

TH1100: Theatre in Society

Spring 2017 Syllabus

Lectures: noon -12:50 pm, Mon & Wed, 114 Physics

Discussion Sections:

A. 12-12:50 pm, Fri, Arts & Science 232

B. 10-10:50 am, Tues, Arts & Science 308

Lead Instructor: Dr. Cat Gleason

email: [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED]

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Thurs. 1:00 – 2:00 pm
or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: [REDACTED]
(see individual syllabi for TA contact information)

Course Description:

Examines the form and meaning of theatre in civilizations of the West from the ancient Greeks to modern times. This course meets the Humanities Requirement for Gen Ed.

Course Goals:

Students will build knowledge and skill in thinking, speaking, and writing about theatrical performances by reaching the following understandings:

- Students will understand ways that dramatic texts and performances reflect, respond, and challenge identity.
- Students will understand dramatic texts as artistic products of specific cultural, political, and historical conditions.
- Students will understand the practical and aesthetic aspects of theatrical production, including playwriting and design.
- Students will understand how to effectively observe and analyze the elements of a live theatrical production.
- Students will be able to identify the communities that they belong to and what those communities mean to them.

Texts:

- Wilson, Edwin and Alvin Goldfarb. *Theatre: The Lively Art*. 9th ed. NY: McGraw-Hill, 2016. Print. ISBN-13: 978-0073514307.
- Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. NY: Vintage, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0679755333.
- Kaufmann, Moises. *The Laramie Project*. NY: Vintage, 2001. Print. ISBN-13: 978-0822217800.
- Smith, Anna Deveare. *Fires in the Mirror*. NY: Dramatists Play Service, 1998. Print. ISBN- 978-0822213291.
- Valdez, Luis. *Zoot Suit*. Houston, TX: Arte Pulico, 1992. Print. ISBN-13: 978-1558850484
- Additional readings or handouts will be posted on Canvas during the semester.

Required Mizzou Theatrical Viewings:

1. *Mizzou New Play Series*, Corner Playhouse; February 7-12
2. *Caesar/X*, Rhynsburger Theatre; *X* - February 18 and *Julius Caesar*, February 19
3. *Musical Review*, Corner Playhouse; March 16 – 19
4. *Laramie Project*, Rhynsburger Theatre, April 26 - 30

- The MU Box Office regular hours are Monday-Friday, 2-5pm, and one hour before curtain.
- All Mizzou weekday and Saturday performances, unless otherwise noted, are at 7:30 P.M.
- All Sunday performances, unless otherwise noted, are at 2 P.M.
- All tickets for shows at Rhynsburger and Corner Playhouse will be \$15.00 for the general public, students, faculty/staff, and seniors. This price is the same for both online and in person sales.

A sold-out performance is NOT an excuse for not attending a show. Tickets for ALL university productions should be purchased *well* in advance (you will receive a \$2 discount for purchasing up to a week before the date you see the show). See the handout on Canvas for more information about the Box office.

- Tickets may be purchased with student charge, but only if you buy them in person.
- You may sign up to usher at a performance and receive free admission to the play.
- The box office is located in the Rhynsburger Theatre lobby. Box office number: (573) 882-PLAY

Please note: This class requires attending performances and reading plays that contain mature content (violence, language, and/or sexual content). Please consult with the instructor or your TA if you have any questions/concerns about mature content.

Course Requirements:

PLEASE NOTE: We wish to fully include persons with disabilities in this course. Please let us know, preferably during the first week of classes, if you need any accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to fully participate (See the Students with Disabilities section of the Course Policies for more on this).

1. Attend performances.

- See the section above about performance dates and ticketing information
- Make-up Options: Students may make up a missed performance **ONLY** if they have a **documented emergency**. Makeup work for shows will follow the same timeline, guidelines and grading rubric of the missed performance (i.e. the work will be considered late if you see a later play). Please see your TA to arrange this.

2. Complete readings as assigned. Read the assigned plays; the course textbook; and additional selections (posted on Canvas) for the day that the reading appears on the schedule.

