades. Any parties involved in the plagiarism will fail the course.

ASSIGNMENTS

PLAY REVIEW OF DSU PRODUCTION (2-3 PAGES)

In this assignment you will turn a judicious eye to the live show you viewed and demonstrate your ability to critically evaluate the performance. Review the section titled "Writing the Theater Review" On page 361. This is the exact format you will use to write your review of our live performance.

A passing paper must have the following:

1. A clear, well-focused, concise, and original thesis statement that makes a claim about the meaning of the script as a whole.
2. You must cite, using MLA formatting, specific examples from the text that support the claim or claims that you are making. Remember, just including quotations or excerpts is not enough. You must analyze (hence the term analysis) the quotations and explain how they support your assertions.
3. Finally, your conclusion must give a so what factor. For this paper, you might consider how your interpretation might affect how the text is read or taught.

Paper Requirements:

- Standard MLA formatting
- Margins: 1” on all sides
- Font: 12-point Times New Roman
- Alignment: Left, not justified, centered, or right
- Heading: Your name, teacher’s name, class name, and European style due date
- Title: A creative and informative way to entice the reader to read your paper
- Header: Your last name and numeric page number, right aligned
- Proper internal citations & a Work Cited page
- 2-3 full pages

THEATER CHOICES CRITIQUE (2-3 PAGES)

You will assume the role of an actor, director, or designer. In this role you will read an assigned play, create an artifact from the play, based on the choices you, in that role made, and then present your artifact to the class. You will write a 2-3 page paper about your choices.

THEATER CHOICES PRESENTATION (3-5 MINUTES)

You will present your paper and the artifact you created.

Role	Artifact
Actor	Monologue (memorized, rehearsed, and delivered)
Set Designer	Detailed Sketch or Diorama
Costume Designer	Detailed Sketch or Costume
Light Designer	Detailed Lighting Map or Diorama
Director	Detailed Scene Notes or Casting/Audition Pages
Playwright	Detailed Scene (approximately 7-10 pages)

SHORT RESPONSE PAPERS/HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (1 PAGE)

Response papers ask the student to engage with the assigned text and critically respond to it. Some of these assignments may be creative in nature.

*NOTE: See note above regarding [Paper Requirements](#).

QUIZZES

There will be quizzes on blackboard that test your familiarity with the assigned readings. These quizzes are scheduled online and cannot be made up after the four-day grace period. Technical problems will not be considered an excuse for not taking the quizzes or for having an extension.

*NOTE: All outside sources must be cited according to MLA guidelines.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

It is the student's responsibility to ensure documents attached properly and that the student has submitted the correct file and submitted quizzes correctly. It is the student's responsibility to identify any incorrect submissions and notify the professor. Such submissions will be treated as late assignments. If no notice is given, the professor will grade the document submitted as is.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Assignments MUST be Microsoft word documents or rich text files. They MUST be submitted to Blackboard as directed, by the due date listed. As a general rule, assignments are due the week they are listed by Friday at 11:55pm. The professor reserves the right to fail any assignment that does not follow the directions.

RETURNING GRADED WORK

Written work typically will be graded and handed back approximately one week to ten days after the due date. All grade assessments are subject to the discretion of the instructor. Late work will be graded as my schedule allows. There will be no comments made on late work.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

The instructor reserves the right to review assignments for plagiarism at any point during the course. If plagiarism is discovered the instructor reserves the right to apply said penalties, which will override any grades previously assigned.

Plagiarism is a serious offense. There are two kinds of plagiarism, both of which must be avoided to succeed in this class. The first is unintentional plagiarism, which consists of incorrect paraphrasing or leaving off quotation marks, etc. What indicates unintentional plagiarism is 1) some attempt to cite sources either in text or in the work cited page and 2) the text that you are (imperfectly) crediting is taken from a valid academic source. The first

infraction will result in student notification and instruction on how to correct the errors. One infraction is considered unintentional; however, if the basics of citation have been covered in class, or this is a 2000 level course or above, a penalty of -10

Intentional plagiarism is the deceptive practice of passing off another's writing as one's own. Intentional plagiarism is indicated by 1) failure to attempt any form of acknowledgment to the original author in text or in the works cited page 2) habitually leaving off citation information in more than one paper after instructor correction, 3) incorporating large passages of secondary sources without citation, and 4) using work from an unacceptable source (see **Banned Sources**, below). Note: Turing in previously graded work without the permission of the instructor is also plagiarism. If you have a paper you wish to expand on, you must speak to the instructor before you turn in the assignment. Failure to do so will be considered intentional plagiarism.

BANNED SOURCES

Any work from a professional/purchase essay site (proessays.com, gradesaver.com, antiesay.com, ect), a wiki site (Wikipedia), a grade-saver site (e.g. sparknotes, cliffnotes, snoop, ect), or a user contributor site (e.g. blogs, message boards, ect) are not valid academic sites and may not be used as source material without instructor approval. Any assignment that uses such sources will be returned, ungraded. The student may resubmit the assignment after removing all references to the unacceptable sources. The assignment will be considered late from the date it is returned to the date the student resubmits. Late penalties will apply. If you feel that a specific source should be an exception to this policy please contact me and provide me with the source, your thesis and how this site supports your argument. Exceptions are rarely, if ever, made.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to attend every class on time. Your work schedule and class schedule are not excuses for not attending class, or for attending class late. The teacher reserves the right to prohibit late attendance. Attendance grades are contingent upon being able to participate in the discussion.

PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to participate in class discussions on a regular basis. **Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings on time and for coming to class prepared to lead or enter into discussion.** If no one is participating in class the discussion, I will select students at random to comment on or explicate the text. An unprepared student will be asked to leave the classroom. He or she will be marked absent. **Participation also includes coming to class prepared.** Please bring the text(s) we are covering that day, your notebook and reading notes, and two writing tools. A laptop is acceptable, so long as the student stays on task. **If you do anything other than course-related work during our class, you will be asked to leave and you will be marked absent.**

LATE ASSIGNMENTS & MAKE-UPS

If you miss a class meeting it is your responsibility to contact a classmate for what the information you need for the following class. I will not re-teach the class, so do not contact me. I will not accept “I wasn’t here that day, so I didn’t know this assignment was due,” as an excuse for not submitting your work on time. Remember that all relevant information regarding what we covered in class or assignments can be found in the course outline portion of our syllabus. **After 4 days past the due date, no assignments will be accepted for any reason.** Late work is accepted at my discretion, and I reserve the right to decline to accept such work. Late work will be graded as my schedule allows. No comments will be made on late work.

REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

Extensions will only be considered in the case of medical emergencies for the student or a death in the student’s immediate family (parent, child, or sibling). Extensions will only consist of waiving the late penalty. No extensions will exceed the 4-day late period. No extensions will be granted for the take-home portions of the midterm and final exams. Extensions are granted at my discretion, and I reserve the right to decline to make such arrangements.

MAKEUP WORK

If you must make-up work, please contact me as soon as possible, so we can arrange a time to for you to complete the work. Reading quizzes and homework/ notebook checks are part of participation grades and cannot be made up. Students who fail to show for the in-class portion of the midterm or final exams will earn an automatic zero, unless arrangements are made in advance.

POLICY ENFORCEMENT AND REQUEST FOR EXCEPTIONS

The student in question must first present all requests for adjustment to the policies set forth in the syllabus to the instructor. It is expected that students and instructor will find a time that is mutually beneficial to discuss this matter. No exceptions to policy will be made in response to a third party’s request unless the student is physically unable make such a request (hospitalization, incarceration, ect.). A student’s conflicting work schedule, class schedule, or social schedule will not be considered acceptable reasons for a third party to make requests. Students under the age of eighteen or who participate in a early college program may sign a waiver to have their parent or guardian present during the meeting. A parent may not take the place of a student during such a meeting. Students over the age of eighteen who are not part of the early high school program are expected to approach any such requests themselves with professionalism and maturity befitting an adult learner.

FORMATTING WRITTEN WORK

You will lose points for not following these directions.

All written work for this class must be written in Times New Roman 12 font. Be sure to double-space your essays and keep a 1-inch margin all around. Please use MLA formatting to include your name, instructor, course number, and date. Also, give the assignment a title beyond “critical analysis of [insert title here].” Don’t forget to number your pages! Also, be sure to include direct citations in all assignments. No citations should exceed 40 words without instructor approval. Limit 1 block quotation per 3 full pages of text.

***NOTE: This course utilizes Blackboard as a supplementary learning platform.** All formal written assignments (journals, essays, and take-home exams) will be submitted to Blackboard. **Students must submit as MS Word documents (.doc, .docx) or rich text files (.rtf).** No other formats will be accepted. I grade what you turn in, so be sure to attach the correct files. In the case of a corrupted file, the student will be notified, but all late penalties apply. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure files attach properly.

GRAMMAR EXPECTATIONS

Since students are expected to have completed or tested out of prerequisites, it is their responsibility to come to this class prepared with fundamental skills in English and writing. As a result, in addition to answering the specific assignment, **all work must be free of errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, and mechanics, and must show evidence of a basic knowledge of sentence and paragraph structure.** If a paper fails to demonstrate college-level grammar and structure, it will be returned, ungraded, until corrected. Late penalties will apply. After four days, the assignment will not be accepted for a grade.

If you already know that you have problems with your writing skills, I suggest you seek extra help through the tutoring center.

SPECIAL NEEDS STATEMENT

Students requesting accommodations due to a disability at Delaware State University need to present a current Accommodation Letter to faculty **before** accommodations can be made. While there is no deadline to submit an Accommodation Letter, accommodations **will not** be put in place retroactively. Accommodation Letters are issued by Student Accessibility Services (SAS). For additional information, visit the SAS website at desu.edu/academics/student-accessibility-services or contact SAS directly: (phone) 302-857-6898, (email) aksmith@desu.edu, or (office) William C. Jason Library, Room 204.

Under no circumstances will ignorance of these policies be considered an acceptable excuse for not conforming to the expected standards of this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
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Week 1	Course Overview Discovering Theater	Chapter 1
Week 2	The Seeing Place	Chapter 2
Week 3	Alternative Theatrical Spaces	Chapter 3
Week 4	Playwrights How to Critique a Script	Chapter 4 & 15
Week 5	Theatrical Writing	Chapter 5
Week 6	Structure of Seeing	Chapter 6
Week 7	Drama's Conventions Stage Language	Chapter 7 & 8
Week 8	Midterm Review	Study
Week 9	Discuss Live Theater Presentations	Class Discussion
Week 10	The Actor Presentations	Chapter 9
Week 11	The Director	Chapter 10
Week 12	How to Critique Actors or Directors	Assigned Reading
Week 13	Auditions Presentation Overview	Chapter 11 & 12
Week 14	Presentations	Chapter 14 (skip Chapter 13)
Week 15	Review	
Week 16 (Finals)	Final Exam on BB	Study