Course Description and Objectives

Introduction to Theatre satisfies three units of the Foundation’s Disciplinary Lens—Visual and Performing Arts (DL-VPA) requirement. It supports the following University Learning Outcomes, along with a variety of other course-specific goals.

- Apply knowledge and methods characteristic of the visual and performing arts to explain and appreciate the significance of aesthetic products and creative activities.

Introduction to Theatre is designed to create discerning and appreciative audience members through experience live theatre, 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.

Assessment of Course Objective

Assessment of the above objectives will be pursued through the following:

- Participation in class discussions and readings
- Exams of required reading and lecture material
- Written projects
- Attendance at and two written assignments of BSU Theatre Arts productions
Course Materials

There is one required textbook for this course:


You are also required to obtain tickets and to attend the two productions discussed in course assignments. If you are not a full-time student, these tickets must be purchased. (Full-time students get one ticket to each performance at no charge. Any additional tickets would have to be purchased.)

This semester’s productions are:

@ the Danny Peterson Theatre:   
\textit{Becoming: An Evening of Short Plays}   
Oct 4-6, 10-13 @ 7:30 pm   
Oct 7 & 14  @ 2:00 pm

@ the Danny Peterson Theatre:  
\textit{The Importance of Being Earnest}  
Nov 8-10, 14-17 @ 7:30 pm   
Nov 11 & 18  @ 2:00 pm

Class Policies

- **Attendance is your responsibility.** It will affect your grade in that those who are fully present during each class tend to earn higher grades (i.e., it is difficult to pass this class if you don’t attend). Lateness is annoying, and I ask that you try to come to class on time. Also, if you must leave class early please inform me prior to the start of class.

- **Monitor your own progress in class.** If you are struggling, confused, frustrated, in fear of failing, please make your problems known to me early in the semester. I will, as your instructor, do my best to help you succeed in this class. That is my commitment to you. If, however, you remain passive or silent about your problems until the last days of the semester, or if you haven’t turned in assignments, papers, or taken the required exams, I cannot assist you in saving your grade at the last moment.

- Your ability to actively participate in class discussions and readings will be greatly enhanced if you read the plays and textbook on pace with the class schedule.

- **All written projects must be typed, double-spaced, with 12-point font.**

- Any work not turned in will be assigned ZERO points rather than an F grade (an F could = 59).

- **No work will be accepted via email or beyond the communicated deadline** (see course calendar) except under extraordinary circumstances acceptable to the instructor or based on prior written notification also acceptable to the instructor.

- **There are no make-up exams or written projects** without a written excuse and prior notification.

- Content for exams will be taken from lecture material, the plays, the introductions to the plays, videos and the textbook.
• Review your student handbook for the university’s policy on academic dishonesty. If you are caught cheating on any test or plagiarizing on any written assignment, the minimal penalty will be a zero and will go on your permanent record at Boise State.

• I ask that you assist me in maintaining the best possible atmosphere for interaction and for learning: silence your cell phones; refrain from studying for other classes, or texting, tweeting, updating, and other content creation; put off eating those tasty snacks; nap with your eyes open.

Grading Criteria

• Short written projects (5 @ 20 each) 100 points (10%)
• Critical thinking assignments (2 @ 150 each) 300 points (30%)
• Exams (4 @ 150 each) 600 points (60%)
• Class Participation (up to 40 extra credit points)*

Total points possible: 1000 points (100%)

Course grading scale:
900-1000 = A
800-899 = B
700-799 = C
600-699 = D
-----599 = F

*Note: Although the class is a large one, I take weekly note of the students who have and have not participated in class discussions over readings. Points are awarded based on my assessment of your engaged and consistent participation in class throughout the semester. Translation: I don’t award points just because you’ve spoken up in every class discussion; I do award points if you’ve demonstrated that you’ve read the material, that you’re mind is active and processing ideas, that you’re willing to risk expressing your thoughts.