

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ARTS (Topics Course-undergraduate)

Vandy Scoates

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course exams the “Triple Bottom Line” in relation to production of the arts. It will focus on environmentally sustainable options for the design and execution of events and exhibitions through the lens of Theatre. We will examine the role of the designer, artist, performer, manager and administrative staff in creating environmentally sustainable events, emphasizing basic strategies for visual problem solving, and techniques for preparing comprehensive and ecologically friendly art.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Comprehend, demonstrate, or articulate the value inherent in an artistic, musical, or dramatic creation
- Read, analyze, discuss, and write about the basic principles of design, production and biomimicry
- Read, analyze, discuss, and write about script analysis, history, drafting, research, and drawing & rendering.
- Present personal interpretations of sustainable arts for a specific production.

TEXTS & MATERIALS:

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Jones, Ellen E. *A Practical Guide to Greener Theatre: Introduce Sustainability Into Your Productions* . Taylor and Francis. ISBN: 978-0-415-66324-3

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- 2”-3” 3-ring Binder
- Notetaking materials

PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

READINGS:

You will also have readings from Jones’ *A Practical Guide to a Greener Theatre*. Additional required (and suggested) readings will be assigned from this book and others which will be available on Blackboard.

PRODUCTIONS:

You are required to see one production this semester and write a response. Please keep your program as a guide for your response and to turn in with your written work as a record of your attendance.

You may see additional productions at or outside of Limestone (another college or theatre in the area) and write a response for extra credit. The extra credit production must be approved by me. See below for details.

QUIZES:

You will be given two short quizzes during the semester each worth 2% of your final grade. The first will be a Recycling Quiz and the later, a Food Quiz. Both will be based on lectures and reading.

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS:

Short Homework Assignments: (8% of Final Grade)

Throughout the semester there will be several small homework assignments that relate to the subject being covered in class. Assignments are worth 2% (each) of you Final Grade with a total of 8%. Assignment breakdowns are below with due dates.

Grant Research: You will research one (1) funding opportunity that would be applicable to your particular interest in the arts. You will turn in your filled out “Grant Info Worksheet” (will be distributed in class and on Blackboard) along with any additional information you find pertinent.

Set Design Redo : You will be given a ground plan and list of materials for a set. You will need to research and list new materials and/or re-configure the scenic elements to be more efficient and use less material without altering the main design. This may be worked on as a group but should be turned in individually. You will turn in a short paragraph that explains your new materials, why they were chosen and site your research.

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Fabric Rethink : You will be given a list of materials to be used in a costume construction. You are to research new, sustainable materials that can be used instead without altering the main design. This may be worked on as a group but should be turned in individually. You will turn in a short paragraph that explains your new materials, why they were chosen and site your research.

Personal Product Research : You will do research on a personal care product that you use and find a healthier and more sustainable alternative. This can include any product from shampoo to makeup. You will turn in a short paragraph that explains your new product, why it was chosen and site your research.

Sustainable Organization Research and Presentation- (10% of Final Grade)

Many artistic organizations around the world have started adapting sustainable means of production. You will present a report on one of these organizations to the class.

CHOICE (1%): Each student will choose from a list of theaters and email me their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice of theater in which to research. Theater choice will be given on a first come, first serve basis and I will do my best to give everyone their first choice.

OUTLINE (3%): Students will be required to write a brief 1-2 page outline detailing that theater's sustainable practices. The outline will be presented in class along with a brief statement of your opinion about the theater's practices and what was the most "valuable" thing you took away from the research.

PRESENTATION (6%): The presentation will be no longer than 10 minutes and the outline will be turned in at the time of your presentation along with any visual elements (including slideshows) shown during presentation. Photos or other visual aids are required to supplement your outline. You must also include an informal work cited page as part of your presentation. Additional and more specific information will be given to you about presentation.

Production Response & Attendance- (5% of Final Grade)

You are required to see two (2) productions this semester and write a response.

I would suggest writing your response (or at least take notes) shortly after seeing the show while it is still fresh in your mind. I am looking for a clear and concise 2-4 page paper, double spaced in 12pt. Garamond font. You will submit your response on Blackboard.

Please use the following guidelines when completing your reviews.

- A detailed description of the production, the design and the theater space using any terms learned in class.
- What did you think of the play (story, acting, directing etc...)
- What did you think of the design and production (set design, house management etc...)
- What was your favorite and least favorite part of the production and why?
- What elements of the production do you suspect were the least sustainable?
- Of these unsustainable elements can you think of ways to make them more eco-friendly?
- Briefly describe your re-design of one element of the production (sets, costumes, lights, marketing or house management) using different materials that are more sustainable.

