

"We live in what is, but we find a thousand ways not to face it. Great theatre strengthens our faculty to face it."
-Thornton Wilder

Course 352 Theatre Arts
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
TA 160: Theatre Appreciation

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Course Text and Materials

Packet of Public Domain plays

Pencil/pen

A 1 subject notebook that will serve as a student's journal

Course Description

An introductory study of the drama and theatre of the past and present, the course is designed for the student who has no previous background in theatre or who is interested in furthering their knowledge of the elements and practices common to the theatre arts. This course is directed toward gaining a greater understanding of theatre in our culture and will focus on enabling the student, as an audience member, to engage in, analyze, and appreciate theatre. The student will explore acting, directing, playwriting, construction & design, dramaturgy (history), etc. It is a goal to impress upon the students how theatre has enriched humanity and reacted for and against society since its beginnings. This will be couched in a group experience in which the students will create ensemble mock theatre companies.

Course Goals

1. To foster appreciation of a variety of theatrical expressions in our culture.
2. To enhance the student's ability, through historical and cultural background
3. To engage in critical dialogue about theatre production and dramatic literature.
4. To develop the vocabulary to articulate the student's reactions to performance.
5. To develop a holistic perspective through the study and appreciation of theatre.

Learner Outcomes

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

1. Understand what makes theatre different from other art and entertainment forms.
2. Utilize theatrical vocabulary and apply to the different styles and forms.
3. Understand the roles of the artists who contribute to the creation of theatre.
4. Discuss basic theories of acting and directing
5. Discuss technical and design practices
6. Recognize structural elements of a play and employ them in writing a short play.
7. Develop criteria for intelligent and constructive criticism of a play.
8. Discuss theatre's connection to culture and vice versa.

Assessment

Assessment opportunities for students to demonstrate how well he has mastered the above learner outcomes include the following:

Participation- In this class, silence is NOT golden! This class is based solely upon RESPONSIBLE student participation. We will have discussions, create group projects, share performance work, and teach each other what theatre means to us. In the spirit of this, participation will weigh heavily on the student's grade; this grade will change based on the student's work ethic in class. 10% of the total grade.

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Journal Work –We will work in our journal just about every day. This is a place to honestly write about your observations, answer questions, do homework, and to share your impressions of your/other student's progress. 15% of the total grade.

Acting, Directing, and Design Assignments & Quizzes – Each content area will have assignments that you will be required to create, interpret, or research. These will ALL go into your portfolio. Along with these assignments, there will be quizzes given periodically throughout the class. 25% of the total grade.

Theatre Reviews – Each student will be required to see two plays this semester. One of the plays will be the fall play. The other play will be student's choice, as long as it is a high school, community, college, or professional production. The teacher will give the students multiple options. For each of the plays, the student must write a review following the format that the teacher will be providing. 20% of the total grade.

Performances- Each student will create characters for and perform in various styles and scripts over the course of the semester. 10% of the total grade.

Final Exam- The final exam will have two parts. Theatre is a collaborative act. With that in mind, the students will create ensembles that will write, design, act, dance, and otherwise present a production created by their ensemble. This will be presented for an audience at the end of the semester. Students will also create a portfolio that represents their work in this course. 20% of the total grade.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken. Since Speech is a participation course, and runs on a very tight schedule, regular attendance is necessary; this will be seen in the participation grade.

REMEMBER: it is attitude and not aptitude that defines your altitude.

Missed/Late Assignments

Failure to take a test on the assigned day will result in no credit for that test, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Similarly, daily assignments are not accepted after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. All performances and presentations must be completed to pass the course.

Student Accomodation Statement

Saint Mary's University does not discriminate in the admission of students based upon ethnic or national backgrounds, race, religion, or physical disability for which reasonable accommodations can be made.

Academic Dishonesty

Students at Saint Mary's University should pursue their education with honesty and integrity. This means that a student's work and achievement should be the result of his own efforts. The following methods of academic dishonesty are not allowed: copying another's homework, possession of a test or exam, cheating on quizzes or tests, plagiarism of any kind, that is, passing off another's work as one's own. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 for the grade and will be reported to the Director of Curriculum.

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NOTE: The course syllabus and schedule are decided by the instructor and are subject to change.

Fine Arts iPad Etiquette: The Three R's

Students will observe the following rules:

- **Responsible-** students will use the iPad for its intended purpose each period as outlined by the teacher.
- **Respectful-** students will understand that playing games, messaging, playing distracting music or sounds, or taking any unauthorized photographs or video is a violation of school policy and could result in the student's immediate suspension or expulsion.
- **Resourceful-** students will explore, create, and employ the iPad to better their learning experience in class.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Listed below are possible options for extra credit. PLEASE NOTE THAT EXTRA CREDIT CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED IF ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE UP TO DATE!

Auditioning/ Technical Interviews – You can receive up to 30 points for becoming a part of the fall play. There are positions available both onstage and backstage. The amount of points will be judged by the instructor upon completion of the play.

Theatre Review - You can receive up to 20 points for writing an additional play review. Details will be given by the instructor. Your extra review must adhere to the review assignment noted above.

Ushering for a Saint Patrick Performing Arts Centre Event - You can receive 10 points for each evening you usher for an event in the Saint Patrick Performing Arts Centre. This entails handing out programs, helping people to their seats, and a few other safety related issues that will be explained to you.

