

THEATRE APPRECIATION [Online]

THE2000 – Summer 2025

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will explore dramatic structure, techniques, and various organizational elements. The course provides an introduction to theatre as a collaborative art form through the critical analysis of its historical context, production, theory, and connections to theatrical literature, including the Western canon.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon. 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 relevant factors that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. For this course, in-class lectures will provide the framework for understanding the theatrical arts and how they connect to human culture. Additional instruction will come through the reading of celebrated and award-winning American plays.

<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>

GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Content: Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline. This will be measured through quizzes, exams, and a final exam.

Communication: Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline. This will be measured through short papers based on watching live performance as well as class discussions which will offer opportunities for self-reflection in relationship to the material.

Critical Thinking: Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. This will be measured through homework assignments.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will identify the basic principles of theatrical performance, design, technology, organization, and management.
- Students will assess the social significance and the human condition as expressed through the performing arts.
- Students will explore and interpret works of art utilizing creative and critical thinking skills.
- Students will demonstrate college-level writing. • Students will define, compare and contrast theater as both an expressive art form and a commercial industry.

REQUIREMENTS

In order to be successful in this course, all students must participate fully in the activities listed below:

- Close readings of assigned textbook chapters, plays, and posted material
- Watch video lectures and supplementary videos
- Take quizzes on assigned readings and videos
- Post responses to prompts on the Discussions board
- Watch two videos of live theatrical performances and write a critique about each one
- Produce a creative project based on a required play

Assignment due dates can be seen by choosing the Calendar button on the left-hand side of the screen.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

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://opensourcetheatretextbook.wordpress.com/>

REQUIRED PLAYS

You can purchase any edition of these plays from any source but get them at the beginning of the semester. After a time, 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 and performances above before deciding to stay in the course. All of the following texts should be available in the bookstore:

Doubt: A Parable by John Patrick Shanley

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

M. Butterfly by David Henry Hwang

The Elaborate Entrance Chad Deity by Kristoffer Diaz

Machinal by Sophie Treadwell

Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman

Honky by Greg Kalleres

Some of these plays have epub versions available. Check the publisher's websites for details.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

For this class, you are required to see videos of two live shows which will be the basis for two short papers and may also be the topic of some quiz questions.

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>

THE HONOR CODE & PLAGIARISM

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 violate the Honor Code, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class.** I understand getting behind and panicking when due dates arrive but you are better off telling me you screwed up and ask for help rather than risk your academic future.

The following are Honor Code violations:

- Cheating on a quiz
- Soliciting quiz answers from other students
- Writing a paper about a show you did not see
- Uploading anything from this course to an outside website
- Plagiarism (i.e., using someone else's words or ideas without attribution)
 - Submitting AI generated material
 - Cutting and pasting text from a website

Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty. College is not a system to beat. It is a space where, for four years, people like me want to know what you think.

So how do you avoid plagiarism? It is simple. Always cite your sources. It is fine to build upon the ideas of others or use them to support your own argument. All you have to do is give the original thinker credit. Think of yourself as joining a community of thinkers that's been debating since the beginning of time. It's ok to agree or disagree with the ideas of other thinkers and use them to make a point. You just need to tell me who said it first. This is why using AI is not permitted. Artificial intelligence pulls sources and synthesizes them into text but you have no idea where it got the information. Find reliable sources with some kind of institutional stamp -- a

news organization or university entity, for example -- people who are invested in the accuracy of the material.

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 me, feel free to call me, email, or stop by during my office hours. You are never “bothering” me. During these times, I will be happy to go over your work and suggest improvements. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, contact me and we will come up with another time to meet.

EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-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.