

Theatre 100D: Introduction to Theatre

Winter 2009 Syllabus Online Course

Course Description

A study of the theatre, its components, and its contributors, with an emphasis upon learning to appreciate and evaluate live performance.

Introduction to Theatre introduces students to the art and profession of theatre. This online course makes use of Powerpoint lectures, online discussions, videos, and theatre websites to teach students about the basics of theatre, who's involved in mounting a production, how theatre can engage issues like diversity, and how theatres use internet sites like YouTube for advertising and education. Students will read six plays, participate in online discussions, watch videos related to the art and occupation of theatre, explore theatre websites, and create a final project that allows them to synthesize what they have learned and step into the roles they have studied.

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The Rocky Horror Show

Goals & Objectives

- To learn how theatre has reflected and interacted with culture throughout history
- To examine playscripts for their theatrical possibilities
- To experience firsthand the collaborative process of producing a play, from playwright to the stage
- To understand how American diversity is reflected and communicated through performance
- To use the basic tools of theatre to enhance communication skills

This course fulfills two GECs for the University:
Arts & Humanities: Analysis of Texts and Works of Art; and
Diversity: Social Diversity in the United States



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Required Text

For this course we use a course packet that is available from UniPrint. You can purchase the packet at the Tuttle Place UniPrint (2055 Millikin Way) on campus, or online at <http://uniprint.osu.edu>.

The course packet includes:

Lecture outlines

Helpful handouts

Our five play texts:

Antigone, by Sophocles (trans. Woodruff)

Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare

Machinal, by Sophie Treadwell

The Piano Lesson, by August Wilson

The Laramie Project, by Moises Kaufman

We recommend buying your course packet immediately at the start of the quarter!

Grading Breakdown (200 points total)

Weekly Coursework: 120 pts total

Each of the ten weeks will include some variation of coursework. The coursework components will focus on the different plays, lectures, and topics pertaining to that week, and they will include reading quizzes, discussion forum posts and responses, and hands-on exercises, amongst other things. The exact point values for each week will vary; the instructor will provide weekly guidelines on Carmen to guide your work.

Play Responses (1 web quiz, 10 pts; 1 written response, 20 pts): 30 pts total

You must attend two performances at OSU this quarter: the *MFA Outreach & Engagement Project* and *Machinal*.

MFA Outreach & Engagement Project – Presented in the Bowen Theatre, Drake Center
February 19-21, 26-28 at 7:30 p.m.
February 22 and March 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Machinal, by Sophie Treadwell – Presented in the Thurber Theatre, Drake Center
February 26-28, March 4-6 at 7:30 p.m.
March 1 at 3:00 p.m.

The web quiz will cover the *MFA Outreach & Engagement Project*. The quiz will be available on CARMEN. It will cover specific aspects of this production, including direction, acting, and design.

NOTE: If you are unable to attend these performances because of geographical restrictions, you must e-mail your instructor *ahead of time* to make different arrangements to see live performances during the quarter.

Theatre and the Internet exercise: 20 pts

Later in the quarter, you will be assigned two websites, one from a regional professional theatre, and one other theatre-related website. You will then explore the websites and prepare a report that details information about the theatres or website, and post the report on the Discussion forum. Detailed instructions will be posted on Carmen.

Creative Project: 30 pts

During the second half of the quarter, you will work individually or in groups of two to put together a project based on or inspired by one of the plays you have read this quarter. You will create a basic director’s concept, collect design images, and cast the play, upload it to Carmen, and then comment on each other’s work. Detailed instructions will be posted on Carmen as the quarter progresses.

Extra Credit: 9 pts max

During the quarter, different options for extra credit will be offered. One form includes attending a play this quarter outside the two required ones. If you do, you will write a two-page critique, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1” margins, and attach the ticket stub with your signature. You can receive up to three bonus points per critique. A list of possible plays to see in Columbus is maintained on Carmen. Guidelines for writing an extra credit paper are included in your course packet. *Check with your instructor before seeking out extra credit opportunities.* In addition, extra credit exercises will be also be occasionally offered as part of the weekly coursework. Between seeing extra plays or doing extra exercises, you may earn up to 9 extra credit points maximum.

Grading Breakdown

A	200-186 pts	B	173-166 pts	C	153-146 pts	D	127-120 pts
A-	185-180 pts	B-	165-160 pts	C-	145-140 pts	E	119-0 pts
B+	179-174 pts	C+	159-154 pts	D+	139-128 pts		

Attendance Policy

As this is an online course, class attendance (aside from the orientation meeting, final meeting, and play performances) does not occur. However, this course requires your own self-discipline and motivation in keeping up with the exercises. You are expected to maintain a regular presence on the course site, posting discussions, asking questions, uploading your work, and interacting with your fellow classmates. In order to maintain your grade, you must not fall behind on the course work.

CARMEN

This class is hosted on Ohio State’s online course management program, Carmen. You will need to login with your OSU username and password. *You are expected to visit Carmen and check your OSU e-mail regularly.* Visit <http://carmen.osu.edu> to log-in. For technical questions, call 688-HELP (or 8-HELP if you’re on campus) immediately. *Do not e-mail your instructor or the TA’s with technical questions, as we cannot help you.*

Technical Requirements

In addition to checking Carmen and your OSU e-mail regularly, you are expected to have access to a high-speed internet connection, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Powerpoint, Adobe Reader (or a similar PDF reader), and a reliable internet browser (Mozilla Firefox is recommended).

