Theatre Appreciation – THR 161 Spring 2018

Instructor: Jackie Rosenfeld

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Office: GFNA 225  Office Hours: T/Th 12:30 – 1:50pm and Wed 3-4pm and by appointment

Catalogue Description: Intended primarily for non-theatre majors.  Credits: 3

Objectives: This course will expose students to the art of theatre and theatrical works through reading, lecture, discussion and required attendance at play productions. A variety of dramatic literature will be read. Students will synthesize and interpret these works through written assignments, group projects, and discussion that will encourage critical thought and the development of intellectually defensible, conscientiously expressed personal opinion.

CORE OBJECTIVES:
  1. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
  2. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
  3. Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared goal or purpose.
  4. Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:
  • Students will develop basic understanding of dramatic literature, dramatic theory and criticism, and performance from multiple perspectives (supports objective #1)
  • Students will develop their abilities to analyze, write about, and discuss performance, both informally and through formal presentation (supports objectives 1 and 2)
  • Students will learn functions of the various theatrical sub-disciplines and how they relate to each other in production, and the value and purpose of professional and artistic collaboration (supports objective 3)
  • Students will learn a broad history of the theatre from ancient to modern, including non-traditional theatrical forms, theatre produced in non-Western cultures, and theatre for specific audiences (supports objective 4)

General Education Core Curriculum: This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.
Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to LiveText this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to LiveText. Not every assignment will be collected for assessment every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in LiveText this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Production Critiques</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Production Critiques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>Play Reading Journal</td>
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Required Texts:

Plays:  
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- *Biederman and the Fire Bugs* by Max Frisch

Graded components:

- 1) Exams (2) 40%
- 2) Quizzes (3) 20%
- 3) Production Critiques (2) 20%
- 4) Participation 20%

Final Grading:  
- (0-59) F
- (60-69) D
- (69.5-79) C
- (79.5-89) B
- (89.5-100) A

Exams: Two exams will be given covering the lectures and reading material. No makeup exams are given for unexcused absences. (See “Attendance” for what qualifies as an excused absence.) Exams will include multiple choice/short answer questions, and some writing.

Quizzes: Three quizzes will be given covering the reading of the play scripts or play viewing. No makeup quizzes are given for unexcused absences.

Production Critiques: You will be required to attend both SFA Mainstage productions and one student production (in the Downstage Theatre). You will select two of these productions and write a critique about them. Details about what to include in the critiques, criteria for evaluation and due dates will be discussed in class. Each student will be given a card to obtain tickets at the box office well in advance of the productions. A student who loses this card will be required to purchase tickets at the student rate. You are required to turn in one production critique before mid-semester.

Participation: The participation grade consists of attending the required theatre productions during the semester, contribution to class discussions, appropriate participation in class activities, regular attendance, and adherence to class rules. Some discussion may take place online using D2L. Two absences are allowed before grade deductions (2 pts per absence) take place.

Participation/Absences/Tardies: As stated by School policy: Seven (7) absences in a T/TH class or ten (10) absences in a MWF class will result in an automatic failure of the course. Only religious holidays, sponsored school events, and documented medical or personal issues may qualify as excused absences upon the instructor’s discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes from a dependable classmate. It is the responsibility of the student to check in with the instructor after class if s/he is tardy or arrives after attendance is taken. Instructors will establish other guidelines regarding attendance and tardiness and their effect on grading for their classes.

Course Work: All course work must be done and turned in as indicated by the calendar or discussed in class. This includes tests, quizzes, papers, and other assignments. Tests and quizzes cannot be made up without an excused absence. Students who arrive in class after quizzes or exams have been completed may not take the exam/quiz. Additionally, once the exams/quizzes are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in their work.

Students with documented disabilities must meet with the instructor in advance of accommodations and exams to arrange accommodations for that disability.

Classroom Expectations:

*Please respect others as well as yourself; this includes other students, the instructor, guest speakers, and performers. The majority of the following guidelines for behavior reflect this principle.*

1. Recording lectures is not allowed unless arranged in advance.
2. Cell phones should be set to silent or turned off before class begins. Absolutely NO use of cell phones is allowed in class unless approved in advance or requested by instructor.
3. Use of a cell phone (or other electronic device) during a quiz or exam will result in a grade of zero.
4. During class there will be no reading of outside materials, listening to MP3 devices, or wearing ear phones/ear
buds.
5. Disorderly conduct or talking inappropriately in class is not permitted.
6. Students who sleep or give the appearance of sleeping in class will be counted absent (unexcused).
7. Failure to follow any of these expectations will result in being dismissed from class and counted absent (unexcused).

Theater Etiquette (Production Behavior)
1. Students are expected to dress and behave appropriately while attending theater productions.
2. Students seen to be sleeping, using cell phones or engaging in any distracting behavior during productions will earn a 0 on both production critiques.

Diversity
This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf.

You are expected to be in full compliance with both the SFA policy and the School of Theatre policy: SFA policy: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

School of Theatre policy: The School of Theatre expects students to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own or knowingly allowing someone else to represent your work as his/hers constitutes academic dishonesty. Such behavior is antithetical to our work as scholars, as artists, and as members of a community founded on trust and mutual respect. It is an insult to faculty and an affront to honest students. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of a specific project to failure of the course, suspension from the production season for up to one year, and referral to university authorities for further action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Please Note: I will trust that you are invested in your own education and will not cheat. Hence, I will not be hovering over your shoulder during exams, etc.. However, this trust should not be confused for a lack of vigilance on my part. If you are caught, I will consider it a violation of personal trust and will not hesitate to penalize you to the full extent possible.

Additional Information
If you have a disability: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Religious observance: If your observance of a religious holiday will prevent you from attending class, please contact me immediately so we can make appropriate arrangements.