

THTR 1009: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

SYLLABUS

Section 03 MWF 12:00PM - 12:50PM EDUCATION 220

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

- Oscar Wilde

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

Welcome to an introduction to theatre. This course aims to immerse you in the compelling, eclectic and creative world of the theatre. Through brief lectures, engaging classroom discussions and activities, textbook and play readings, media observations and theatre attendance we will develop an aesthetic sense for evaluating and appreciating theatrical performances. We will explore the elements that compose a theatrical event such as the creation of a playscript, the methods of acting and directing, and approaches to scene and costume design. We will investigate the major figures and movements that have contributed to the development of the theatre and look at how the theatre has been presented in various cultural and historical contexts.

COURSE TEXTS

Brockett, Oscar G. and Robert J. Ball. *The Essential Theatre*. Enhanced 10th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2014. Print.

Kelly, Joseph, Ed. *The Seagull Reader: Plays*. 2nd ed, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2014. Print.

Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes: Revised and Complete Edition*. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2013. Print.

DESIRE2LEARN

We will be using Desire2Learn for many aspects of this course. Go to <https://learn.colorado.edu> and log-in with your IdentiKey to access the D2L site for this course. Links to additional online resources used in this class will appear in the content section on D2L.

There are three videos which are available for you to watch through D2L:

Touch of Greatness, A. Independent Lens. Independent Television Service, 2005. Film.

Memphis. Dir. Don Roy King. Broadway Worldwide, 2011. Television.

Into the Woods. James Lapine, writer/dir. American Playhouse, 1991. Television. (Also available on Netflix as of 24 August.)

ASSESSMENTS

The University of Colorado, Boulder requires that a grade evaluating your accomplishments and progress in the class be turned in to the registrar's office at the end of the term. To that end, the following is a list of activities by which you will be evaluated. They can also serve to help motivate, engage and inspire you:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER	VALUE	MAXIMUM
Quizzes	10*	10 points each	100
Exams	3**	100 points each	300
Performance Response Papers	3	100 points each	300
Group Presentation	1	100 points	100
In Class Activities	5	20 points each	100
Volunteer Activities	4	10 points each	50
In Class Participation	—	—	50
		TOTAL	1000

*Good news: there will be 12 quizzes given. Your 2 lowest scores will be dropped from your final grade. Because of this leniency, no make-up quizzes will be given.

**Even better news: there will be 4 exams given. Your lowest score will be dropped from your final grade. Because of this leniency, no make-up exams will be given.

Final letter grades will be calculated according to the number of points earned as follows:

930 - Higher	A	730 - 759	C
900 - 929	A-	700 - 729	C-
860 - 899	B+	660 - 699	D+
830 - 859	B	630 - 659	D
800 - 829	B-	600 - 629	D-
760 - 799	C+	Lower - 599	F

Please note all material submitted in hard copy form will be kept on file for a maximum of 45 days after the end of the term.

QUIZZES

Quizzes will be given periodically throughout the semester. Most will be administered at the very beginning of a class period. Quizzes will be in a variety of formats. Quizzes will cover the chapters from the texts, plays we've read or watched, lectures and class discussions.

EXAMS

Exams will be given during the course of the semester per the course schedule. All exams will be administered during the scheduled class period. Exams will cover the chapters from the texts, plays we've read or watched, lectures, group presentations and class discussions. Please bring a #2 pencil to class on scheduled exam days.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSE PAPERS

During this course, you will have the experience of attending three productions presented by the University of Colorado, Boulder Theatre and Dance Department:

Our Town by Thornton Wilder. Presented in the University Theatre, September 25th - October 5th. See box office for exact performance times and dates.

Legacy of Light by Karen Zacarias. Presented in the Loft Theatre, October 24th - November 2nd. See box office for exact performance times and dates.

A Broadway Christmas Carol by Kathy Feininger . Presented in the University Theater, December 4th - 7th. See box office for exact performance times and dates. You must attend a performance on or before December 7th.

