

# **TH 114: Introduction to Theatre Fall 2015 Syllabus**

MWF 11-11:50 a.m.

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Office Hours: By Appointment

## **Required Texts**

*Think Theatre*, Mira Felner

*Seduced*, Sam Shepard

*Equivocation*, Bill Cain

*Tartuffe*, Moliere (Wilbur translation)

## **Description**

This course is an introduction into the theatre through the study of plays, stage histories, practitioners, elements of theatre, and production techniques.

**This course does not count toward a theatre major.**

## **Super-Objectives**

This course will allow students to explore the process of creating theatre, learn the history of the art form, and its relevance towards much of our entertainment industry today. It will also give students the experience of several theatrical productions in both written form as well as realized productions on the stage.

## **Learner-Centered Outcomes**

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

- Communicate using basic vocabulary used by theatre practitioners
- Articulate clear definitions of what various participants in theatre do as well as basic theatrical space types
- Read a play in its script form and communicate the basic plot
- Develop and write coherent critical analysis of theatrical productions using basic theatre vocabulary
- Make informed decisions and judgments about their theatrical experiences

## **Class Participation**

Class Participation is defined by your apparent 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 question your own assumptions, comments offered publicly in discussion sessions, notes being taken on the material, and evidence of having completed and considered the readings assigned. Disengagement or disrespect will adversely affect your participation grade.

ALL cellphones, mp3s, pagers, etc. must be turned off for the duration of each class. Neither phone conversations nor texting is allowed during class. **There are no exceptions** to this rule, and any violations may result in confiscation of the device or the removal of the student from that day's class (which will be treated as an absence). Please be courteous to your neighbors during class.

## **Papers**

For this course students are **required** to attend **SIX** University productions (*Seduced*, *Tartuffe*, *Equivocation*, *Young Frankenstein*, and two dance concerts Dance Alabama! and Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre). The dates for each show are in the back of the syllabus on the course schedule. For each production students will write a 2-3 page critique/review about each production, details for each to be assigned prior to the show's opening. **Play critiques/reviews will be due the Monday following the final performance of each production. All papers must be typed and submitted through "TURN IT IN" on Blackboard Learn. Late papers will not be accepted unless they are related to an EXCUSED absence.**

*Tartuffe* and *Young Frankenstein* will be performed in the Marion Galloway Theatre, while *Seduced* and *Equivocation* will be performed in the Allen Bales Theatre; both are located in Rowan-Johnson. Both dance shows will be performed in the Morgan Auditorium. **Because seating is limited and shows can sell out early tickets must be purchased in advance.**

**Seeing all shows is MANDATORY. Inability to procure a ticket will not be an acceptable excuse for failure to complete your writing assignment for the play and will result in a grade of "F" for that assignment.**

## **Exams**

Exams will be taken in the form of multiple choice test. The first two exams will cover material from the first third and then second third of the class respectively. The third exam (final exam) is comprehensive and will cover all material from the semester. The final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8, from 8:00-10:30 am.** Plan your semester break carefully. **There will be no early exams for students attempting an early departure at the semester's end.**

## **Practicum Assignment**

As part of the experience of learning about how theatre works and comes together, you are **required** to take part in a *production practicum* component in this course. This element of the class composes **100 points or 10% of your course grade and only one hour of your time**. You are to sign up for a “chalking/ poster distribution” hour on the sign-up sheet at the Box Office in Rowan-Johnson Hall. You will then arrive the day of your assignment and participate in the location on campus where you are instructed to do the work. Sign up early for your practicum as the time slots will fill up and it is your responsibility to do the work. Failure to do the project for any reason will result in getting no points for this part of your grade. In the past many students waited until the end of the semester to sign up and no slots were available. They did not receive any credit. **This is 10% of your grade! Get it done early so it's finished!**

## **Attendance and Tardiness Policy**

Attendance is mandatory and records will be kept. 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 and changes in the printed schedule, and will include lecture materials and screenings not found in the reading assignment for the day.

### **Examples of excused absence:**

Serious illness requiring attention of a health care provider

Hospitalization, death, or serious illness of a family member

Verifiable University sanctioned event

Required appearance in a court of law

For excused absences it is your responsibility to notify me in advance when possible. You must also bring documentation (doctor's note, obituary, court summons, etc.).

You will be allowed a maximum of three (3) unexcused absences. Any unexcused absence after that will result in penalization of ½ a letter grade per absence from your final grade for each absence after the maximum 3. Six unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class. Exceptions of extreme hardships may be made at the instructor's discretion. Roll will be taken in a variety of ways at various throughout the class.

Missed exams and quizzes may be made up but only by prior arrangement with the individual instructor or with a **valid written medical excuse**. While perfect attendance will not increase grade points (but will be counted under Class Participation) absences are quite likely to affect a borderline grade.

Tardiness: If you arrive ten minutes or later to class, you will be counted as tardy. **Three (3) tardies will be treated as one unexcused absence.** If you know that you will be tardy for class, please inform your instructor before the fact. **During Exams, if another student has finished their exam and left the classroom before you arrive, you will not be able to take the test and you will receive a “0” for that exam.**

## Email

When emailing the instructor, please put TH114 in the subject title. Try to allow at least 24 hours for the instructor to read and respond to an email. If you have not received a response from me, do not assume that I have read and accepted it.

