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THTR 101L.50: Introduction to Theatre

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THTR 101L ONLINE– 01: Introduction to Theatre and Performance

FALL, 2014

Instructor: Kelly Bouma – kelly.bouma@umontana.edu

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a greater understanding of Theatre and Performance Studies as a creative art form, practical craft, and critical field of study. We will engage in discussions designed to provide a deeper understanding of acting, directing, dramaturgy, devised theatre, design, and playwrighting, and to make connections between the art of theatre and our own lives.

OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course you will:

- Be able to define the roles and parts of the theatre
- Understand theatricality and performance as it pertains to your own life, and what you see on stage, screen, or in line at the grocery store.
- Feel comfortable reading and analyzing scripts and critical essays
- Articulate ideas concisely in your writing and online discussions
- Understand the context of performances from other cultures and your own
- Develop a creative performance using your own personal story

ABSENCE POLICY:

This class is an online section operating very similarly to a once a week, night class. You are expected to attend every required class including performances. By “attend every required class” I mean that you will log into Moodle, and work within the THTR 101 course at least once a week. More than ONE (1) week without submitting class work AND participating in ongoing class discussions, will result in your final grade being lowered one full letter grade. If you need to be away from the Internet for a period of time please contact me immediately. If I know in advance that you cannot log on for a brief period of time I will take that into consideration, however you should keep in mind that **your coursework will not be accepted if it is late.**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [student conduct code](#).

COURSE ACCOMMODATION:

Students with disabilities will receive accommodations in this online course. To request course modifications; please contact me as soon as possible. I will work with you and Disability Services to ensure you are getting all of the information in the most efficient way possible. For more information, visit the [Disability Services website](#) or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).

PRODUCTION ATTENDANCE:

You are required to attend three of the School of Theatre & Dance's theatrical performances produced this semester. Missing one production will drop your grade one full letter. Missing two productions will drop your grade two full letters. If you do not attend any of the productions, you will earn a failing grade in the class. Production attendance is a part of this class—there are no exceptions and there will be quizzes on the productions.

The materials fee you paid when you registered for this course allows you to obtain one ticket for these shows at no additional expense. You must pick up your ticket at the UMArts Box Office, located in the lobby of the PARTVCenter, in person between 10 AM and 6 PM Monday-Friday. You may pick up only one ticket—your own; you cannot pick up a ticket for a classmate. If you pick up your ticket to a production and wish to change performances, you will be charged a \$2 exchange fee before the performance date printed on the ticket. If you come in to exchange your ticket after the performance date printed on the ticket (and therefore need a new ticket), you will be charged the full student ticket price.

You must present your Griz Card to pick up your ticket and you must identify which class you are taking. Therefore you must know your section number and instructor's name.

You are in section: **THTR101L**

Your instructor's name is: **Kelly Bouma**

Seating in the Masquer Theatre is general admission. Seating in the Montana Theatre is reserved. The fee that you have paid does not guarantee you a ticket on a particular night, nor does it guarantee that you will be able to get a ticket if the show sells out. Do not wait until the evening of the performance you plan to attend to pick up a ticket.

Required Productions*

Broomstick

by John Biguenet

UM Masquer Theatre, PARTV Center

Sept. 11-21, 2014

7:30 pm Tuesdays-Fridays // 2pm and 7:30pm Saturdays // 6:30 pm Sundays

A witch confesses all - her first love affair, how she discovered her powers and used them - in this Montana Rep production.

Cyrano de Bergerac

By Edmond Rostand / Adapted by Ranjit Bolt

Montana Theatre / October 7-11, 14-18, 2014

Cyrano de Bergerac is the beloved heroic comedy about selflessness, bravery, love, and one inimitable nose. The larger-than-life title character succeeds in every quest on which he embarks ... except the one for the hand of his adored Roxane. Set against the iconic backdrop of 17th-century Paris, this fresh, swashbuckling adaptation promises to be earthy, rowdy, and overflowing with heart and panache.

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens / Adapted by Jere Lee Hodgkin

Montana Theatre / November 25, 29-30, December 2-6, 2014

This crowd-pleasing holiday play needs no introduction. The tale of one core-shaking night in the life of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is inherently theatrical. As brought to the stage with a script by one of Theatre & Dance's faculty members, it will also be a joyous version of the classic story driven by an unforgettable ensemble.

* Students at a distance need to contact the instructor to determine an appropriate alternative to attending the productions on campus.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

FORUM POSTS: In the beginning of each week, I will post a prompt based on the weekly material. All student forum posts are due by 11:59 pm Sunday at the end of that week. Students **MUST** make two (2) responses. Each post should be **AT LEAST** 60-100 words in length, in order to accurately convey your understanding of the material being discussed. Your responses should be written in complete sentences with proper grammar.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: These will vary from short responses to weekly quizzes. Complete sentences and proper grammar are again, extremely important on any written work. Instructions will be specific to each assignment posted.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSES: These are longer papers (500-700 words). Students must follow MLA guidelines. Instructions will be specific to each production.

FINAL PROJECT:

This project will be some form of personal performance/project specific to your interests. Brainstorming and work on the final project will begin in Week 12. Guidelines will be agreed on between the student and the instructor. A written response detailing/reflecting on the process will accompany the final performance/project.

EVALUATION:

Evaluation for this course is based on the following:

- Forum Posts 20%
- Performance Responses 30%
- Weekly Assignments 30%
- Final Project 20%

GRADING:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C= 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 59 and below

*There will be opportunities throughout the semester for extra credit.

School Handbook

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the [School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook](#).