

Fall 9-1-2018

THTR 101L.51: Introduction to Theatre

Benjamin W. Park

University of Montana, Missoula

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Park, Benjamin W, "THTR 101L.51: Introduction to Theatre" (2018). *Syllabi*. 8925.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/8925>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Introduction to Theatre

Theatre and the Global Age

THTR 101LY – Sections 50 & 51

3 Credits – Online Fall 2018 School of Theatre & Dance University of Montana

Instructors:

Section 51

Ben Park

Benjamin.park@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 11-1 in Theatre Lobby (PARTV)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a foundational understanding of THEATRE as a creative art form, practical craft, and critical field of cultural study. By considering a wide range of plays this course will foster an appreciation of each play and its host culture's diversity, histories and contemporary forms, and their positions in world spheres of power and change. It is designed to introduce the student to historical and contemporary forms of theatrical art and practice within the American and European tradition. Students will explore the collaborative nature of theatre through the integration of various methods of acting, directing, dramaturgy, design (lighting, set, properties, and costume), and production. Students will also explore and compare differing objectives of theatrical performance (for instance, theatre as ritual, worship, activism, entertainment, or education). They will experience selected European and American canonical theatre texts through reading research, writing, script analysis, scene study and performance review. Students will thereby gain the skills to analyze classical and contemporary theatrical traditions through reading, research, and the shared experience of attending live theatre. Knowledge gained through taking this theatre course prepares students to think empathetically, to cultivate ways of thinking that foster an understanding of the complexities of other cultures and global issues, past and present.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Through reading, research, and regular attendance at and analysis of live performances students will learn to:
2. Understand theatricality and performance as it pertains to their own life, be it what they see on stage, screen, or in daily life
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse ways humans structure their social, political, and cultural lives;
4. Analyze the structure and significance of theatrical works of art within their respective context including movements and forms within the American and European theatrical tradition;
5. Critique the work of selected theatre practitioners throughout history, as well as that of contemporary theatre artists;
6. Apply theoretical approaches to theatre through script analysis and critical essays that foster an appreciation of their own significant role as audience members and critics.
7. Interpret human activities, ideas, and institutions with reference to diverse cultural, historical and geo-political perspectives and physical environments as depicted in the plays and productions chosen.
8. Through theatre, recognize the complexities of inter-cultural and international communications and collaborative endeavors, and relate this to the complex challenges of the 21st century.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Introduction to Theatre (THTR101LY-51) is an Online/ Distance Learning Course. Attendance will be determined by each student's participation in weekly reading and viewing responses, production quizzes, written reviews and assignments, through the University of Montana's Online Course Platform, Moodle. Each week all students must log into Moodle to complete the given week's assignments. All assignments must be completed to receive full attendance for that week.

WEEKLY AND ATTENDANCE POLICY AND ASSIGNMENT STRUCTURE

This class will operate on a MONDAY – NEXT MONDAY schedule, meaning that each of our lessons will begin on MONDAYS at 12:00am WITH ASSIGNMENT/READING RESPONSE DUE BY THE FOLLOWING MONDAY AT 11.55PM. New assignments will be available to the class starting at 12:00am each MONDAY, [the first being an exception: due Tuesday Sept 4th due to Labor Day]. Each week's assignments will vary but will be due by Monday 11.55pm of the following week All assignments with a required due date for submission will NOT be accepted any later than 11.55pm. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY UNLESS STATED PRIOR TO DUE DATE. Completion of course work is the only measure for attendance in this online class. More than ONE (1) week without submitting assignments will result in your final grade being lowered **one full letter grade. Therefore if you miss three weeks or more you cannot pass the course.**

If for some reason you are unable to complete a given assignment deadline you must contact your instructor immediately via university email. If you do have advanced notice of your inability to complete an assignment and gain attendance, you will need to provide at least 72 hours (3 days) notice to give you the opportunity to either complete the assignment prior to "absence" or schedule a "make up" assignment for you to complete with a new deadline.

If you have an emergency and are unable to complete an assignment to gain attendance please contact me via university email as soon as you are able to so that we may discuss your situation and options to "make up" your assignments. If possible, please provide documentation as to your absence, e.g. Doctors Note.

