

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A general survey course designed to stimulate awareness and appreciation _ of dramatic art. Areas of exploration include theatre history, dramatic literature (modern and classic), and elements of production.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Comprehend, demonstrate, or articulate the value inherent in an artistic, musical, or dramatic creation
- To read, analyze, discuss, and write about theatre history in the classical, medieval, renaissance, neoclassic, restoration, romantic, modern, contemporary, and post-modern periods
- Read, analyze, discuss, and write about the basic principles of theatrical design, acting, directing, playwriting and production
- To present personal interpretations of dramatic literature in a historical context.

TEXTS & MATERIALS:

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Enjoyment of Theatre 9th Edition
by Jim A. Patterson & Tim Donohue
ISBN-10: 0205856152
ISBN-13: 978-0-205-85615-2

Other texts/plays provided:

Ruined by Lynn Nottage
Proof by David Auburn

PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Late projects and assignments will not be tolerated. **Late projects go down 1 letter grade for every class period they are late.** After two class periods they will not be accepted without permission from instructor. The final project is due on the final exam day and will be not be accepted late.

You may turn assignments in digitally via Blackboard, email, or give a hard copy to me personally in class. Some projects will be handed in as hard copy due to the nature of the assignments but you are always welcome to scan these assignments in and turn them in digitally as well.

Please back up your homework in at least 2 places and save regularly. "My computer crashed" will not be an excuse for any assignment being turned in late.

READINGS & QUIZZES (20% of Final Grade):

You must read two (2) plays for the class on which we will discussions. These readings must be completed by the dates assigned as it is important that you have an understanding of them previous to these classes. Links to free digital texts will be provided but if would like to find a hard copy you are welcome. I will be taking notes during play discussion and those who are not contributing will receive 20% reduction in their Class Participation Grade for each play discussion they are not involved in. If you have an unexcused absence on either discussion day you will also receive a 20% reduction to your class participation grade

You will also have required reading from Patterson/Donahue's *The Enjoyment of Theatre*. This book will also be helpful for future classes if you decide to continue your education in theatre and for your presentations. You will have blackboard quizzes that go over the chapters read for class as well as some lecture material. **Each quiz will include questions from the chapters read previous to quiz date.** Please refer to calendar for chapters/pages included in each test along with the play. The quiz will also include information given during presentations so careful notes should be taken during these.

Quiz #1=5% of Final Grade

Quiz #2=4% of Final Grade

Quiz #3=8% of Final Grade

Quiz #4=3% of Final Grade

In addition to quizzes you will have discussion posts you must complete on Blackboard that relate to the readings and class discussions.

WRITTEN WORK:

Discussion Posts (15% of Final Grade)-

Throughout the semester, students will be expected to make 15 discussion posts on the class Discussion Board. Topics for discussion will be supplied by the instructor on Blackboard. The window for the posts will be a minimum of 1 class period before before due date at 11AM to the due date at 11:59 PM. **Each discussion post is worth 1 point. Good posts will receive 1 point. Mediocre posts will receive .5 points while posts that do not answer the question or are less than 75 words will receive no credit!**

-Posts must be at least 200 words long.

-IMPORTANT: YOU MUST PUT YOUR NAME IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR POST FOR FULL CREDIT! EX: John Doe Discussion #1. This is so I can follow the conversation threads when grading.

There will be 16 total discussion posts for the semester. You are only required to complete 15. If you complete all 16 discussion posts on time, you will receive 5% extra credit towards your final grade.

Production Responses (20% of Final Grade)-

Respond to two (2) productions . Please keep your program as a guide for your response and to turn in with your written work as a record of your attendance.

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 both responses on Blackboard.

Please use the following guidelines when completing your reviews.

-A brief synopsis of the plot and characters using the terms we learned in class including the parts of plot and character types

-A brief analysis of the text using the terms we learned in class. What are the themes, ideas and meaning behind the story?

- A production rationale using the terms we learned in class: Why do you think it was designed, acted, & directed this way this way?

-Your opinion about the performance aspects (acting and directing) using the terms we learned in class.

-Your opinion about the production aspects (design) using the terms we learned in class.

-What moment or visual aspect of the production affected you the greatest and why?

You may see additional productions 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. There will be announcements made throughout the semester about productions outside Limestone in the area. Some of these productions have student previews and you may join students from the theater department in seeing and responding to them for extra credit. See below for details.

Play Analysis (8% of Final Grade)

Students will be asked to read the play *Ruined*, by Lynn Nottage. After reading the play, students will complete a two-page assignment, answering questions about the play's structure, characters, themes, theatricality, and language. Assignment details are available on Blackboard.

Acting Scene Analysis (8% of Final Grade)

Students will look at a sample scene analysis from the play *Proof*, by David Auburn. They will then be given a second scene to analyze. In their analysis, students will identify the beat changes in the scene and the characters' objectives for each of the scene's beats. Assignment details are available on Blackboard.

Design Analysis (4% of Final Grade)

Students will come up with a general directing concept and ideas Set, Costume, Lighting and Sound design for a production of *Ruined*. Assignment details are available on Blackboard.

