

# THEATRE APPRECIATION

THE2000 – Summer 2024

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri @ 9:30-10:45

Instructors: Sarah Sulewski and Nicholas Bennett  
Office: MCCA 3194  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Email: [sarahsulewski@ufl.edu](mailto:sarahsulewski@ufl.edu) and [bennettnicholas@ufl.edu](mailto:bennettnicholas@ufl.edu)

## 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. I will post guidelines on Canvas.
- You will complete two creative homework assignments. I will post guidelines.
- There will be three exams and a final based on lectures and assigned reading. I will provide a topic list a few days before an exam. I do not give early exams to accommodate your travel plans - *no exceptions*.

## REQUIRED PLAYS

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

*Theatrical Worlds*, ed. Charlie Mitchell

ISBN: 1616101660 - University Press of Florida

I developed this book in response to the high cost of theatre textbooks. A free pdf version is available at <https://opensourceheatrettextbook.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.

*I and You* by Lauren Gunderson

ISBN: 1350146226

Note: There is a Kindle version on Amazon

*Fences* by August Wilson

ISBN: 0452264014 – Plume

Note: There is a Kindle version on Amazon

*Blood at the Root* by Dominique Morisseau

ISBN: 0573705143 – Samuel French (publisher)

*Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell

ISBN: 9781854592118 - Nick Hern Books

Note: There is Kindle version on Amazon

*M. Butterfly* by David Henry Hwang

ISBN: 0452272599 – Plume

Note: There is Kindle version on Amazon

*Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz

ISBN: 0822220008 – Dramatist Play Service

Note: The publisher has an ePub version

*The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman

ISBN: 0375727191 – Vintage Books

Note: There is Kindle version on Amazon

*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.

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, I encourage you 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 two short papers and may also be the topic of some exam questions. You will be given a coupon which you will trade for a ticket. The exact process will be explained in class.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is required for this course. You are expected to attend all lectures and breakout sessions. A sign-in sheet will be passed around in each class. Signing in for another student violates the Honor Code. You are responsible for all material covered. If you miss a class, get notes from a friend. I do not provide notes or PowerPoint slides 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 in Participation 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, let us know immediately. Being late three times equals one absence.

*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

Three Exams	45%
Production Critiques	15%
Quizzes	15%
Final Exam	10%
Participation	10%
Homework (2 assignments)	5%

I do not curve grades or drop low grades. I round up final grades by .5 only.

## SCALE

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

*A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.*

*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>*

## CLASS CONDUCT

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. Laptops are not allowed in class – they 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, you must seek permission.

## 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.*** This includes the use of AI programs. 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 need to register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565/ <https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. If you do not have a disability but feel you need help with your writing, contact <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/>.

## AVAILABILITY

If you have something you want to discuss with us, feel free to email or email to arrange a meeting. We encourage you to bring drafts of your papers and projects or ask about lecture material. I will be happy to go over your work and suggest improvements.

## 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. I reserve the right to alter the syllabus and course outline if necessary.

## COURSE OUTLINE - Topics and Assignments

### Week 1 (July 1 – 5)

Mon: What is Art? What is Theatre?/How Theatre Means

Tues: Acting Theory

Due: Textbook chapter: "Mapping Reality"

Wed: A Primer on Acting

Due: Textbook chapter: "Acting"

Thurs: Directing

Due: Textbook chapter: "Directing"

Fri: Be prepared to discuss *I and You*

**Exam 1 online**

### Week 2 (July 8 – 12)

Mon: Casting

Tues: Theatrical Design

Due: Textbook chapter: "Set Design"

Due: Textbook chapter: "Costume Design" & "Lighting Design"

Wed: Improvisation

Thurs: African American Theatre

Friday: Farce & High Comedy

Due: Textbook chapter: "Genre"

### Week 3 (July 15 – 19)

Mon: Be prepared to discuss *Fences*

Tues: Melodrama

Wed: Realism and Naturalism

Thurs: Be prepared to discuss *Machinal*

Fri: The Avant-garde

Due: Paper 1

**Exam 2 online**

**Week 4 (July 22 – 26)**

Mon: Chinese Opera

Tues: Be prepared to discuss *M. Butterfly*

Wed: Evolution of the American Musical Theatre

Thurs: Dance in American Musical Theatre

Fri: Gay and Lesbian Theatre

**Week 5 (July 29 – Aug 2)**

Mon: Be prepared to discuss *Blood at the Root*

Tues: Shakespeare

Wed: Be prepared to discuss *The Laramie Project*

Thurs: Censorship

Fri: Latino Theatre

Due: Paper 2

**Exam 3 Online**

**Week 6 (Aug 5 – 9)**

Mon: Be prepared to discuss *Anna in the Tropics*

Tues: Theatre of the Middle East

Wed: Feminism and Theatre

Thurs: World Theatre

Fri: Be prepared to discuss *Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith*

**Final Exam**