REQUIRED TEXTS & COURSE MATERIALS

[The Essential Theatre | Edition: 11](#)

Author:

Oscar G. Brockett, Robert J. Ball

ISBN:

9781305411074

Publication Date:

01/01/2016

Publisher:

Cengage Learning [also available to rent]

[Summer and Smoke](#)

Author:

Tennessee Williams

ISBN:

9780822210979

Publication Date:

01/01/1950

Publisher:

Dramatists Play Service, Incorporated

Hamlet –Playscript widely available, including online <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/full.html>. You will also rent and view the live production of *Hamlet* produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company starring David Tennant. You can either buy/rent it to view the production on Amazon Prime or other streaming services.

[Ma Rainey's Black Bottom: A Play](#)

Author:

August Wilson

ISBN:

9780452261136

Publication Date:

04/28/1985

Publisher:

Penguin Publishing Group

Or http://www.sennhs.org/ourpages/auto/2016/1/13/64111504/MA%20RAINEY%20_1_.pdf

Lovesong

Author:

Abi Morgan

ISBN:

9781849431613

Publisher:

Oberon Books

White Christmas: see moodle

Copies of these texts are available at the University of Montana Bookstore under the course code and section THTR 101-LY. You can also find copies of some available online to rent.

GRADING :

Grading Scale:	
A	100 – 90% [A- 90, A-93]
B	89 – 80% [B+ 87-89, B- 80-83]
C	79 – 70% [C+ 77-79, C- 70-73]
D	69 – 60%
F	59 and Below

Continuous assessment:

Introductory video and personal statement:		50 points
Chapter Reading quizzes:	10 X 30 points each	total 300 points
Quizzes on plays seen and/or read:	4 X 50 points each	total 200 points
2 written production responses/reviews/page to 2 stage productions seen		2x100 points
1 short essay on a play or playwright of your choice from our reading this semester		100 points
1 final critical essay on a creative/production role in the theatre of your choice [e.g actor/costume designer etc.]		150 points
TOTAL		1000 POINTS

SYLLABUS

READING ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE TESTED BY ONLINE READING RESPONSES: THESE QUIZZES WILL BE LIVE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKS AND ARE GRADED AS THE ONLINE-EQUIVALENT OF CLASS ATTENDANCE. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO HAVE THE READ THE RELEVANT MATERIALS AND SEEN THE RELEVANT PRODUCTIONS BY THE DUE DATE LISTED BELOW. If you are using an older edition of Essential Theatre note that chapter numbers are different. If in doubt, go by the chapter title as listed below:

Introduction: Week 1 Aug 27-31: read assigned reading, complete introduction and personal statement

WEEK 1	READ CHAPTER 1	THE NATURE OF THEATRE
WEEK 1	READ CHAPTER 2	THE AUDIENCE AND CRITICISM
WEEK 1	READ CHAPTER 3	THE PLAY
WEEK 1	ACTIVITY	COMPLETE & UPLOAD INTRO & PERSONAL STATEMENT TUESDAY
SEPT 4	[DUE TO LABOR DAY]	

Unit 1 Weeks 2 Sept 4-7 & 3 Sept 10-14. Theatre and the Dramatic Text: How does the theatre event vary across time and across cultures? Read *Hamlet*, assigned chapters and see *Hamlet* online via moodle link

WEEK 2	READ CHAPTER 4	FESTIVAL THEATRE
WEEK 2	READ CHAPTER 5	CREATING A PROFESSIONAL THEATRE: ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND, ITALIAN COMMEDIA DEL' ARTE AND 17 TH CENTURY FRANCE
WEEK 2	ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT	COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

WEEK 3	PLAYSCRIPT	<i>HAMLET</i>
WEEK 3	PLAY ON VIDEO	SEE <i>HAMLET</i> VIA LINK ON MOODLE
WEEK 3	ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT	COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

Unit 2 Weeks 4 Sept 17-21 and 5 Sept 25-28. Theatre and Production: Who is who in the theatre? How does theatre create meaning? How does a script move from page to stage?