PRESENTATION (10% of Final Grade):

You will present research on a professional regional theatre company in the United States. There will be three components to this mid-term project:

CHOICE (1%): Each student will choose from a list of theaters and email me their 1st and 2nd 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. The list provided on blackboard has hyperlinks for each theater. Please look into your theatre before choosing to make sure you can find all the information you need for your presentation.

OUTLINE (3%): Students will be required to write a brief 1-2 page outline detailing their presentation. 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. Failure to turn in both the outline and the presentation on the due date will result in an automate 30% reduction of your project grade. Your presentation will include

- Photos or other visual aids of productions
- A brief history of the theatre and its mission statement
- A synopsis of the kinds of works that they do (all Shakespeare, Theatre for Young Audiences, Combination of straight and musical plays, etc.)
- Notable productions that gained acclaim (or distain). For this you may want to search the region's major newspaper for reviews. This could include groundbreaking productions, productions that famously flopped or perhaps went onto Broadway.
- Tell us about any interesting programs or initiatives they may have (the facilities run on renewable energy, They have a vibrant youth program, they do Shakespeare in the park every summer etc.)
- You must also include an informal work cited page as part of your presentation.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Seeing a live production outside of the school and writing a production response will count for 5% extra credit. The extra credit production can be another college or theatre in the area. All productions must be approved by the instructor prior to due date of production response. You may do a total of two (2) extra credit responses.

There will be announcements made throughout the semester about productions outside Limestone in the area. Some of these productions have student previews and you may join students from the theater department in seeing and responding to them for extra credit. Here are a few productions we know are coming up:

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION:

INSTRUCTOR ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Attendance is very important in this class. The college expects the student to regularly attend classes. There is a great deal of information to cover in the short time. If you are not in class for discussions and lectures you will fall behind.

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences for the semester. After two (2) unexcused absences your grade will go down one (1) letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence. An excused absence will only be accepted with a signed note from the doctor, your coach (for athletic events), or your advisor (for other school-sanctioned events). If you have an event I expect to know about your upcoming absence at least one (1) week in advance. I should not hear about your event the class before the expected absence. Failure to inform me of a scheduled absence will result in a 1% reduction from your final grade. **After 2 unexcused absences your grade will go down 1 letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence. You will be considered absent for the day if you are more than five (5) minutes late to class.**

TARDINESS:

Tardiness will not be tolerated. I promise to be on time for our classes and I expect you to do the same. I will consider you tardy if you come into class after the classroom clock has struck **9:30am.**

You will be allowed two (2) tardies for a semester. After the first two (2), every subsequent two (2) tardies will be considered an unexcused absence. **After 2 unexcused absences your grade will go down 1 letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence. You will be considered absent for the day if you are more than five (5) minutes late to class.**

CLASS PARTICIPATION (15% 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

GRADING:

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation	15% of Final Grade
Four (4) Blackboard quizzes	20% of Final Grade
Two (2) Production Responses	20% of Final Grade
Discussion Posts	15% of Final Grade
Play Analysis	8% of Final Grade
Acting Analysis	8% of Final Grade
Presentation	10% of Final Grade
Design Analysis	4% of Final Grade

GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:

90%-100%---A 80%-89.9%----B 72%-79.9%----C 62%-69.9%----D 59.9%-0%--- F

TECHNICAL DEVICES IN CLASS:

Cell Phones, Tablets, and Things that go “Ping”: During the time that this class is meeting, please make sure that these devices are on vibrate only, silent or turned off and do not use them during class time. The first time you are texting or e-mailing during class you will be given a warning; the second time you will be dismissed from the class for a day and will be marked as an unexcused absence. If you have to answer the phone because of a family emergency please let me know at the beginning of class and I will accommodate appropriately.

You may take notes during class on a laptop or tablet. You MAY NOT be on any social media sight or email during class time unless we are doing in-class work that requires it. If we are having class in the dark or on the move you are permitted to take notes on your phone or tablet. Normal lectures notes will not be taken on your phone. Unless you have hearing difficulty that requires you to have a “hearing-aid” no “ear buds” headphones are to be used during class.

A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

All written work should be typed and can be submitted to me as a hard copy or digitally as a Word or PDF document or on Google Drive. The presentation should be done as a slideshow presentation that can be submitted digitally or printed out and turned in. If you are printing a written assignment you must use Garamond font.

Most the supplemental information and handouts for this class will be given to you in digital form. This is to save on paper and do our part to help the environment. If you need any of these as a hard copy please let me know and I will provide them for you. There are some assignments that must be done on paper and those will be handed out in class but a digital copy will be provided so you can print any replacements at home.

Please back up your homework in at least two (2) places and save regularly. “My computer crashed” will not be an excuse for any assignment being turned in late.

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MATERIAL CONTENT:

We will have readings this semester that may include offensive language, adult themes, and political/religious views that may not be in line with your personal beliefs. Materials used in this course are used for the purpose of research and learning, were not chosen to offend or be “preachy” and do not necessarily reflect the views of myself or Limestone College. I ask that you keep an open mind when exploring these works of literature.