THEATER 100-01: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE
Fall 2010

M, F: 2:30pm to 3:45pm
202 Newton
Michael Herman, Instructor

Office Hours: M, F: 1:30pm to 2:30pm or by appt.*
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Teaching Assistant:

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The best theater is hard work for audiences. But it rewards us by making us rise to its challenge. ~ Tony Kushner

Required Textbooks:

Brockett & Ball, The Essential Theatre, 10th Ed.
Brockett & Ball, Plays for the Theatre, 10th Ed.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the theatre that will broaden and deepen your understanding and appreciation of this art form. We will discuss the importance of this art form to your life and the world around you. You will learn the history of the theatrical arts and explore what different theatrical practitioners do. You will read and see plays in order to help you appreciate the theatrical world and all that is needed to create it, and ultimately deepen your enjoyment of the theatre.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will acquire basic knowledge and skills in the discipline of Theatre.
2. Students will acquire knowledge of Theatre from an historical perspective.
3. Students will acquire the ability to analyze a script from various theatrical perspectives.
4. Students will learn to think critically about the discipline of Theatre.
5. Students will acquire knowledge of the role of theatre in the community and society at large.
6. Student will acquire knowledge of theatrical protocol, as well as the commitment and self-discipline required for success in Theatre.

Course Requirements:

1. Complete Assigned Readings

2. Quizzes
   - Performance Attendance Quizzes (2)
   - Unscheduled Pop Quizzes (4)

   (No makeups allowed… at all… no matter what.)

3. Exams
   - Midterm Exam: covers all material discussed to this point
   - Final Exam: covers material since midterm only

   (Makeup exams will not be given except in the case of an unforeseen family emergency or a serious illness. Written evidence of which is required from the attending physician.)

4. Required Performance Attendance

   - ***Museum***, by Tina Howe. Directed by Randy Kaplan. 9/28 through 10/2 at 8pm, 10/3 at 2pm. Robert Sinclair Theatre, Brodie Fine Arts. Tickets: $7. Brodie box office (245-5833) and at bbo.geneseo.edu.

   - ***Mystery of Edwin Drood***, by Rupert Holmes. Directed and choreographed by Melanie Blood. 11/17 through 11/20 at 8pm. Alice Austin Theatre, Brodie Fine Arts. Tickets: $8. Brodie box office (245-5833) and at bbo.geneseo.edu.

MyCourses:

I will use MyCourses to make announcements, share learning resources, and remind you of assignments and due dates. You are responsible for information passed along on MyCourses. Make a habit of checking MyCourses and email every day.

GOO Numbers:

Memorize your GOO number. It is required for the scantron sheets used in exams. Your exam cannot be corrected without a GOO number.

Disability Policy:

Students with documented disabilities may be entitled to specific accommodations. SUNY Geneseo's Office for Student with Disabilities makes this determination. Please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities to inquire about obtaining an official letter to the course instructor detailing any approved accommodations. The student is responsible for providing the course instructor with an official letter. Faculty members work as a team with the Office for Students with Disabilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Office Hours:

I am more than happy to meet with you to discuss any issue(s) pertaining to this course. The best way is to email or call me to set up an appointment during my office hours.

Attendance Policy and Classroom Etiquette:

Attendance is not a factor in determining final grades in lecture courses. However, there is a high correlation between class attendance and academic success.

The use of cell phones, texting, instant messaging and talking are obviously disruptive, and not allowed in class. If you must have a conversation, please leave the room and return when finished. Students who fail to honor this courtesy will be asked to leave the class.

Grading:

Performance Attendance Quizzes	10%
Pop Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Extra Credit*	up to 10%

*Extra Credit can be earned by attending either/both of these theater productions and turning in a 1-page response paper, in addition to the ticket and program:

The Bridge by Marguerite Frarey and ***Too Far From Philadelphia*** by Elizabeth Gombert
New Plays Festival / Young Writers Showcase, **November 6th and 7th**
Co-produced by The Outer Loop Theater Experience and Geva Theatre
Geva Theatre, 75 Woodbury Blvd., Rochester, NY
Tix, times and info: www.outerlooptheater.org and www.gevatheatre.org

GENseng presents ***Strictly Dandia*** by Sudha Bhuchar and Kristine Landon-Smith
Directed by Randy Kaplan, Choreographed by Poonam Bhatt
Dec. 2 at 7:00 pm, Dec. 3 & 4 at 4:00 pm. Tix: Brodie Box Office, www.bbo.geneseo.edu

Schedule:

8/30	Introduction to class
9/3	Chapter 1: The Nature of Theatre
9/6	NO CLASS ~ HOLIDAY
9/10	Chapter 2: The Audience and Criticism
9/13	Chapter 3: The Play
9/17	The Outer Loop Theater Experience and finish *Armageddon*
9/20	Chapter 11: Theatrical Space and Production Design
9/24	Chapter 12: Playwriting and Dramaturgy
9/27	Chapter 13: Directing and Producing
10/1	Chapter 14: Acting
10/4	Chapter 15: Scene Design, and *Museum* attendance quiz
10/8	Chapter 16: Costume Design and Makeup
10/11	NO CLASS ~ BREAK
10/15	Midterm exam review
10/18	Midterm Exam
10/22	Chapter 17: Lighting and Sound Design
10/25	Chapter 4: Festival Theatre
10/29	*Oedipus Rex*
11/1	Chapter 5: Creating a Professional Theatre
11/5	Chapter 6: From Romanticism to Realism
11/8	*A Doll's House*
11/12	Chapter 7: Modernism and Its Effect
11/15	Chapter 8: Decentralization and Subsidization
11/19	*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
11/22	Chapter 9: Contemporary Theatre & Its Diversity, *Mystery* quiz
11/26	NO CLASS ~ THANKSGIVING
11/29	*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*
12/3	Chapter 10: Asian and African Theatre
12/6	*How I Learned to Drive*
12/10	Final exam review

12/13	NO CLASS ~ STUDY DAY
12/17	Final Exam, 3:30 – 6:30pm

Important:

This course description, syllabus and schedule may be subject to unanticipated changes. Students will be notified of any changes in course content, requirements and deadlines as soon as possible. Be sure to check email and MyCourses daily.