WEEK 4	READ CHAPTER 6	FROM ROMANTICISM TO REALISM
WEEK 4	READ CHAPTER 7	MODERNISM IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY 1900-1960
WEEK 4	READ CHAPTER 8	DECENTRALIZATION AND SUBSIDIZATION
WEEK 4	ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT	COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

WEEK 5	READ CHAPTER 14	DIRECTING AND PRODUCING
WEEK 5	READ CHAPTER 15	ACTING
WEEK 5	READ CHAPTER 16	SCENE DESIGN
WEEK 5	ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT	COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

UNIT 3 Weeks 6 Oct 1-5 & 7 Oct 8-12. Theatre and Performance: Read script *Summer and Smoke*, see the production of *Summer and Smoke* and read assigned chapters

WEEK 6	READ SCRIPT	<i>SUMMER AND SMOKE</i> BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
WEEK 6	ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT	COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING
WEEK 6	SEE LIVE	SEE <i>SUMMER AND SMOKE</i> WEEK 6 OR 7 AT THE MASQUER THEATRE
WEEK 7	ACTIVITY	WRITE A SHORT ESSAY ON A PLAY OR PLAYWRIGHT OF YOUR CHOICE FROM OUR READING THIS SEMESTER – SEE MOODLE FOR DETAILS
WEEK 7	SEE LIVE	SEE <i>SUMMER AND SMOKE</i> WEEK 6 OR 7 AT THE MASQUER THEATRE
WEEK 7	ACTIVITY	IF WRITING A PRODUCTION RESPONSE TO <i>SUMMER AND SMOKE</i> , UPLOAD IT TO MOODLE BY MONDAY OCT 15TH

Unit 4 Weeks 8 Oct 15-19 & 9 Oct 22-26. Theatre and Identity: Theatre and Representation. Read script *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and read assigned chapters.

WEEK 8	READ CHAPTER 11	ASIAN AND AFRICAN THEATRE
--------	-----------------	---------------------------

WEEK 8 READ PLAYSRIPT
WEEK 8 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT

MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM
COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

WEEK 9 READ CHAPTER 12
WEEK 9 READ CHAPTER 13
WEEK 9 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT

THEATRICAL SPACE AND PRODUCTION DESIGN
PLAYWRITING AND DRAMATURGY
COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

Unit 5 Week 10 Oct 29-Nov 2 & 11 Nov 5-9. Theatre and Form. See *Dance Up Close*, and *Lovesong*, read the script of *Lovesong*, and read assigned chapters.

WEEK 10 READ CHAPTER 9
WEEK 10 SEE LIVE
WEEK 10 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 10 ACTIVITY

CONTEMPORARY THEATRE AND ITS DIVERSITY
SEE *DANCE UP CLOSE* AT THE MASQUER THEATRE
COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING
IF WRITING A PRODUCTION RESPONSE TO *DANCE UP CLOSE*, UPLOAD IT TO MOODLE BY NOV 5TH

WEEK 11 READ CHAPTER 17
WEEK 11 READ PLAYSRIPT
WEEK 11 SEE ON DIGITAL THEATRE
WEEK 11 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT

COSTUME DESIGN AND MAKEUP
LOVESONG BY ABI MORGAN
LOVESONG BY ABI MORGAN AND FRANTIC ASSEMBLY
COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

Unit 6 Week 12, Nov 12-16, 13 Nov 19-23 & 14 Nov 26-30. Musical Theatre. Read assigned chapters, see material on moodle and see *White Christmas* at Montana Theatre

WEEK 12 READ CHAPTER 10
WEEK 12 READ CHAPTER 18
WEEK 12 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT

MUSICAL THEATRE
LIGHTING AND SOUND DESIGN
COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

WEEK 13 READ PLAYSRIPT
WEEK 13 SEE PLAY LIVE
WEEK 13 SEE VIDEO LINK
WEEK 13 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT

WHITE CHRISTMAS
SEE *WHITE CHRISTMAS* AT MONTANA THEATRE WEEK 13 OR 14
ON MOODLE ON MUSICAL THEATRE
COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING

WEEK 14 SEE PLAY LIVE
WEEK 14 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 14 ACTIVITY

SEE *WHITE CHRISTMAS* AT MONTANA THEATRE WEEK 13 OR 14
COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING
IF WRITING A PRODUCTION RESPONSE TO *WHITE CHRISTMAS*, UPLOAD IT TO MOODLE BY MON DEC 3RD

