

TH 114-007 Introduction to Theatre

Fall 2018

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Times and Room: Tuesday & Thursday RJ 201, 11:00am – 12:15

Feel free to email me for a meeting time, I will respond within 24 hours.

Course Description: Introduction to the theatre through the study of plays, stage histories, practitioners, elements of theatre and production techniques. This course **may** count toward the theatre major. This is a Fine Arts course of study.

Course Objective: Theatre is an art form that provides a structured and collaborative framework to explore and make sense of our shared humanity. We often say it is the art of being private in public. It takes many artists to bring a private world authentically and theatrically to the public stage. This introductory course will guide the beginning student through a survey of production techniques, an historical overview of the theatre, and the process of creating a performance and understanding the relationship between the performer and the audience. Students will attend live theatre productions and examine texts through a page to stage experience - with a broad base of knowledge about the various forms of what we call theatre. At the conclusion of the course, each student will be able to recognize the materials of theatre and how they are used, and make informed critical decisions and judgments on any aspect of their theatrical experience.

General Education Requirement:

Students must meet the general education requirement. All courses that carry the following general education designations are listed on the [University of Alabama's website](#) and are displayed in each semester's Schedule of Classes. Please consult the listings for each semester.

1. Freshmen Composition (FC) – Six hours
2. Upper-level Writing (W) – Six hours: Writing-designated courses are 300-400-level courses usually completed in the student's junior and/or senior years and most commonly in the major or minor. The writing requirement must be satisfied by courses taken at the University of Alabama.
3. Foreign language (FL) and Computer (C) - Six hours: each student completes one of the following options: Six semester hours in courses approved for the computer designation (such courses assume a working knowledge of the computer) OR two semesters or the equivalent in one foreign language. Students must earn grades of C- or higher in the first

course of the two semester sequence before enrolling in the second course.

4. Humanities (HU), Literature (L), and Fine Arts (FA) – 12 hours: To satisfy this requirement, each student completes the following: three hours of fine arts, three hours of literature, and six hours of other fine arts, literature, or humanities courses. Each student must complete a six-semester-hour sequence in either literature or history. To satisfy the breadth of learning so crucial to general education, a maximum of six hours in any one department may be applied to the humanities, literature, fine arts, history, and social and behavioral sciences requirements.
5. History (HI) and Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB) – 12 hours: To satisfy this requirement, each student completes the following: three hours of history and nine hours of other HI and SB courses.
6. Natural sciences (N) and Mathematics (MA) – 11 hours: To satisfy this requirement each student completes the following: eight hours of natural sciences (including six hours of lectures and two hours of accompanying lab) and three hours of mathematics (the mathematics requirement must be satisfied with MATH 110, Finite Mathematics of higher).

Learner Centered Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Analyze the impact of various historical periods of western theatre
2. List the components of theatre and how they are used
3. Identify and comprehend production techniques
4. Critique specific dramatic texts with a broad base of knowledge about the various forms we call theatre
5. Make informed critical decisions and judgments about their theatrical experiences.
6. Synthesize these critical tools for assessing their theatre experience

Required Texts:

Textbook: *Theatre, Brief Version*, Robert Cohen - ISBN 13: 9781260573589 (E-Text)

Playscripts: *Eno, Will / Gnit : A Fairly Rough Translating of Henrik Ibsen's Peer Gynt*

Hamill, Kate / Sense and Sensibility (Required)

EURIPIDES / BAKKHAI (Required)

Other Required Materials: Tickets for each theatrical production this semester are required to see the production at your expense.

Method: Lectures, demonstrations, videos, Power Point presentations, forums, discussion

Course Requirements:

There are four (4) play critiques, two (2) dance critiques, ten (10) quizzes from the readings, production practicum, two (2) exams, and a final cumulative exam (1). You will also be assigned one group presentation. Your full participation in class discussions, exercises, and projects is expected of you.

Class Participation

Participation is defined as your level of engagement in the work. Engagement manifests itself in the following ways: mental and physical alertness, active and focused listening to what others are saying, willingness to present your own views and to question your own assumptions, comments offered publicly in discussion sessions, notes being taken on the material, evidence of having completed and considered the readings assigned. Disengagement or disrespect will adversely affect your participation grade.

Note: Cell phones, laptops and iPads/Tablets must be turned off and put away during class. If this rule is violated it may result in the confiscation of the device or dismissal from that class period (which is considered an absence).