3. Attend discussion sections. Attendance and active participation in your discussion section is required in this course. These meetings allow you the opportunity to work with your peers, engage in the course material in depth, and ask questions. Come to each discussion section meeting prepared to engage with the reading and lecture material. TAs will structure discussion activities, require additional homework assignments, and determine grades. **See your Discussion section syllabus for a full description of the discussion section attendance policy.**

4. Attend Lectures. We will not take attendance for the lectures. *However*, at the end of each lecture the instructor (Dr. Gleason or one of the Teaching Assistants) will ask One to three open-ended questions for you to answer in relation to the lecture / discussion / activity. (PLEASE NOTE: you will need to

bring a writing implement to lecture so you can complete this.) You will need to use your notes to complete your answer. **These questions will address specific issues from the reading due for that day and the content of the lecture.**

Each short write is worth a potential 10 points. 100% in this area is an accumulation of 160 points. Students may complete as many as 25 short writes over the course of the semester and accrue as much as 20 extra points of extra credit by accumulating 180 points. We will total up your Lecture Short Write points twice a semester so you can track your progress (March 6 and April 26).

The lecture short writes will be graded on a ✓+/ ✓ / ✓- based on the following criteria:

- ✓+ Highly concrete answer reflecting a grasp of content from the lecture and a thoughtful application of the ideas (10 points).
- ✓ Thoughtful and accurate approach to the question but lacking in concrete detail and thoughtful application of the ideas (8 points).
- ✓- A clear effort to wrestle with the material even if some of the facts are somewhat inaccurate or incomplete (6 points).

PLEASE NOTE: we will not return these short writes to you but we will retain them until the end of the semester. You may request to review them with your TA or Dr. Gleason when needed.

4. **Write essays.** This course will provide practice in writing formal essays – a valuable skill in your college career. All formal essays will be submitted via Turnitin on Canvas. Due dates are posted on the main calendar.

Your TA will provide specific guidelines for writing successful essays. **Each discussion section will have a significantly different assignment**, so be sure to follow YOUR TA's assignment. All papers must be properly formatted and double-spaced (see the course style sheet posted on Canvas for formatting requirements). If you would like assistance with your paper, see your TA or check out the services of The Writing Center (<https://writery.missouri.edu/index.html>) at least a week before the paper is due.

1. **“What is Theatre? paper:** a 2- page (450 to 600 words) essay that makes an argument about what you think theatre is and supports this argument (this paper will be peer reviewed and revised).
 2. **Caesar/X paper:** a 2- page (450 to 600 words) essay on one of the two productions.
 3. **Laramie Project paper:** a 2- page (450 to 600 words) essay on MU's production.
5. **Take online tests about the plays you read.** You will be assigned a test about each of the four dramatic texts we are reading for the class. These quizzes will be worth a maximum of 40 points each. These tests will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The tests are due on the day they appear on the course schedule, 30 minutes before lecture starts (11:30 am). **Late quizzes will not be accepted.**
6. **Devising Project.** Each student will take part in a project where we will create theatre about issues of concern for your community. Students will interview people from outside the class and use this interview material to create the text for the performance. Each discussion section will work on part of this performance, which will be performed as an entire class. The final performance will be in our exam period. More information will be available in your sections.
7. **Complete reports.** Students will work in groups of three to present an oral report regarding one of the chapters in the *Theatre, The Lively Art* textbook. The other two reports will be written and will be responses to the Mizzou New Play Series and the Musical Review.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated based on their work on the following assignments/assessments. Rubrics for each individual assignment will be distributed and discussed in discussion section.

A question about a specific grade must be posed to the instructor within 72 hours from grade distribution. Grades for the course will be posted and students will be notified they will have 48 hours to address any concerns.

