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Spring 2-1-2007

### DRAM 101L.01: Theatre Appreciation

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DRAM 101L: Theatre Appreciation

Spring 2007

The University of Montana Department of Drama/Dance

**Co-Instructors:** Brad Poer/Nicki Poer  
umdramal01@gmail.com

**Class Time/Location:** Mondays 7:10-10:00 PM/ McGill Hall-Room 210

**Final Examination:** Monday, May 7, 2007 from 7:40 PM-9:40 PM

### **General Education Requirement**

DRAM 101 meets the Perspective 2/Literary and Artistic Studies distribution and is 3 credits.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to various aspects of drama and theatre—as an art form, a humanistic pursuit and a dramatic experience. It is an introductory course designed to enhance your enjoyment and understanding of theatre in general. It is intended to impart a general knowledge of theatre and how it functions as a multiple and multidimensional form of art. You will also develop a critical eye and the ability to express thoughts and analysis of scripts and live performance verbally and in writing. The course will be executed through readings, films, lectures, guest speakers, demonstrations, audience participation and discussion in regards to the theatrical arts.

**Evaluation** Evaluation will be based on the following...

- ❑ Daily Attendance and Promptness: One (1) absence is allowed with no penalty but you must check with instructors to get any missed assignments BEFORE a missed class.
- ❑ Daily Discussion Participation: Respectfully say what you think and back it up with fact.
- ❑ Daily Effort, Respect and Attitude: Required.
- ❑ 1 Group Project: 50 points
- ❑ 6 Writing Assignments: 20 points each = 120 points
- ❑ 4 Quizzes: 15 points each = 60 points
- ❑ Final Exam Paper = 75 points

**Total Project/Assignment/Quiz/Exam Points Possible = 305**

### **Policy/Procedure**

- ❑ Attendance is required and your responsibility. You are permitted one (1) absence with no penalty. This includes all absences, even illness. For every absence beyond one, your grade will drop **at least** one-third of a letter grade.
- ❑ If you are absent it is your responsibility to contact the instructors BEFORE the class is missed to receive the assignment. An absence does not allow you to have a late assignment. See below.
- ❑ Three tardies equal one absence. You are not permitted to enter the classroom past 7:30 PM and will be marked absent. You must sign-in if you arrive after class has started.
- ❑ All written assignments must be typed in Times New Roman 12-point font with 1-inch margins. You will have to adjust the margins on most computers. Work that is not typed will not be accepted.
- ❑ All work must be turned in when asked for in class so print your assignment ahead of time. We do not accept any printer malfunction excuses of any kind, which means you should do your work prior to the night it is due.

- ❑ We will not accept emailed assignments.
- ❑ Any work not turned in will result in a zero grade of no points.
- ❑ To maintain the best possible environment for interaction, please turn off cell phones and hold off eating until the break. Respect yourselves, your instructors, classmates and guests.
- ❑ We will be taking weekly notes of the students who have and have not participated in class discussions. Points are awarded on your engaged participation and not just that you spoke up during class. Demonstrate that you have done the work, your mind is active and processing ideas and that you are willing to take the wonderful risk of expressing your thoughts.

### **Academic Misconduct/Student Conduct Code**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code available at: [www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page1321](http://www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page1321).

### **Performance Attendance**

As a class during class time, we will attend three University of Montana Department of Drama/Dance Productions this semester. They are as follows:

*Lost in Yonkers* by Neil Simon

January 23 - 27 at 7:30 or January 27 @ 2 PM Montana Theatre

\*You must pick up a ticket for *Lost in Yonkers* since we cannot see the final dress rehearsal as a group. Go to the box office in the PARTV building between 12-5 PM Monday through Friday and present your Griz card. Tell the box office attendant that you are in Theatre Appreciation and make sure you initial next to your name on the list. You MUST have your Griz card to get a ticket and you can only pick one up for yourself.

*Miss Julie* by August Strindberg

Monday 2/26 7:10 PM

Masquer Theatre

*Urinetown* Music and Lyrics by Mark Hollmann | Book and Lyrics by

Greg Kotis Monday 4/9 7:10 PM

Montana Theatre

*Big Love* by Charles L. Mee

Monday 4/23 7:10 PM

Masquer Theatre

We will meet in the lobby of the PARTV building at the scheduled class time as noted. Attendance is taken at the end of the show when we will again meet in the lobby. There will be a quiz and discussion at the next week's class following each performance.

### **Approved Extra Credit Opportunities**

There will be extra credit offered. Details will follow when available. Credit will require live theatre attendance.

### **Class Calendar** (Always subject to change.)

1/22 General Introduction and Overview, Syllabus, Tour, "An Audience Manifesto"

1/23-27 Get ticket and see *Lost In Yonkers*

1/29 Quiz/Audience VS. Critics, Play Analysis, Performance Studies

2/5 The Spine of Dramatic Action

2/12 Lecture: TBA

2/19 President's Day: NO CLASS MEETING

2/26        *Miss Julie*  
3/5        Quiz/Lecture: TBA  
3/12        Introduce Group Project  
3/19        Group Project Presentations  
3/26        Spring Break: NO CLASS MEETING  
4/2        Lecture: *Costume Design* with UM Professor Alessia Carpoca  
4/9        *Urinetown*  
4/16        Quiz/Lecture: *The Business of Theatre* with Greg Johnson,  
Artistic Director of  
            The Montana Repertory Theatre and UM Professor  
4/23        *Big Love*  
4/30        Quiz/Final Exam Papers Assigned  
5/7        Final Exam Papers Due

Assignments will be given at the end of class. See "Evaluation" section for points breakdown.

We are looking forward to this semester with you. Theatre may not be what you think it is. Ask questions, be respectful, but also open your minds and let the ideas flow. You get out of something what you put in. Challenge yourselves. What would Steven Dietz say?

Some of the work and issues that may come up in class may challenge your beliefs and feelings. Part of your job is exploring and learning how you as an individual work through these moments. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with one or both of us before or after class or at the email addresses listed below. However, remember that no assignments can be turned in over email. But we will listen to you if you have a thought, question or concern. Also, it helps if you let us know that you will be absent over email. As this is a survey course, the final examination will be cumulative based on your own thoughts. In other words...take notes.

Thank you.

Brad Poer/Nicki Poer  
umdramal01@gmail.com

We will hold office hours as requested.