Attendance at Theatrical Productions and Papers

Students are required to attend all four (4) University productions (*The Baakhai*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Gnit*, and *Sense and Sensibility*) and the two (2) dance concerts (*Dance Alabama!* and *ARDT*) and write a critique/review about each production, details to be determined by each individual instructor. A writing prompt will be given closer to the assignment due date.

Two of the play productions will take place in the Marian Gallaway Theatre and two in the Allen Bales Theatre. *Dance Alabama* and *ARDT* will be performed in Morgan Auditorium. Tickets must be obtained in advance, for seating is limited and productions tend to sell out early. You may buy all tickets at once for a discounted rate. **Inability to procure a ticket will not be an acceptable excuse for failure to complete your writing assignment for that play and will result in a grade of "F" for the assignment.** All papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, 12 size, Helvetica font, and must be free of spelling, grammatical, and compositional errors. Each assignment must be a thoughtful analysis of the production in question and handed in on time.

Papers are due the first class meeting after the show has closed.

Late papers will be accepted at the COST OF ONE LETTER GRADE PER CLASS THAT THEY ARE LATE. Your attendance at these productions is **mandatory** for the class. Failure to attend a production will result in a "0" grade for that assignment.

Exams:

Exams will take the form of a multiple-choice test. The first two will cover material during the first and then the second third of the semester. The third exam (final exam) is comprehensive

(i.e., cumulative) and will cover material from the entire semester. Plan your semester break departure carefully. **There will be NO early exams** for students attempting an early departure at the semester's end.

Disabilities Policy:

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. This should be addressed immediately at the beginning of the semester. No accommodations can be made until you register with the Office of Disability Services.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Attendance and Tardiness Policy:

Attendance is mandatory and records will be kept. You are given **three (3) unexcused absences for the semester without penalty**. After the third unexcused absence, **each additional unexcused absence will lower your final course grade by 1/3 letter grade** (A- to B+, B to B-, B- to C, etc.). In cases of extreme hardship, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

The only absences that will be excused are those due to a verifiable emergency such as: illness requiring attention by a health care provider; the hospitalization, death, or serious illness of a family member; a verifiable and University-sanctioned event; or required appearance in a court of law. You are responsible for **providing documentation** (e.g. doctor's letter, health center note, court summons, obituary) **unsolicited** to your professor **within 48 hours of your absence** if you wish to be considered excused.

Even if you are legitimately absent (e.g., illness, athletic or scholastic event, etc.), you are responsible for all the information given in that class. This may include any changes in the printed schedule, and will include lecture materials and screenings not found in the reading assignment for the day.

Tardiness:

Three (3) tardies will be treated as one unexcused absence.

-If you arrive to class more than ten minutes late, you are considered absent.

-If you arrive late for any exam and any other student has already completed the exam and left the classroom, you will not be permitted to take it and will receive a "0".

-Leaving class early without prior permission from instructor will be tallied under tardies.

Make-up Work: Exams and quizzes may be made up but only by prior arrangement with the instructor OR with a **valid written medical excuse**.

Assignments and Grading

Class Participation and Discussions	50
Genre Presentations	150
Exam #1	100
Exam #2	100
Final Exam –Comprehensive	200
Quizzes (minimum of 10 @ 15 points each)	150
Show Paper #1	50
Show Paper #2	50
Show Paper #3	50
Show Paper #4	50
Dance Concert Paper #1	50
Dance Concert Paper #2	50
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS:	1000

Final Grade Points

A+	980-1000	C	720-770
A	920-970		
A-	900-910	C-	700-710
B+	880-890	D+	680-690
B	820-870	D	620-670
B-	800-810	D-	600-610
C+	780-790	F	0 -599

Academic Misconduct:

Cheating or plagiarism will be severely penalized. Papers must be original work, written by you and you only for this class. Downloads from websites or adaptations from previous coursework are unacceptable. Consult the *Student Handbook*, which is available from Student

Services, for a complete definition of academic misconduct. Should I suspect that you are conducting yourself in a questionable manner in this regard, I will refer your situation to the Dean's Office for further action.

Cultural Diversity Statement:

The Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to providing an atmosphere of learning that is representative of a variety of perspectives. In this class, you will have the opportunity to express and experience cultural diversity as we focus on issues such as: sex, gender, and communication in small groups, communication in the multicultural group, and cross-cultural and intercultural work group communication. In addition, writing assignments and daily activities have been designed to encourage individuality and creative expression. You are encouraged to not only take advantage of these opportunities in your own work, but also learn from the information and ideas shared by other students.

