Introduction to Theatre
Course Objectives Fall 2012

Introduction to Theatre is designed to create discerning and appreciative audience members through the experience of live theatre by practicing performance criticism and studying theatre production processes, theatre history and dramatic literature. After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

• Identify basic components of theatrical production and dramatic structure.
• Distinguish both the collaborative and individual efforts needed to create a theatrical performance.
• Recognize similarities, differences, and interrelationships between theatre and other art forms.
• Evaluate the effectiveness of live theatrical performances.
• Associate plays with the social and historical context in which they were written and performed.
• Interpret components of theatrical productions and dramatic literature to identify main ideas.
• Apply subjective experience to understanding theatrical performances and dramatic literature.
• Investigate diverse cultural perspectives through a variety of dramatic literature and theatrical productions.

To meet these requirements, we will:

• Read 4 plays: Oedipus, the King; The Tempest; The Cherry Orchard; and Fences. (See your textbook -- Norton Anthology of Drama, Shorter Edition)
• Attend two live theatre performances: Becoming: An Evening of Short Plays and The Importance of Being Earnest.
• Write one “Performance Assessment” and one “Performance Review”. Complete one “Central Idea Poster” and participate in class discussions. (40% of grade).
• Take 4 tests covering plays, lectures and class discussions (60% of grade).

Here’s what I ask of you:

1. Arrive on time – prepared by reading your plays or doing whatever work is required. I do understand that life happens, but be aware that the general rule is that I will not accept late assignments and there are no make-up tests.
2. Stay in touch. I can always be reached by email. If you need to be gone for any reason, give me advance notice. This will not excuse you from the work required. You will have to find a way to make up what you might miss.
3. Do your own work. Don’t borrow ideas, copy other work or try to make over something that belongs to someone else (see reverse for Academic Dishonesty guidelines).
4. Don’t make excuses for incomplete work or being ill prepared.

Here’s how the points work:

Performance Assessment: 100 points
Performance Review: 150 points
Central Idea Poster: 100 points
Class Discussion: 50 points
4 Major Tests (no cumulative exam) 600 points
Total class points: 1000 points

The Breakdown:

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

Important Information:

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Disability Resource Center by phone, (208) 426-1583, or e-mail, drcinfo@boisestate.edu. Students are required meet with a Disability Specialist prior to receiving accommodations and may be required to provide documentation to clarify accommodation requests. Information about a disability is confidential. More information on the accommodation process can be found at http://drc@boisestate.edu
Performance Information:

**Becoming: An Evening of Short Plays**
- *Watermelon Boats* by Wendy MacLauchlan
- *Three Guys and a Brenda* by Adam Bock
- *Bondage* by David Henry Hwang
- *Medea* by Christopher Durang and Wendy Wasserstein
- *Come and Go* by Samuel Beckett

October 4-6 at 7:30 pm, October 7 at 2:00 pm
October 10-13 at 7:30 pm, October 14 at 2:00 pm

**The Importance of Being Earnest**
By Oscar Wilde

November 8-10 at 7:30 pm, November 11 at 2:00 pm
November 14-17 at 7:30 pm, November 18 at 2:00 pm

My task concerning Academic Dishonesty:

I believe you will do your own work. But if you don’t, I will find out and I must report any instance of academic dishonesty. There are a number of things that can happen as a result of this situation -- from failing the assignment to failing the class. It is very important that you take this seriously. Our world presents you with a number of tantalizing and easy solutions to your work – but it doesn’t build your education. You might as well build castles in the air.

Contact Information:

**Section 18—(Student Handbook)**
The term “academic dishonesty” may include cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty. All assignments submitted by a student must represent her/his own ideas, concepts, and current understanding or must cite the original source. Attempts to violate the academic integrity of an assignment do not have to be successful to be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to:

1. **Stealing and/or Possessing Unauthorized Material** – The unauthorized appropriation, possession or use of the property of another; the forgery or misuse of documents;
2. **Fabrication and Falsification** – The unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation;
3. **Multiple Submission** – The submission of substantial portions of the same assignment for credit more than once without the prior permission of all involved faculty members;
4. **Abuse of Academic Material** – Destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource material;
5. **Complicity in Academic Dishonesty** – Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.

(Dustin Hoffman as Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*)

Carole Whiteleather

Please contact me by email first. I can respond more quickly. cwhitele@boisestate.edu
208-426-1034

Office Hours:

By Appointment Only (please email request)

Office Location:

Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts
Office located next to the Center’s Box Office