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Date	Activity	Due in Class	To Be Read Today
Tues, August 15	Syllabus and Ensemble Building		
Wed, August 16	Audience, Imagination, and the Inner World		
Thurs, August 17	Theatrical Conventions (Action, Tension, Boundaries)	Journal #1	
Fri, August 18	Discussing <i>The Frogs</i> Text and Context		<i>The Frogs</i> part one
Mon, August 22	<i>The Frogs Part One (FALL Aud/ Int)</i>		
Tues, August 23	<i>The Frogs Part One (FALL Aud/ Int) Lit/ Parent Tour</i>		
Wed, August 24	<i>The Frogs Part Two</i>	Journal # 2	<i>The Frogs</i> part two
Thurs, August 25	<i>The Frogs Part Two</i>		
Fri, August 26	The Inner Life/ Nonverbal Improvisation		
Mon, August 29	Nonverbal Performance (Dramatic Action)		
Tues, August 30	Nonverbal Performance (Physical Boundaries)	Journal #3	
Wed, August 31	Blocking and Motivation (Silent Tension)		
Thurs, Sept. 1	Performing Nonverbal Scene	Nonverbal Scene	
Fri, September 2	Designing Visuals of a play		Story from Around the World
Mon, September 5	Labor Day- No Classes		
Tues, Sept. 6	Research presentation	Journal #4	Your Story Around the World
Wed, Sept. 7	The World onstage		
Thurs, Sept. 8	Characters		
Fri, September 9	Lighting and Sound for Atmosphere		
Mon, September 12	Theatrical Style - Commedia		
Tues, Sept. 13	Theatrical Style - Commedia	Journal #5	
Wed, Sept. 14	Commedia Troupe/ Storylines		<i>Servant of Two Masters</i> Act I
Thurs, Sept. 15	<i>Servant</i> Discussion Open House		
Fri, September 16	Testing Day		
Mon, September 19	<i>Servant</i> Act II		<i>Servant of Two Masters</i> Act II
Tues, Sept. 20	Playing the Stock Character		
Wed, Sept. 21	Improv Scene Work	Journal #6	
Thurs, Sept. 22	Improv Scene Work		
Fri, September 23	Mask work Improvisation		
Mon, September 26	Commedia Scene Masks and nonverbal		
Tue, September 27	Commedia Scene Masks and nonverbal		
Wed, Sept. 28	Commedia Scene	Journal #7	
Thurs, Sept. 29	Commedia Scene		
Fri, Sept. 30	Commedia Scene	Commedia Scene	
Mon, October 3	<i>Macbeth</i>		30 minute <i>Macbeth</i>
Tues, October 4	Play Discussion Parent/ Teacher Conferences		
Wed, October 5	Magic and the World of <i>Macbeth</i>	Journal #8	
Thurs, October 6	Characters of <i>Macbeth</i>		
Fri, October 7	Lighting and Sound for Atmosphere		
Mon, October 10	Theatrical Style - Shakespeare		
Tues, October 11	Theatrical Style - Tragedy	Journal # 9	
Wed, October 12	Theatrical Style - Comedy		
Thurs, October 13	Creating a Shakespeare script Open House		
Fri, October 14	Columbus Day (No Classes)		
Mon, October 17	Rehearsing Shakespeare		
Tues, October 18	Rehearsing Shakespeare		
Wed, October 19	Rehearsing Shakespeare	Journal #10	

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Thurs, October 20	Rehearsing Shakespeare Elementary Performance		
Fri, October 21	Shakespeare performance	Shakespeare Scene	
October 21-23	MACBETH performances (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)		

Date	Activity	Due in Class	To Be Read Today
Mon, October 24	<i>Macbeth</i> Discussion		
Tues, October 25	Day of the Dead Immersion Day	Macbeth Review	
Wed, October 26	Day of the Dead Calaveras		
Thurs, October 27	Rehearsal-Calaveras	Journal #11	
Fri, October 28	Rehearsal-Calaveras		
Mon, October 31	Rehearsal-Calaveras		
Tues, November 1	Day of the Dead Performances Liturgy	Day of the Dead	
Wed, November 2	Day of the Dead Performances	Day of the Dead	
Thurs, November 3	Theatrical Style – Children’s Theatre		<i>Jungle Book</i>
Fri, November 4	Theatrical Style – Children’s Theatre	Journal #12	
Mon, November 7	Staging and Designing Children’s Theatre		
Tues, November 8	Staging and Designing Children’s Theatre		
Wed, November 9	Staging and Designing Children’s Theatre	Journal #13	
Thurs, Nov. 10	Staging and Designing Children’s Theatre		
Fri, November 11	Performing Children’s Theatre	Children’s Theatre	
Mon, November 14	Theatrical Style - 2 minute plays		<i>2 minute Plays</i>
Tues, November 15	Rehearsing 2 minute plays		
Wed, November 16	Rehearsing 2 minute plays	Journal #14	
Thurs, Nov 17	Rehearsing 2 minute plays		
Fri, Nov 18	Performing 2 minute plays	2 minute plays	
Mon, November 21	Professional Theatre Liturgy		
Tues, November 22	Playwriting Immersion		
Mon, November 28	Creating a Theatre Company		
Tues, November 29	Mission Statements and Organization		
Wed, November 30	Readthru		
Thurs, December 1	Design Day	Journal #15	
Fri, December 2	Design Work Day/ Rehearsal- Blocking		
Mon, December 5	Rehearsal/ Design		
Tues, December 6	Rehearsal- Working		
Wed, December 7	Rehearsal- Working		
Thurs, Dec. 8	Rehearsal- Offbook Liturgy	Journal #16	
Fri, December 9	Rehearsal- Offbook		
Mon, December 12	Tech Rehearsal		
Tues, December 13	Tech Rehearsal		
Wed, December 14	Final Dress Rehearsal		
Thurs, Dec. 15	Performances	Performances	
Fri, December 16	Performances	Performances	
	Finals!!! Good luck		