Theatre Appreciation

Theatre 161.003  Instructor: David Raine
Boynton Room 210  Email: rainedavid@sfasu.edu
Mon-Thurs. 2:45 pm – 4:40 pm

Required Texts:
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (free online)
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde (free online)
- *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles (free online)

Course Objective: The intent of this course is to familiarize the student with one of the oldest and most vital arts forms in our culture. The student should complete the class having achieved a basic understanding of the Where, What, When and How’s of theatre as an art form. Most importantly, the course should help a student develop a critical appreciation of the art form.

Grading: Grading will be determined by the following—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 exams</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 play quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>1 play critiques</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation/book work</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Exams: There will be three exams covering the textbook and lecture information. These exams will be a combination of question formats (multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank).

Quizzes: There will be three short quizzes over the three plays you will be required to read for class. These quizzes will be multiple choice and designed to test whether or not you have read the plays.

Play Critiques: You will be required write a play production critique this session. A handout with critique guidelines will be distributed, and what I expect from a critique will be discussed in class.

Play Performances: You will be required to attend two plays in the Turner Auditorium (2nd floor of the Fine Arts building). You will be provided with a card that will entitle you to one free ticket for each play. The plays are: *Pinkalicious the Musical* and *Crimes of the Heart*. I will discuss the show dates and times with you in class.

Class Participation/book work: There will be class assignments from the text for which you will receive a pass/fail grade. Earnest completion of these assignments will result in a passing grade. The total five percent gained by completion of these
assignments will be added to another five percent earned from class participation and effort. Discussion is an important element of this last five percent.

**Attendance Policy:** It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health, family emergencies, and university sponsored events. Excused absences from class will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation upon the first day of the student’s return from the teacher, sponsor, or physician involved. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor that he or she has scheduled the planned official absence.

Attendance will be taken every class. A total of FIVE unexcused and/or excused absences will result in a FAIL grade regardless of the earned grade. We only meet about 20 times during the summer session, so if you can’t manage to attend such a limited number of classes, then you should seriously consider dropping right now because I’m very serious about attendance.

There will be no make-up work given (exam, quiz, or class assignment) unless a medical excuse or some other official documentation is presented to the instructor.

If you arrive late for class, make sure to follow-up with me at the end of the class period. If you are late three times, that will count as an unexcused absence.

**EEOs (Exemplary Educational Objectives):**
To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.
To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

**Academic Integrity:** 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.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** 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/academic_integrity.asp

Any cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment or test will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and may, at the instructor’s discretion, result in failure of the course.

**Withheld Grades:** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:** 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/.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
Schedule
(subject to change)

Reading assignments listed below mean that I want you to have read the assignment by that day.

7/10 (Tues)  Welcome and general introduction with syllabus discussion

7/11 (Wed)  Introduction and Audience
Discussion of critiques

7/12 (Thurs)  Performance Spaces
“Raisin in the Sun” video

7/16 (Mon)  Greek Theatre

7/17 (Tues)  “Oedipus” video

7/18 (Wed)  Producer and Director

7/19 (Thurs)  Quiz on “Raisin in the Sun”
Review for exam

7/23 (Mon)  EXAM #1

7/24 (Tues)  Musical Theatre
Quiz on “Oedipus”

7/25 (Wed)  Acting and Character
“Into the Woods”

7/26 (Thurs)  “Into the Woods”

7/30 (Mon)  Quiz on “Importance of Being Earnest”
Scenery and Scenic Design
“Into the Woods”

7/31 (Tues)  Costume and Costume Design
Lighting and Lighting Design

8/1 (Wed)  Makeup Design and Sound Design
Review for exam

8/2 (Thurs)  EXAM #2

8/6 (Mon)  Opportunity Day
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/7 (Tues)</td>
<td>The Play and Elements of Plot</td>
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<td>Tragedy and Related Forms</td>
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<td>8/8 (Wed)</td>
<td>Comedy and Related Forms</td>
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<td>Medieval &amp; Elizabethan</td>
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<td>8/9 (Thurs)</td>
<td>Exam Make-Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/10 (Fri)</td>
<td>EXAM #3 – Regular time and place</td>
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