You may see additional productions at or outside of Limestone (another college or theatre in the area) and write a response for extra credit. The extra credit production must be approved by me. See below for details.

Tree View Audit- (10% of Final Grade)

The Tree View audit will be an individual, and more detailed version of the Forest View Audit. It will focus on quantitative measurements that help support your Sustainability Report topic. This audit may be done in spreadsheet form or as a narrative but should include quantitative numbers and measurements. More information on the audit will be discussed in class.

Final Project/Sustainability Report- (20% of Final Grade)

Your final Sustainability Report will be on the topic of your choice and should relate to an area of the Arts that you intended to pursue/ focus on for your career. More information will be given in class about the report. It will be due on the Final exam day and will include the following:

- 5-10 Min Presentation of findings (8% of project grade)
- Organization and Preparedness
- Covered points in paper

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- Graphic explaining findings
- Printed/ Emailed copy of presentation
- 2-5 page Paper explaining Findings (10% of project grade)
- Tree View incorporation 2%
- Real World Application 2%
- Sources/ Work cited 2%
- Clear and Concise 1%
- Formatting 1%
- Tree View Updated (2% of project grade)

Extra Credit:

Seeing a production outside of the school and writing a design review will count for 5% extra credit. You may do up to 2 (two) extra credit reviews.

There will also be other extra credit opportunities that may arise during the semester and you will be told about them in class as they come up.

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS:

Green Team Mission Statement- (5% if Final Grade)

As a group you will write a Sustainable Mission Statement for Limestone College. Only one copy needs to be turned in. The Mission Statement will include:

- What is the “Green Team’s” purpose
- What the “Green Team” does for the productions, the school and the students
- Why Limestone needs a “Green Team”
- What the “Green Team” plans to accomplish.

Forest View Audit- (8 % of Final Grade)

As a group, each student will do a Forest View audit of a certain area of the Theater (or another department if approved). This audit may be done in spreadsheet form or as a narrative but should include quantitative numbers and measurements. More information on the audit will be discussed in class.

Group Biomimicry Design Video “pitch” and Biomimicry Notebook with Group Concept-(10% of Final Grade)

You will be working in a group throughout the semester creating a design based on the tenets of Biomimicry. The project will include a written design concept (created as a group) and a notebook compiled individually with all materials used to work through your groups design. You will have multiple assignments throughout the semester that contribute to your grade and your final notebook. The Concept, Video Pitch and the Notebook will be due on the final exam day.

DESIGN VIDEO PITCH (5%): Once the group has come up with a design you will create a short video “pitching” your concept. Specific details about the video will be given later in the semester once the class has decided what they would like to do with the design (use it for the school, design for a production, submit to the Biomimicry Challenge etc...). Whatever the end result, the video should be a collaborative production that showcases the design and it’s relation to biomimicry and sustainability.

BIOMICIRY NOTEBOOK (5%): The Biomimicry Notebook will be turned in and grades will be given on an individual basis. Notebooks may be turned in by hand or all components may be scanned so it can be turned in digitally. Notebook will include both completed homework assignments and additional materials and worksheets completed in class as well as the Group Design Concept. A full list of all assignments expected in notebook will be given later in the semester.

Group Design Concept: The Design Concept will be a written, typed, clear and concise one (1) page paper, double spaced in 12pt. Garamond font. You may turn this in digitally or on blackboard. There will only be one (1) statement per group but each individual should include a copy of their group’s statement in their final notebook. The same grade will be given to everyone

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in the group for the Concept Statement as long as it is consistent with the rest of the group and included in the notebook.

More information on individual elements will be handout throughout the semester.

CLASS PARTICIPATION (20% of final grade):

This class is based on discussions and learning from your classmates. You must actively participate in discussions and answer questions in order to succeed. If you are not in class you cannot participate so excessive absences will also contribute to your participation grade.

I consider good class participation to be:

- Active listening
- Asking and answering questions
- Participating in class discussions
- Making helpful comments on your classmates' and your own work
- Keeping up with assignments and readings in order to be informed for discussions
- Actively participating in group projects and contributing to their success.

MATERIALS IN CLASS:

After the first week of class you should expect to bring in your required materials to class everyday. If you do not need materials, I will try to let you know the class before. I would suggest using a locker to store your notebook.

