

PLAYBILL

Introduction to Theatre

THPR 120: Introduction to Theatre
TR 10:00am - 11:15am
Mary Emery Hall 3230

Instructor: Casey Hagwood, MFA
Email: hagwoocl@ucmail.uc.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

WHY IS THIS COURSE IMPORTANT?

This course introduces students to the art, profession and societal impact of theatre. What is theatre? Why is it important? What goes in to making a production? How does a theatrical work affect society? These are all questions we will answer throughout the duration of this course. This is achieved through careful examination of history, well-known plays and practical collaboration between directors, designers, performers, playwrights and managers. Although theatre is a performing art recognized for entertainment value, it is equally as important to understand how a theatrical piece may affect society and reach us on an emotional level. We will evaluate social issues and how specific productions have affected society's view of these topics. Through discussion, analysis and collaboration, this course will provide a foundation for improving your knowledge of theatre.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:

- Identify the importance of theatre as a performing arts medium and the various components of a successful theatrical production
- Discover the evolution of theatre as a social and cultural element in different societies
- Engage and participate in theatre as either a well-informed audience member or as a participant in future project
- Develop skills in communication and problem-solving through analysis, discussion, and group projects on theatrical works
- Examine talents, personal interest and/or goals through the exposure of theatre as a performing arts medium

REQUIRED TEXT

Theatre: A Way of Seeing, Fifth Edition. Milly S. Barranger.
ISBN: 0534514820

This book is a great introduction to theatre because it examines the historical importance of the art form and provides an explanation of the elements needed to successfully execute a production.

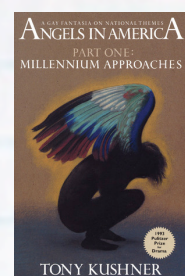
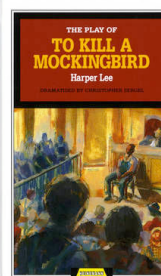
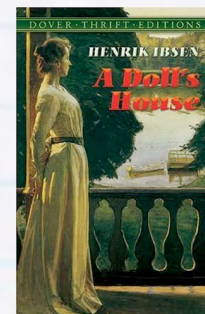
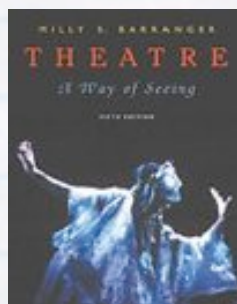
Plays:

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Christopher Sergel

Angels in America Part I: Millennium Approaches by Tony Kushner

These dramatic works will serve as the foundation for discussion and group projects.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

The learning environment for this course will be an open one, whereby students are encouraged to express their creative opinions about theatrical works, observed productions and how the performing arts relate to society as a whole. Students can expect daily discussion and active learning activities as a way of applying the material, but this can only be accomplished if students read the assigned material and come prepared to discuss what they have read. Please note that while healthy debate and differing opinions are encouraged, disrespectful comments or lack of cooperation with peers will not be tolerated.

As a student in the class, you are responsible for arriving to class on time and fully prepared to discuss the material for that day. Please do not disrupt the learning of other students by talking or not paying attention in class. All cellular phones, Ipods and other electronic devices must be turned off for the duration of class.

In turn, you can expect the instructor to begin and end class on time, deal with all students equally in a professional and civil manner, and answer any questions pertaining to the material presented in class.

PRE-REQUISITES AND COURSE INFORMATION

This course is an introductory course and no pre-requisite is required. Introduction to Theatre is considered a Fine Arts (FA) Course, and help students understand and appreciate creative works and history of the arts. This course aims to teach students to recognize the comprehensive role of arts as an expression of the cultural values of a society and the need to preserve these expressions for the benefit of future generations. THPR 120: Introduction to Theatre fulfills a 3-credit-hour course that fulfills an elective and Fine Art requirement.

ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Course-related questions are welcome by email at any time and will be answered within 48 hours. When e-mailing the instructor, please provide your full name, class name and section/time, and your specific question. If you are requesting an appointment to speak in person, please provide your availability (days, dates and times) as well.

Blackboard will be used throughout the course and should be checked often. You can access Blackboard at <http://blackboard.uc.edu>. I will be uploading documents, assignments, Powerpoints and lecture notes for your reference. You may log on to Blackboard using your UC username and password. If you have any problems accessing Blackboard, please contact UC IT.