Conclusion: Week 15 Dec 3-7 and Finals week Dec 10-14: complete last quiz and final assignment

WEEK 15 ACTIVITY
ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 15 ACTIVITY

COMPLETE QUIZ ON LAST WEEK'S READING/VIEWING
PREPARE FINAL ASSIGNMENT: ESSAY ON A CREATIVE/PRODUCTION ROLE IN THE THEATRE

FINAL EXAM WEEK

COMPLETE AND UPLOAD FINAL ASSIGNMENT ON A CREATIVE ROLE IN THE THEATRE BY 11.55PM WEDS DEC 12TH

THEATRE EVENTS:

You are required to attend three of UM School of Theatre & Dance's theatrical performances produced this semester. This is a mandatory element of this course. The Materials Fee you paid when you registered for this course allows you to obtain ONE ticket for each of these shows at no additional expense. We do encourage you to

bring friends and family; however the cost of additional tickets must be purchased at the student's or other patron's expense.

As this is an introductory theatre course we know that some of you will have more experience of live theatre than others. All of this semester's reading and research is into the art of theatre as a live art form. Therefore it is crucial that experience these theatre events live.

- If you miss one performance, your final average will be dropped ONE FULL LETTER GRADE.
- If you miss two performances, your final average will be dropped TWO FULL LETTER GRADES.
- If you do not attend ANY of the performances, you will receive a FAILING GRADE for the entire course.
- THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

REQUIRED LIVE PRODUCTIONS:

- *Summer and Smoke* School of Theatre & Dance, Masquer Theatre, PARTV Building, Oct 3-7, 10-14
- *Dance Up Close* School of Theatre & Dance, Masquer Theatre PARTV Building, Nov 1-3
- *White Christmas* School of Theatre & Dance Montana PARTV Building, Nov 20, 23-25, Nov 28-Dec 2

Ticket Information:

Each student must pick up their ticket, in person, at the UMArts Box Office, located in the lobby of the PARTV Center. The Box Office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM. Each student is allotted ONE ticket for each of the three productions you will attend. (No student can pick up any other student(s) ticket(s)!)

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.

Seating in the Masquer Theatre is open. Seating in the Montana Theatre is assigned.

Please note that 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. Therefore make sure not too wait until the evening of the performance you plan to attend to pick up a ticket. All evening performances begin at 7:30pm. Occasionally matinee performances are also available.

The House will be open 30 minutes prior to the performance. Late arrivals may not be admitted. If you are unable to attend the full performance due to tardiness you will have to purchase a new ticket for the full student ticket price. [Exchange Policy: If you need to exchange a ticket that you have already picked up and it is BEFORE the performance date listed on the ticket there is a \$2 Exchange Fee that is assessed. If you need to exchange a ticket and the performance date is AFTER the date listed on the ticket and you need a new ticket, you will need to purchase a NEW ticket at the FULL STUDENT PRICE.]

Please note: Any student(s) taking this course as a distance learning course with no means of attending the productions performed at the main University of Montana campus must live beyond 50 miles of campus. Your assignments will be listed under DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS on moodle. As alternatives to the School of Theatre & Dance productions listed above you will be required to see listed productions on a professional theatre website called Digital Theatre. While we encourage you to see theatre in your area, we as instructors and graders cannot see theatre in your various areas and therefore could not grade your responses. Look for details on these three other digital theatre productions under the distance learners option on moodle. Again, the distance learned option is ONLY for students who are 50 miles or more from The University of Montana Mountain Campus in Missoula, and who cannot attend our live events.

Digital theatre productions cannot be used for to substitute for a live production unless you are a distance learner. If you are confused, contact your instructor.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT & THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

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 may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with

disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult

<https://www.umt.edu/dss/> If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

SCHOOL OF THEATER & DANCE POLICIES

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at

<https://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.*

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student’s time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student’s grade.

*(This course is an Online/Distance Learning based course. As a student taking a course with the School of Theatre & Dance you must be aware and abide by ALL of these policies. You may not be entering a classroom, studio, shop or rehearsal but if for some reason you are to visit Theatre & Dance’s buildings aside from attending productions, please respect the code of conduct.)