Welcome to the online Introduction to Theatre class. I hope you will consider this course a thorough 'backstage tour.' I will be your guide as you examine many different aspects of theatre.

I am very excited to teach this class. I have had students in several states, members of the military, and students from dozens of different disciplines. Most of you are taking this course because of your very busy lives. You are all trying to balance your education, families, and careers. I admire all of you for your dedication and I appreciate your interest in this course!

An online class offers you flexibility but this also comes with a huge responsibility. You must take initiative and have the discipline to stay with it. Most students find that online courses are typically a bit more work than on-campus classes. This is because you will be navigating through course materials on your own. On top of that, this is a new subject matter for many of you. We will be learning a lot of new vocabulary and there is a lot of ground to cover in this cyberspace class.

Course Description

Through a study of theatre history, dramatic literature, and the process of play production, students will experience live performances and should learn to participate in a theatre event as discerning appreciative audience members. This course is a part of the University Core Curriculum.

Instructor Bio

I have worked and continue to work in theatre as a director, voice and dialect coach (which is really my area of emphasis), and an actress. I have studied with Shakespeare & Company and I completed an internship at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard. I have worked as
Theatre can be fun and exciting. Theatre has existed for thousands of years. How does it fit into today's fast-paced, multi-media world? (This is an image of Oedipus defeating the Sphinx)

I am a voice and dialect coach for the Off-Off Broadway Theatre, the Soho Think Tank in New York, Michigan Opera Theatre, Attic Theatre in Detroit, Idaho Boise State, Shakespeare Festival, Boise Contemporary Theater and Company of Fools in Hailey. I also provide dialect coaching and assistance for a growing number of former students working professionally on stage and in film/television. I have been teaching for more than fifteen years. I teach all levels of voice classes for acting students in the Theatre Department at Boise State University.

Department of Theatre Arts

Visit our website at http://theatrearts.boisestate.edu/

Course Objectives

- Identify basic plot structure in plays
- Interpret themes in dramatic literature
- Examine the creative production process essential to theatre.
- Compare and contrast theatre to other art forms such as novels, film, and television.
- Critique theatrical performances.
- Recognize connections between plays and the social and historical contexts in which they emerged.
- Investigate diverse cultural perspectives by reading and watching a variety of plays and productions.
Grading

There is a lot to do this semester!

This course combines short descriptive/analytical assignments with objective quizzes on class topics and required plays. The assignments will help you develop basic observation and writing skills you need for an excellent production review. The quizzes ensure you have an understanding of the contemporary production process as well as some basic facts about the major periods of theatre history that contributed to the vigorous world of theatre we have today. Play quizzes will determine how well you understand the action of the play and identifying characters.

I have tried to space the assignments/ quizzes fairly evenly throughout the semester. Deadlines for the assignments and quizzes are posted in the Course Schedule. All due dates are Sundays by 11:59pm. Late work will receive zero points. If you feel something has come up that will prevent you from completing the work on time please let me know ASAP. We will try and work something out.

Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Work</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments 1-10</td>
<td>200 (10 x 20 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>150 (6 x 25 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic Quizzes</td>
<td>400 (8 x 50 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience Paper</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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## Production Review

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Production Review</th>
<th>150 points</th>
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## Production Ticket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production Ticket</th>
<th>10 points deducted from paper or review grade for failure to submit this ticket by due date</th>
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## Total Points

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>1000</th>
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- **Final Grade:**
  - A+ = 996-1000
  - A = 931-995
  - A- = 900-930
  - B+ = 881-899
  - B = 831-880
  - B- = 800-830
  - C+ = 781-799
  - C = 721-780
  - C- = 700-720
  - D+ = 681-699
  - D = 631-680
  - D- = 600-630
  - F = 599 and below

- **Checking Your Grade:** You can check your grade at any time by clicking the 'Check Grade' navigation button. You should do this any time I make an announcement that points have been updated and immediately after taking any quiz to ensure that the score was received.

## Course Materials

You will need access to the six plays listed below.

- *Trifles*, by Susan Glaspell
- *Oedipus*, by Sophocles
- *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare
- *Tartuffe*, by Moliere
- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
- *Fires in the Mirror*, by Anna Deavere Smith

I do have links available to texts for
You must see two plays this semester so be prepared to take a seat and enjoy a show.

four of the above plays and a video version of the final play, *Fires in the Mirror*. If you are a Netflix user, you can access the video version of *Death of a Salesman* on instant view. Click the Plays Online button. Some of the plays can be also found at local libraries. I am sure they can also be purchased used from a variety of sources such as Amazon.

You are also required to attend two theatre productions listed in the Productions folder in the Assignments area. You will be required to send me your tickets as part of the production paper/review grade.

For my out-of-area students, please contact me right away. I will be happy to help you find plays in your area that fulfill the course requirements.

This is a very quick and easy process.

**Breakdown of class deadlines by due date**

**January 29th**

- Extra Credit Quiz
- Topic Quiz 1 (Topics 1, 2, and 3)
- Assignment 1 (on material from Topic 2)

**February 5th**
• Play Quiz 1 (Trifles by Susan Glaspell)
• Assignment 2 (on Trifles)

February 12th

• Topic Quiz 2 (Topic pages 4, 5, and 6)
• Assignment 3 (on material from Topic 5)

February 19th

• Topic Quiz 3 (Topics 7 and 8)

February 26th

• Play Quiz 2 (Oedipus by Sophocles)
• Assignment 4 (on Oedipus)

March 4th

• Topic Quiz 4 (on Topics 9, 10, 11)
• Assignment 5 (on Topic 9)

March 11th

• Topic Quiz 5 (Topics 12 and 13)

March 18th

• Play Quiz 3 (Hamlet, by William Shakespeare)
• Assignment 6 (on Hamlet)
• Assignment 7 (on Hamlet)

March 25th

• Topic Quiz 6 (Topics 14 and 15)

April 8th

• Play Quiz 4 (on Tartuffe)
• Assignment 8 (on Tartuffe)
April 15th

- Topic Quiz 7 (Topics 16 and 17)
- EXPERIENCE PAPER DUE

April 22nd

- Play Quiz 5 (on *Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller)
- Assignment 9 (on *Death of a Salesman*

April 29th

- Play Quiz 6 (on *Fires in the Mirror* by Anna Deavere Smith)
- Assignment 10 (on *Fires in the Mirror* 

May 6th

- Topic Quiz 8 (Topics 18, 19, and 20)
- PRODUCTION REVIEW 2 DUE