UAct

A campaign to create an ethical community defined by respect and civility, also provides information regarding all reporting options as well as the resources and programs available to address sexual misconduct. This includes reporting to The University of Alabama Police Department at 205-348-5454 or by visiting UAPD at 1110 Jackson Ave. Any individual who seeks assistance and support but desires strict confidentiality should contact the University's Women and Gender Resource Center victim advocate at 205-348-5040. For more details on these and other reporting options, please visit the [UAct website](#) and review the University's [sexual misconduct policy](#).

A primary goal of the UAct campaign is to raise awareness and promote prevention of sexual misconduct. Any student, employee, applicant or campus visitor with concerns about sexual misconduct (including sexual assault and/or harassment, domestic/dating violence, and/or stalking) is encouraged to seek assistance from the appropriate University officials.

Day to Day Schedule

Subject to revision by the instructor and with appropriate notice given to students via email and/or in class.

Week/date: Topic/Assignments:

***Subject to change**

1	TR 1/10	Introduction to class; guide to using textbook and online resources; syllabus review
2	T 1/15	What is Theatre?
	W 1/16	Last Day to Drop Course without a “W” Grade
2	TR 1/17	DUE: Read Ch. 1 and Learn Smart (LS) assignment
3	T 1/22	DUE: Read Ch. 2 and LS assignment
3	TR 1/24	DUE: Read Ch. 3 and LS assignment QUIZ: Ch. 1 and 2
4	T 1/29	DUE: Read Ch. 4 and LS assignment
4	TR 2/5	DUE: Read Ch.5 and LS assignment QUIZ: Ch. 3 and 4
5	T 2/7	Ch. 5
5	TR 2/12	Discussion of The Bakkhai play
	2/11-2/17	The Bakkhai
6	T 2/19	Discussion of The Bakkhai production
	2/18 - 2/23	The Drowsy Chaperone
6	TR 2/21	DUE: Read Ch. 6 and LS assignment QUIZ: Ch. 5 and 6

7	T 2/26	Discussion of The Drowsy Chaperone
7	TR 2/28	Study Day
	2/26-3/2	Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre
8	T 3/5	Midterm Review
8	TR 3/7	Midterm Exam
9	T 3/12	SPRING BREAK
9	TR 3/14	SPRING BREAK
10	T 3/19	DUE: Read Ch. 7 and LS assignment
10	TR 3/21	DUE: Read Ch. 8 and LS assignment
11	T 3/26	DUE: Read Ch. 9 and LS assignment QUIZ: Ch. 7, 8, 9
11	TR 3/28	Discussion of Gnit play
	4/8-4/14	Gnit
	3/26-3/30	Dance Alabama!
12	T 4/2	DUE: Read Ch. 10 and LS assignment
12	TR 4/4	DUE: Read Ch. 10 and LS assignment
	4/16-4/21	Sense & Sensibility
13	T 4/9	Gnit

13	TR 4/11	Gnit
14	T 4/16	Discussion of Gnit and Sense and Sensibility
	4/16 - 4/21	Sense and Sensibility
14	TR 4/18	Discussion of Sense and Sense Production Group Project Work Day
15	T 4/23	Group Project Work Day
15	TR 4/25	Group Project Presentations
16	T 4/25	Group Project Presentations
16	TR 12/6	Exam Review

Final Exam: MAY 2nd (Thursday) 8-10:30am

Plan your semester break departure carefully. **There will be NO early final exams** for students attempting an early departure at the semester's end.

Required productions

<i>The Bakkhai</i>	February 11 th – 17 th
<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>	February 18 nd – 23 rd
<i>ARDT</i>	February 26 th - March 3 rd
<i>Dance Alabama</i>	March 26 th - 30 th
<i>Gnit</i>	April 8 th -14 th
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	April 16 th - 21 st

Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office located in the lobby of Rowand Johnson Hall.

Box Office: 205-348-3400

Or Online: <https://theatre.ua.edu/2018-19-season/> Click BUY TICKETS button on the left

Other University Policies:

Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvua23.com/weather>.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Notice of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

UAct: Ethical Community Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (<http://www.ua.edu/uact>) provides a list of reporting channels that can be used to report incidences of illegal discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, retaliation, threat assessment or fraud.