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Syllabus Changes

You will receive advance notice if changes need to be made to the syllabus or schedule.

OSU Escort Service (on campus): 292 – 3322

Reminder: this syllabus is a loose outline of the course. For current information and specific instructions on the assignments, defer to the weekly overviews posted on Carmen.

<p>Theatre 100D – Course Calendar Winter 2009</p>
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As this is an online course, you will work week-to-week at your own pace. Each week will focus on a different topic of theatre, with a play to read, lectures to review, videos, group discussions, hands-on exercises, etc. Each week builds on the previous; *the weekly work must be completed within the week it is assigned.*

The syllabus is organized by week, and simply lists the general assignments associated with each week. For specific assignments, discussion questions, guidelines, and access to course files, consult the weekly overview page on Carmen.

WEEK ONE (January 5-10)

- Attend the orientation meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 7:30-9:18 p.m. in the Roy Bowen Theatre (Room 1130 Drake Union). *If you cannot make it, e-mail your instructor immediately to make alternate arrangements.*
- Purchase your course packet immediately! Available online (<http://uniprint.osu.edu>) or at the Tuttle Place UniPrint (2055 Millikin Way) on campus.
- Read through the course syllabus (e-mail questions to the instructor).
- Answer the introductory questions on the discussion forums.
- Take part in the How to Read a Play exercise (in-class at the orientation meeting; online if you are not present for it).
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - Importance of liveness (given in-class at the January 7 orientation)
- Explore the optional videos and websites related to the lecture material

WEEK TWO (January 11-17)

- Read *Antigone* and take the reading quiz (opens 1/7 at 12:00 p.m.; closes 1/17 at 11:59 p.m.)
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - *Antigone*, Ancient Greek theatre, and tragedy
 - The playwright and play structure
- View the slideshows of Ancient Greek theatres and productions of *Antigone*
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses
- Complete the exercise on Playwriting and *Antigone* (upload to Carmen dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on 1/17)
- Explore the optional videos and websites related to the lecture material

WEEK THREE (January 18-24)

- Read *Taming of the Shrew* and take the reading quiz (opens 1/18 at 12:01 a.m.; closes 1/24 at 11:59 p.m.)
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - Shakespeare, Elizabethan theatre, and comedy
 - The director
 - The audience
- View the slideshows of Elizabethan theatres and productions of *Taming of the Shrew*
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses
- Complete the exercise on Directing and *Taming* (upload to Carmen dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on 1/24)
- Explore the optional videos and websites related to the lecture material

WEEK FOUR (January 25-31)

- Read *Machinal* and take the reading quiz (opens 1/25 at 12:01 a.m.; closes 1/31 at 11:59 p.m.)
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - Realism and expressionism
 - Theatre and gender
- View the slideshows of modern theatres and productions of *Machinal*
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses
- Complete the hands-on exercise related to *Machinal* (upload to Carmen dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on 1/31)
- Explore the optional videos and websites related to the lecture material

WEEK FIVE (February 1-7)

- Read *The Piano Lesson* and take the reading quiz (opens 2/1 at 12:01 a.m.; closes 2/7 at 11:59 p.m.)
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - The production process
 - Theatre and race
- View the slideshow of productions of *Piano Lesson*
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses
- Complete the exercise on the Stage Manager and *Piano Lesson* (upload to Carmen dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on 2/7)
- Explore the optional videos and websites related to the lecture material

WEEK SIX (February 8-14)

- Read *The Laramie Project* and take the reading quiz (opens 2/8 at 12:01 a.m., closes 2/14 at 11:59 p.m.)
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - New trends in performance
 - Theatre and sexuality
- View the slideshow of theatre designs and productions of *Laramie Project*
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses
- Complete the hands-on exercise related to *The Laramie Project* (upload to Carmen dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on 7/12)

WEEK SEVEN (February 15-21)

- Read *Los Vendidos* (download for free on Carmen) and take the reading quiz (opens 2/15 at 12:01 a.m., closes 2/21 at 11:59 p.m.)
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - The actor
 - The designer
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses
- The *MFA Outreach & Engagement Project* and web quiz open 2/19

WEEK EIGHT (February 22-28)

- Attend the *MFA Outreach & Engagement Project* and take the web quiz if you haven't already (the play closes 3/1; the quiz closes 3/2 at 11:59 p.m.)
- *Machinal* opens 2/26
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - The musical
 - Commercial and regional theatre
- Complete both parts of the Theatre and the Internet exercise and post your work on the discussion board.
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses

WEEK NINE (March 1-7)

- Attend the *MFA Outreach & Engagement Project* and take the web quiz if you haven't already (the play closes 3/1; the quiz closes 3/2 at 11:59 p.m.)
- Attend *Machinal* (play closes 3/6)
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - World theatre
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses
- Work on your Creative Project

WEEK TEN (March 8-14)

- Upload your *Machinal* paper to the dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11
- Review the lectures for the week (take notes on outlines):
 - Importance of live-ness
- View the videos related to the lecture material
- Post your discussion responses

FINALS WEEK (March 15-19)

- Upload your Creative Projects to the dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17
- Attend the final meeting on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30-9:18 p.m. in the Roy Bowen Theatre (Room 1130 Drake Union)
- Complete the evaluation survey