While computers are welcome in class for the purpose of note-taking and reference, evidence of “surfing the web” or use of social media will result in a warning. You may be dismissed from class after the second instance. Please respect your instructor and other classmates and pay attention to the material being discussed in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a semester-long course and, although I expect you to be in class, I do understand that emergencies and situations arise. Students are allowed three absences without consequence, and four tardies will count as one absence. After three absences, your final grade will go down one letter grade for each absence thereafter. For example, on the fourth absence, an “A” in the class will become “A-”, etc. Please make an appointment to speak with me if an emergency arises or issues come up that prohibit you from being in class.

While I allow students to make up exams, quizzes and assignments, you cannot make up a participation grade for the day you missed class. If you miss an exam or quiz, please contact me or speak with me after class and we can arrange a time to make up the work that was missed.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating, will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct. This course is one that thrives on personal creativity and critical thinking. Please use this time to invent and create your own ideas and beliefs and not those of others.



SPECIAL NEEDS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have any special needs related to your participation in the course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the instructor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval by Disability Services.

PASS/FAIL OPTION, AUDIT POLICY AND WITHDRAWAL

This course is graded on a scale and is NOT a Pass/Fail course. If students wish to audit this class, you must first speak with me and we can determine individual needs.

If students wish to withdraw from the course, they must do so within the deadline set by the University of Cincinnati. If you wish to withdraw after the deadline, please set up an appointment with me.

GRADING POLICY

Grades for this course will be averaged based on the following assignments:

Classroom Participation & Activities 25% of Grade	Students will be asked to participate and contribute ideas in class, as well as work together in groups and discuss reading and material covered in class. This may include group presentations to the class.
Theatre Observation Reports 25% of Grade	Students will attend TWO theatrical productions throughout the semester (either CCM productions or outside professional productions) and write an observation report about their experiences as an audience member.
Mid-Term Exam 25% of Grade	Students will take a mid-term exam that will cover material for the first half of the semester. A review session will take place prior to the mid-term exam.
Final Exam 25% of Grade	Students will take a CUMULATIVE final exam on the last day of class that covers all material from the course. A review session will take place prior to the final exam.

Grading Scale is as follows:

A	93 - 100	C+	77 - 79
A-	90 - 92	C	73 - 76
B+	87 - 89	C-	70 - 72
B	83 - 86	D+	67 - 69
B-	80 - 82	D	63 - 66



COURSE CALENDAR

CLASS	TOPIC	LEARNING OUTCOMES	IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE OF CLASS
#1 Jan. 8	Welcome to Class; What is Theatre?			
#2 Jan. 10	The Greeks and Birth of Theatre			
#3 Jan. 15	Theatre Spaces			
#4 Jan. 17	Theatre in Different Cultures			
#5 Jan. 22	Theatre in Different Cultures Continued			
#6 Jan. 24	Script Analysis & How to Read A Play			
#7 Jan. 29	Theatre Practitioners: Playwrights			
#8 Jan. 31	Theatre Practitioners: Actors and Directors			
#9 Feb. 5	Theatre Practitioners: Designers and Managers			
#10 Feb. 7	Collaboration Among Artists; How the Pieces Fit Together			
#11 Feb. 12	A Doll's House: Discussion			
#12 Feb. 14	A Doll's House: Group Collaboration Activity			
#13 Feb. 19	Review for Mid-Term Exam			



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CLASS	TOPIC	LEARNING OUTCOMES	IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE OF CLASS
#14 Feb. 21	Mid-Term Exam			
#15 Feb. 26	Musical Theatre			
#16 Feb. 28	Drama			
#17 March 5	To Kill A Mockingbird			
#18 March 7	To Kill A Mockingbird			
#19 Mar. 12	The Role of an Audience			
#20 Mar. 14	Theatre Criticism			
#21 Mar. 19	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS			
#22 Mar. 21	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS			
#23 Mar. 26	Societal Impact			
#24 Mar. 28	Societal Impact			
#25 April 2	Angels in America			
#26 April 4	Angels in America			



COURSE CALENDAR

CLASS	TOPIC	LEARNING OUTCOMES	IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE OF CLASS
#27 Apr. 9	Theatre in the United States			
#28 Apr. 11	Theatre in the United States (Continued); Discussion of Observed Productions			
#30 Apr. 16	Review for Final Exam			
#31 Apr. 18	Final Exam			