GRADING:

Grading Breakdown:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Production Response | 5% of Final Grade |
| Mission Statement | 5% of Final Grade |
| Organization Presentation | 10% of Final Grade |
| Class Participation | 20% of Final Grade |
| Forest View Audit | 8% of Final Grade |
| Tree View Audit | 10% of Final Grade |
| Biomimicry Design | 10% of Final Grade |
| Homework Assignments (4) | 8% of Final Grade |
| Quizzes (2) | 4% of Final Grade |
| Final Project/ Sustainability Report | 20% of Final Grade |

GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:

90%-100%---A 80%-87%----B 70%-77%----C 62%-67%----D 59%----- F

CALENDAR:

WEEK 1:

Intro to course and syllabus discussion

What is Sustainability

Reading Due: *Triple Bottom Line* (On Blackboard under readings)

WEEK 2:

What is Sustainability/ Biomimicry 1

Reading Due: *Preface*

Climate Change/ Carbon Cost

Reading Due: *Ch.1* (Beginning through "Defining Sustainability")

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Social Equality

Reading Due: *Social Side of Sustainability* (On Blackboard under readings)

WEEK 3:

LABOR DAY! No Class

Financial Viability

Reading Due: *The Ecology of Commerce* (On Blackboard under readings)

Assignment Due: **Organization Pick by 7PM**

Eco Systems/Animals

WEEK 4:

Biomimicry 2A

Reading Due: *Ecosystems* (On Blackboard under readings)

Biomimicry 2B

The 4 R's

Reading Due: *Ch. 2* ("Reduce, Reuse Recycle") & *Greening Love's Labors Lost* (On Blackboard under readings)

WEEK 5:

Health and Safety

Reading Due: *What is Sustainable Living* (On Blackboard under readings)

Social and Financial Awareness

Assignment Due: **Recycling Quiz** (On Blackboard)

Mission Statement/ The Green team

Reading Due: *Ch. 1* ("Promote the Plan") & *Ch. 2* (Beginning through "The Process")

WEEK 6:

Biomimicry 3B

Reading Due: *Theatrical Productions Carbon Footprint* (On Blackboard under readings)

Assignment Due: **Nature Observation**

Biomimicry 3C

Where do we need Sustainability/Forest view

Reading Due: *Ch. 2* ("Assessment Through Onsite Observation" and "Reducing Your Carbon Footprint" Only)

WEEK 7:

Management/ Development

Reading Due: *Ch. 3*

Assignment Due: **Mission Statement**

Biomimicry 4

Facilities/Architecture

Reading Due: *Ch. 4* (Beginning through "Tickets"), *Ch. 4* ("Restrooms" through end of "A word on commuting") and *Sustainable Staging...* (On Blackboard under readings)

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WEEK 8:

Performance

Reading Due: *Devising Green Piece* (On Blackboard under readings)

Film/Photography

Reading Due: *Controlling Environmental Costs in the Entertainment Industry* (On Blackboard under readings)

Assignment Due: **Grant Research**

WEEK 9:

In Class Work Day **MEET IN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Reading Due: *Ch. 5*

Assignment Due: **Forest View Audit**

Organization Presentations

FALL BREAK! **No Class**

WEEK 10:

Literature/ Playwriting

Reading Due: *Can You Hear Their Voices-PLAY* (On Blackboard under readings)

Assignment Due: **Peer Critiques**

Biomimicry 5A

Biomimicry 5B

Reading Due: *Ch. 4* (“The Concession Stand”)

WEEK 11:

Food/ Culinary Arts

Reading Due: *Sustainable Foods Systems* (On Blackboard under readings)

Biomimicry 5C

Reading Due: *Ch. 6*

Scenery/Sculpture

Assignment Due: **Food Quiz** (On Blackboard)

WEEK 12:

Paint/ Visual Arts

Reading Due: *Ch. 8*

Costumes/Fashion

Reading Due: *Ch. 10* (Beginning, through “The Human Connection”) & *Ch. 12* (“Fabric Dyes”)

Hair/Makeup/ Laundry

Reading Due: *Ch. 11* (“Wardrobe: Caring for the Production and the Planet”) & *Ch. 12* (“Costume Crafts” and “Cosmetics”)

WEEK 13:

Lights and Sound

Reading Due: *Ch. 9* (“Basics of Lamps” and “Are LED fixtures the best...”)

Biomimicry 6A

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Assignment Due: **Set Redo**

Group Work

Reading Due: *Can You Make Out Their Voices*-SHORT STORY (On Blackboard under readings)

Assignment Due: **Final Sustainability Report Topic Confirmed**

WEEK 14:

In Class Work Day **MEET IN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Assignment Due: **Fabric Re-Think**

NO CLASS-Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 15:

Mon: Biomimicry 7A

Reading Due: *Cradle to Cradle* (On Blackboard under Readings)

Assignment Due: **Personal Product Research**

Wed: Biomimicry 7B/ in Class Work

Assignment Due: **Tree View Audit**

In Class Work Day **MEET IN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

WEEK 16:

In Class Work Day **MEET IN LIBRARY -UPSTAIRS**

Assignment Due: **Production Response**

READING DAY

FINAL EXAM:

Final Biomimicry Design and Presentation Due