

# THEATRE APPRECIATION

THE2000 – Summer 2023 (A)

MON, TUES, WED, THURS, FRI: 9:30 – 10:45 McCarty A 3194

Instructors: Teroy Roberts and Nicholas Bennett

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to expose you to live theatre so that you will better appreciate its complexities and cultural importance. Over the course of the semester, you will look behind the scenes in order to explore the collaborative processes that make it work. In addition to studying some of the literature, theories, history, forms, and styles of theatre, you will explore how influences such as ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and economic class shape the experience of theatre in the United States. You will also learn to write and speak critically about theatrical production. This course fulfills a general education and diversity requirement.

## GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. In-class lectures will provide the framework for understanding the theatrical arts and how they connect to the human experience. Additional instruction will come through textbook and play reading augmented by the watching of live theatre.

## GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES FOR DIVERSITY

Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage students to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values in relation to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced by other persons and groups. Lectures will emphasize the struggles and theatrical contributions of marginalized groups while the reading and discussion of assigned plays by “hyphenated” Americans will provide a context for understanding how cultural differences have been negotiated in this country.

## GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Content:** Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline.

**Communication:** Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline.

**Critical Thinking:** Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. Student learning outcomes will be assessed in various ways. Exams and quizzes on assigned readings will test mastery of content. Communication and critical thinking will be tested through the writing of papers that critique live performance, creative projects that interpret the symbology of theatrical texts, and performance in class discussions.

## REQUIREMENTS

- You will do a close reading of all plays and supplemental material. There will be several quizzes given throughout the semester based on your reading.
- You will see three specific shows and write a critique about each one. Guidelines will be posted on Canvas.
- You will complete two creative homework assignments. Guidelines will be posted/discussed.
- There will be three exams and a final based on the lectures and assigned reading. A topic list will be provided a few days before an exam.

## REQUIRED PLAYS

All of the following texts should be available in the bookstore:

*Theatrical Worlds*, ed. Charlie Mitchell

ISBN: 1616101660 - University Press of Florida

This book was developed in response to the high cost of theatre textbooks. A free pdf version is available at <https://opensourceheatretextbook.wordpress.com/> However, many students find that a physical copy is easier to read and study so a print version will be available in the bookstore.

*Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley

ISBN: ISBN-13: 9780822222194 - Dramatist Play Service

Note: There is a Kindle version on Amazon

*The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall

ISBN: 9780822226031 - Dramatist Play Service

Note: There is a Kindle version on Amazon

*Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell

ISBN: 9781854592118 - Nick Hern Books

Note: There is a Kindle version on Amazon

*Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz

ISBN: 0822220008 – Dramatist Play Service

Note: The publisher has an ePub version

*M. Butterfly* by David Henry Hwang

ISBN: 0452272599

Note: There is a Kindle version on Amazon

*Kill Move Paradise* by James Ijames

ISBN: 9780822240020 - Dramatist Play Service

Note: The publisher has an ePub version

*Ten Acrobats In An Amazing Leap Of Faith* by Yussef El Guindi  
ISBN: 088145754X - Broadway Play Publishing  
Note: The publisher has an ePlay (pdf) version.

*Angels in America: Part 1* by Tony Kushner (a part 2 exists but you are only responsible for part 1)  
ISBN: 9781559363846 - Theatre Communications Group  
Note: There is Kindle version on Amazon

You can purchase *any* edition of these plays from any source but get them *at the beginning of the semester*. After a few weeks, unsold books in the campus bookstore are returned to the publishers. There is no valid excuse for not locating a copy of the play, including waiting for third party vendors. In this course, we will cover material that you may find controversial or challenging. If you have had personal experiences or beliefs that might seriously affect your participation, you are encouraged to read about the required plays above before continuing in this course.

## CANVAS

Grades, additional readings, paper/homework guidelines, and topic lists for exams will be posted on the class website in Canvas. Log on to <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>, click the orange button that reads “LOG IN TO E-LEARNING,” and then enter your Gatorlink username and password. This course should appear if you are officially registered. If you require technical assistance with your computer, start with the UF Computing Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>.

## REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

For this class, you are required to see three shows which will be the basis for three short papers and may also be the topic of some exam questions. One of the productions is the UF Production of *I Am the Dead Man* performed in the McGuire Pavilion Black Box Theatre. You will be given a coupon which you will trade for a ticket. The exact process will be explained in class.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to attend all lectures. A sign-in sheet will be passed around to confirm your attendance. Signing in for another student violates the Honor Code.

You are responsible for all material covered. If you miss a class, get the notes from a friend. PowerPoint slides will not be made available unless it is mandated by the DRC.

The following attendance policy begins the first day after the add/drop period. You can miss two unexcused classes without penalty. Your third unexcused absence will automatically assure that the highest grade you can receive is a B. Four unexcused absences will drop it to a C, and ***five unexcused absences will earn you a failing grade for the entire course.***

The following absences are excused: illness (doctor’s note required), religious holidays, funerals (no documentation required), and participation in official university activities (documentation required). Weddings, job interviews, job fairs, and other life events do not count as excused absences. If you have a logistical problem that is preventing you from arriving to class on time, notify your TA immediately. Being late three times equals one absence. You will be required to provide documentation for excused absences.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## GRADE BREAKDOWN

Quizzes	15%
Essays	20%
Discussions	15%
Midterm	10%
Final Project	15%
Final Exam	10%
Participation	15%

NOTE: Grades are not curved. Low Grades are not dropped. Only final grades will be rounded up to the nearest full percentage point by no more than .5 points.

## SCALE

A	93-100	Superior Performance	C	73	Average Performance
A-	90		C-	70	
B+	87		D+	67	
B	83	Good Performance	D	63	Minimum Performance
B-	80		D-	60	
C+	77		E	0-59	

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found in the online catalog at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## EXTRA CREDIT

The *only* extra credit offered in this course is providing proof that you have seen a play or musical produced by the Hippodrome Theatre or Florida Players. You can find details on Canvas.

## CLASS CONDUCT

Classes of this size demand a mutual respect to function positively. Therefore, there will be no cell phone use (including texting), sleeping, eating, drinking, or doing work for other classes. If you engage in any of these behaviors, you will be ejected by me or one of my teaching assistants. Notes must be taken by hand. No laptops or netbooks are allowed in class -- the screens are distracting to other students. However, you can use a tablet to take notes if it lays flat on your desk. However, if you use it for anything other than taking notes, you will lose the privilege. If you have any special technological needs, be sure to communicate those and provide documentation regarding access needs from the DRC (Disability Resource Center).

## HONOR CODE

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." ***If you cheat on a test or quiz, or plagiarize***

*material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class.* Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

## **LEARNING DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. If you don't have disability and feel you need help with your writing, contact <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/>.

## **AVAILABILITY**

If you have something you want to discuss with the instructor(s), feel free to email, send a message via canvas, or stop by during office hours. You are never "bothering" me/us. During these hours, you are encouraged to bring drafts of your papers and projects or ask questions about lecture material. If your schedule conflicts with office hours, see me/us before or after class and we will come up with another time to meet.

## **COVID-19**

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus and its variants. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

In accordance with the latest information UF posted about COVID protocols, you are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email [covid@shcc.ufl.edu](mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu)) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information. If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](http://coronavirus.UFHealth.org) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](http://coronavirus.ufl.edu) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

## **EVALUATIONS**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Your ongoing enrollment is confirmation that you understand and will comply with the requirements of this course. Any alterations to the syllabus or course outline will be made verbally and/or posted on Canvas.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

May 15 - Syllabus Quiz  
May 16 - What is Theatre?  
May 17 - Shakespeare  
May 18 - Performative Acts  
May 19 - Acting  
May 22 - Focus on You and I  
May 23 - Directing  
May 24 - Stage Pictures  
May 25 - Paper 1  
May 26 - Reading a Set  
May 29 - Theatrical Design  
May 30 - Expressionism & Kill Move Paradise  
May 31 - Midterm  
June 1 - African American Theatre  
June 2 - Focus on The Mountaintop  
June 5 - American Musical Theatre  
June 6 - Paper 2  
June 7 - Focus on Anna in the Tropics  
June 8 - Latinx Theatre  
June 9 - Engaged Theatre  
June 12 - Asian American Theatre  
June 13 - Focus on M. Butterfly  
June 14 - Focus on Angels in America Pt 1  
June 15 - Gay and Lesbian Theatre  
June 16 - Final Exam  
June 23 - Submit Creative Project