Tickets for Theatre and Dance productions are available in person at the CU Presents Box Office in the University Club during the day, or at the University Theatre Box Office which opens an hour before each performance. You can also buy tickets by calling 303.492.8181 or online. All students enrolled in Theatre and Dance classes will receive a special discount of \$2 off CU student ticket prices by telling the ticket agent the code word "XXXXXXX" at the time of purchase. More information about purchasing tickets will be available on the D2L website for this course.

After attending each performance, write a 2 - 3 page critical and analytical response. Guidelines and a rubric for the response will be posted on D2L before the first production. Grammar, spelling, syntax, style and formatting will all be taken into account when evaluating this paper. Upload your paper in Word format into the appropriate dropbox on D2L before the deadline listed on the Course Schedule.

GROUP PRESENTATION

During the last few weeks of this course, you will have the opportunity to get together with five or six other students from this class and choose from *one* of the following options:

Topic Presentations - Research, prepare and present a 10-minute presentation on a topic selected by you from a list on D2L. Your presentation should be exciting, dynamic and informative and involve the whole group. You may use visuals such as slides and up to 4 minutes of video, which you should narrate.

or

5-Minute Play - Sign up for a group on D2L in which all of you will write, stage, rehearse and perform your own 5-minute play. All of the group members must contribute to two aspects of the final product - i.e, writer-actor, or writer-director. You may use props and small set pieces if you wish.

Because all the presentations will take place during the final exam period, your group should rehearse and time your presentation to ensure it is 10-minutes or less including set-up time. More information will be given in class.

IN CLASS ACTIVITIES

To truly experience the various elements of the theatre one should do more than just study its facts and figures. We will engage in several creative activities which will allow you to get a taste of what it is like to write a play, design a set or costume, act and even direct. These activities will take place entirely within the class period and little or no outside preparation will be needed. Some of the experiences will take only 10 minutes while others will use the entire class period and they will be a combination of individual and small group efforts.

IN CLASS PARTICIPATION

Your opinions and reactions to the material and ideas we encounter are very important and should be shared. To get the most out of this course it is essential that you come prepared and ready to engage in discussion with your fellow classmates. Always bring questions and responses to the material you have read with you to each class and be prepared to share them. Part of your grade is dependent on your discussion participation.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

There will be several opportunities to volunteer during almost every class period. These volunteer activities can include reading a passage from a script to the class, reading a scene with one or more of your fellow students for the class, creating a diagram on the board, or participating in a demonstration. Points for volunteering will be liberally distributed ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to receive the maximum in this grading category.

ATTENDANCE

A vital part of the experience of this course takes place in the classroom. There will be no opportunities to make-up for any of the events you might miss in class should you be absent, including discussions, presentations, quizzes, exams and in class participation and activities. Because one exam and two quiz scores are dropped from your grade, the undergraduate policy on attendance is fully complied to. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please acquire any notes from one of your fellow students.

MATURE AND CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT MATTER

We will be reading, attending and discussing plays that may include adult language, violence and nudity, as well as issues surrounding gender, race, culture, sexuality, ideology and politics. If you do not wish to encounter this type of subject matter, please drop this course.

POLICIES OF RESPECT, CELLPHONE AND LAPTOP USAGE

Always be respectful of the abilities, opinions, focus and comfort of your fellow students. Please keep cell phones silenced and hidden from sight at all times while in the classroom. If you wish to use a laptop or tablet you may do so only to engage in activities directly related to what is happening in the class at the moment, such as taking notes. Please full screen your word processor and turn off all notifications and alerts. If your device proves to be distracting for other students you will be asked to find an alternative method of taking notes.

HONOR CODE

All students of the University of Colorado Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A DISABILITY

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at

303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

ACCOMMODATIONS BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, because the two lowest quiz and lowest exam grades are dropped, an accommodation for absence based on religious observance is already taken care of. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name, however I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

“If you want a bourgeois existence, you shouldn't be an actor. You're in the wrong profession.”

- Uta Hagen, Legendary Acting Teacher

“The world of the theatre is a world of sharper, clearer, swifter impressions than the world we live in.”

- Robert Edmund Jones, Stage and Lighting Designer