INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE - THEA 101- Fall 2011
MWF10:40 am BSU ED 110, THU 6:00 pm Gowen Field 813 Rm 4, SAT 8:30 am BSU MP 108

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Phone: 208-426-1034  Office Hours: By appointment only (Morrison Center)

TEXTBOOK: The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama, Brief Sixth Edition

ATTENDANCE: Great grades happen when you come to class, do the work, and apply good scholarship to your efforts. Think of this class as you do your job. If you don’t go to work – you don’t get paid. If you don’t come to class – you won’t get a good grade.

COMMUNICATION: I don’t answer emails after 7:00 pm or before class. If it’s an emergency, the timing of your email will be the important factor. Let’s set up an appointment if you want to talk or are concerned about your grade. No miracles available at the “11th hour”.

CLASS ETIQUETTE: Please arrive on time and let me know if you must leave early.
No cell phone usage during class. No computers allowed.
All work must be turned in on time. NO MAKE-UP PAPERS OR EXAMS.

DISHONESTY: Dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes cheating on exams or plagiarizing. (Disciplinary action WILL be taken. See Student Handbook)

THE WORK

• Reading: We will read and analyze six or maybe seven plays, information about the history of theater and learn about how the process of theatre comes to life. Your “Weekly Focus” sheet has all the semester’s assignments.

• Writing: You will watch one video for a short Observation Paper, complete one Poster Design Creative Project by Thanksgiving, and write two Performance Reviews covering the BSU productions of Champagne Breakfast and Dancing at Lughnasa. Your “Weekly Focus” sheet has the assignment dates and detailed information will be given to you as we progress through the semester.

• Testing: There are three exams which will be taken in class. Each will cover classroom lecture information, readings, plays, and videos. Test study sheets will be provided.

• Ex Credit: Up to 10 points per submission can be earned by attending approved productions at local theatre companies and submitting a one-page, single-spaced, Aesthetic Experience Report for each production. The assignment requirements and a list of approved theaters can be found on Blackboard. There is a limit of three submissions. GO EARLY!

THE GRADING: 1000 TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS

• Exams = 60% of your grade  3 Exams (200 points each) = 600 points

• Writings = 40% of your grade
  1 Observation Paper = 50 points
  1 Creative Project = 50 points
  Performance Review Champagne = 150 points
  Performance Review Dancing = 150 points

• Grading breakdown
  1000 – 990 = A+
  921 – 989 = A
  900 – 920 = A- 
  880 – 899 = B+
  821 – 879 = B
  800 – 820 = B- 
  780 – 799 = C+
  721 – 779 = C
  700 – 720 = C-
  680 – 699 = D+
  600 – 679 = D
  599 – Below = F
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Course Objectives

1. **Critical thinking/problem solving skills**... “You will learn to…”
   - Apply critical analysis to the experience of theatrical performance and dramatic literature; *(think outside the box of your own experience.)*
   - Develop a basic understanding of the structure of theatre and the themes that develop in both performance and dramatic literature; *(understand the process of the creation of the work of theatre.)*

2. **Communication skills**... “You will learn to…”
   - Formulate and organize an *aesthetic response* (emotional reaction) to performance and be able to articulate that reaction in both verbal and written form; *(articulate that response.)*

3. **Cultural perspective**... “You will learn to…”
   - Appreciate theatrical performance and dramatic literature within diverse social contexts; *(think about the greater world.)*
   - Identify meaningful connections between theatrical productions and plays and the historical contexts in which they emerged throughout Western Civilization; *(understand the timeline.)*
   - Cultivate an awareness of diverse perspectives and values of others as presented in a variety of plays and productions; *(work on your empathy.)*
   - Develop an awareness of the ephemeral and communal nature of theatre; *(understand “zeitgeist” – the true nature of theatre.)*

4. **Breadth of knowledge**... “You will learn to…”
   - Apply methodologies and strategies of inquiry specific to the performing arts; *(ask the right questions.)*
   - Develop a basic understanding of the creative production process in theatre; *(understand what it takes to put on a play.)*
   - Recognize similarities, differences, and the relationships between theatre and allied art forms; *(where does theatre fit in the arts?)*