[Weather]

[UACT Notification]

## Grading

<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b><i>Seduced Paper</i></b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b><i>Tartuffe Paper</i></b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b><i>Equivocation Paper</i></b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b><i>Young Frankenstein Paper</i></b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>Dance Alabama! Paper</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>ARDT Paper</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>Pop Quizzes</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Practicum Hour</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Exam #1</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Exam #2</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Final Exam @ 150 points=</b>	<b>250 points</b>

**TOTAL 1000 points**

<b>1000-980 A+</b>	<b>899-880 B+</b>	<b>799-780 C+</b>	<b>699-680 D+</b>	<b>599 or less F</b>
<b>979-920 A</b>	<b>879-820 B</b>	<b>779-720 C</b>	<b>679-620 D</b>	
<b>919- 900 A-</b>	<b>819-800 B-</b>	<b>719-700 C-</b>	<b>619-600 D-</b>	

## **Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe codes of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the required minimum to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester, and on examinations and projects, a professor, department, or division may require each student to sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: “I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation when enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the university.” Should I as an instructor suspect that a student is conducting themselves in questionable manner in this regard, I am required to refer that student’s situation to the Dean’s Office for further action.

## **Disabilities Policy**

If you have registered with the Office of Disabilities Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. No accommodations can be made until you register with the Office of Disabilities Services.

If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disabilities 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 adjustments because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment with me. Students must be registered with the Office of Disabilities Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, to receive academic adjustments.

## Schedule (subject to change)

<u>Week/ Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment/Event</u>	
1	W 8/19	Course Intro, Syllabus	
	F 8/21	Five Elements; What is Theatre?	Read Ch. 2
2	M 8/24	Ch. 2 The Audience	Read Ch. 3
	W 8/26	Ch. 3 Understanding Plays	
	F 8/28	Understanding Images and Text	Read Ch. 4
3	M 8/31	Ch. 4 Western Genres	
	W 9/2	Continue Ch. 4	Read Ch. 5
	F 9/4	Ch. 5 Performance Traditions	
4	M 9/7	<b>LABOR DAY NO CLASS</b>	
	W 9/9	Continue Ch. 5	Read Ch. 6
	F 9/11	Ch. 6 Alternative Paths	
5	M 9/14	Discuss <i>Seduced</i>	DUE: Read <i>Seduced</i>
	W 9/16	Continue Ch. 6	
	F 9/18	Review for Exam 1	
<b><u>SAM SHEPARD'S <i>SEDUCED</i> SEPT. 21-27</u></b>			
6	M 9/21	<b>EXAM #1</b>	
	W 9/23	Molière	
	F 9/25	Discuss <i>Tartuffe</i>	DUE: Read <i>Tartuffe</i>
<b><u>MOLIERE'S <i>TARTUFFE</i> SEPT. 29- OCT. 4</u></b>			
7	M 9/28	Forum: <i>Seduced</i>	DUE: <i>Seduced</i> Paper; Read Ch. 7
	W 9/30	Ch. 7 The Actor	

	F 10/2	Continue Ch. 7	
8	M 10/5	Forum: <i>Tartuffe</i>	DUE: <i>Tartuffe</i> Paper
	W 10/7	Dance	
	F 10/9	Dance Continued	Read Ch. 8

**ALABAMA REPERTORY DANCE THEATRE (ARDT) OCT. 13-16**

9	M 10/12	Ch. 8 The Director	
	W 10/14	Continue Ch. 8	Read Ch. 9
	F 10/16	Ch. 9 Spaces and Environments	
10	M 10/19	Forum: ARDT	DUE: ARDT Paper
	W 10/21	Continue Ch. 9, Tour	
	F 10/23	Review for Exam 2	

11	M 10/26	<b>EXAM #2</b>	Read Ch. 11
	W 10/28	Ch. 11 Scene Design	
	F 10/29	<b>FALL STUDY BREAK NO CLASS 10/29-30</b>	

12	M 11/2	Ch. 11, Scenic Guest	Read Ch. 12
	W 11/4	Ch. 12, Costume Design	
	F 11/6	Ch. 12, Costume Guest	Read Ch. 13

**BILL CAIN'S *EQUIVOCATION* NOV. 9-15**

**DANCE ALABAMA! NOV. 10-13**

13	M 11/9	Ch. 13 Lighting	
	W 11/11	Ch. 13, Lighting Guest	
	F 11/13	TBA	

**MEL BROOKS' *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN* NOV. 18-22**

14	M 11/16	Forum: <i>Equivocation</i>	DUE: <i>Equivocation</i> Paper
	W 11/18	Forum: DA!	DUE: Dance Alabama! Paper; Read Ch. 14

	F 11/20	Ch. 14 Making Theatre Happen
15	M 11/23	Forum: <i>Young Frankenstein</i> DUE: <i>Young Frankenstein</i> Paper
	W 11/25	<b>Nov. 25-27 THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS</b>
16	M 11/30	Continue Ch. 14
	W 12/2	Review For Final
	F 12/4	Last Class, Review for Final

**FINAL EXAMS: TUESDAY, December 8<sup>TH</sup>, 8:00-10:30 AM**

**ROOM: TBA**

**NO EARLY EXAMS GIVEN**