Assessments 320 points

- **Lecture Short Writes** - Worth potentially 10 points apiece – Students can submit as many as they want (up to 180 points, 20 points of extra credit)
- **Play Tests** – *Fires in the Mirror*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Zoot Suit*, *Laramie Project* - 160 points (40 points each)

Essays & Reports 350 points

- **Essays**
 - What is Theatre? - 40 points (Revision/peer work - 10 points)
 - *Caesar/X* - 80 points
 - *Laramie Project* - 100 points
- **Reports**
 - Textbook Research Presentation - 60 points
 - Mizzou New Play Series report - 30 points
 - Musical Revue Report - 30 points

Discussion Section Work 330 points

- Devised Project – 180 points
- Participation – 100 points
- Homework – 50 points

Points Scale: Grades will be assigned following a standard A-F scale using the following point totals:			
1000-970 = A+	869-830 = B	729-700 = C-	< 600 = F
969-930 = A	829-800 = B-	699-670 = D+	
929-900 = A-	799-770 = C+	669-630 = D	
899-870 = B+	769-730 = C	629-600 = D-	

Extra Credit:

Students may get extra credit for submitting extra short writes for lecture. Students may accumulate an additional 20 points beyond the 100% value of 160 points.

Course Policies:

A Note about Religious Holidays: We make every effort not to schedule assignments on religious holidays. If, however, you cannot turn in an assignment or take an exam because of a religious conflict, please notify your TA within the first two weeks of class. Make-up assignments will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

You are allowed a maximum of three (3) absences in discussion section for any reason, including illness, arriving on campus after classes start, religious holidays, job interviews, athletic events, or personal emergencies. **After three (3) absences in discussion section, your final grade will be lowered**

50 points for each additional absence. Use your absences wisely; you might get sick late in the term. **Talk to your TA promptly** if an emergency requires you to exceed three absences.

Attention athletes! This policy applies to all students including you: please make sure you are registered for a section that you can regularly attend.

Communication:

- Clear and effective communication is the key to resolving most issues. If you have a problem or issue you should first contact your TA. If you do not adequately resolve the issue with your TA, please feel free to email Dr. Gleason.
- Email is your best bet for communication. Please include your name, the course number, section letter and clearly communicate your request in the body of your email. If you do not include this information you may not get a reply.
- We urge you to take advantage of our office hours. Students who meet with their instructors tend to be more successful in college. Stop by and discuss ideas for papers or to just say, “Hello.”
- You are expected to use and maintain your university email account. You will be held responsible for information distributed via email.
- You are also expected to monitor the Canvas course site. Canvas provides access to the course syllabus, assignments and supplementary readings.

Canvas:

This course will be utilizing Canvas (<https://missouri.instructure.com/>). You should be able to access this site with your Mizzou pawprint. This site will provide you with updated grade information, course documents, and other announcements, and will allow you to submit assignments electronically.

If you have any trouble with a quiz, contact Dr. Gleason right away (gleasonc@missouri.edu). If you have trouble uploading an assignment contact your TA immediately.

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify Dr. Gleason and your TA of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Academic Honesty:

PLEASE NOTE: With the exception of group work specifically assigned as such, students should submit work that has been created and submitted exclusively by the student. While it is a great idea to attend plays with your friends, co-written essays are not acceptable. Additionally, students should take great care to cite sources when using ideas and language not their own – this includes information in play programs.

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Intellectual Pluralism:

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>); or the MU Equity Office (<http://equity.missouri.edu/>), or by email at equity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion and Privacy:

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, **students may not** make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under Section 240.040 of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Attending Performances:

Theatre is live performance, so your presence and response in the theatre is a part of the theatrical event. What you *wear* is not important, but what you *do* influences the nature of the event and the quality of your experience. As a courtesy to the actors and other patrons, **notebooks should not be visible** during a performance. Make any notes before or after the performance, or during intermission. **No food or drink is allowed in the theatre.** If you have a cough, try throat lozenges, but unwrap several before the show starts. In general, the “politeness tips” for the lecture hall (included below) apply to theatrical performances. Note that **many theatres will not seat late patrons until an appropriate time during the show, and sometimes not at all.**

Please note:

- Let us know if you have any special needs.
- The best way to reach us is via email. Always email your TA first before contacting Dr. Gleason.
- Use the Writing Center! Remember that there are tutor hours available in the residence halls. See <https://writery.missouri.edu/> for more info