

TH 101 · Introduction to Theatre

Course Syllabus

Derek Smith, Assistant Instructor of Theatre
PH: 671-735-2700 | **Email:** smithd15994@triton.uog.edu
Office Location: EC117H | **Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs/Fri 2pm – 4pm
Class Times: M/W 2:00 - 3:20 pm | **Location:** Fine Arts Theater

**This is a living document which may be subject to change*

BASICS ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course introduces the study of theatre. Course lectures include theatre history and production practices. Attendance at one UOG Theatre production, and active participation in the other, is required during the semester.

Course Content: There are lectures and discussions on various personnel involved in live theatre production. There are demonstrations of basic acting/performance exercises. There are lectures about the basics of theatre criticism. A brief overview of theatre history will be provided by the instructor. There are exams on the above materials. Students are required to attend one performance and be involved in the other production. The final project will be a group scene project.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated the ability to:

0. Analyze a theatre performance;
1. Describe the responsibilities of the various creative personnel in a production;
2. Participate in a performance as an actor;
3. Participate in a production as crew;
4. Identify major themes and epic literature of world theatre history.

Course SLOs	Fine Arts PLOs	ILOs
Stand in front of an audience and perform with confidence;	PLO4 Demonstrate mastery of one artistic skill in public displays and performances using professional production values from coursework.	ILO3 Effective oral and written communication ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences ILO7 An interest in personal development and lifelong learning
Project their voices to be heard in the back row of the audience	PLO4 Demonstrate mastery of one artistic skill in public displays and performances using professional production values from coursework.	ILO3 Effective oral and written communication ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences ILO7 An interest in personal development and lifelong learning
Write a critique of a play using appropriate performance vocabulary	PLO1 Using common terms, techniques and methods of expression in the artistic languages of performing and visual arts, analyze the creations and presentations of other artists.	ILO3 Effective oral and written communication ILO4 Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences
Accept criticism of their work in front of others	PLO4 Demonstrate mastery of one artistic skill in public displays and performances using professional production values from coursework.	ILO3 Effective oral and written communication ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences ILO7 An interest in personal development and lifelong learning
Be self-reflective as a performer	PLO3 Apply the interrelationship of the arts and its influence in society.	ILO4 Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences ILO7 An interest in personal development and lifelong learning

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1	<u>Wednesday, August 14th</u> Introductions, Course Syllabus
Week 2	<u>Monday, August 19th</u> What and Why of Theatre <u>Wednesday, August 21st</u> Functions of a Theater Space
Week 3	<u>Monday, August 26th</u> Departments and Personnel of the Theater <u>Wednesday, August 28th</u> Review Quiz #1 <i>*Production Assignments</i> <u>Friday, August 30th</u> <i>*Quiz #1 – Theater Terms and Jobs</i>
Week 4	<u>Monday, September 2nd</u> NO CLASS – Labor Day <u>Wednesday, September 4th</u> History – Greek Theater
Week 5	<u>Monday, September 9th</u> History – Medieval Theater <u>Wednesday, September 11th</u> History – Renaissance Theater <u>Friday, September 13th</u> <i>*Quiz #2 – Greek, Medieval, and Renaissance</i>
Week 6	<u>Monday, September 16th</u> History – Neoclassical Theater <u>Wednesday, September 18th</u> History – Elizabethan Theater <u>Friday, October 4th</u> <i>*Quiz #3 – Neoclassical and Elizabethan</i>
Week 7	<u>Monday, September 23rd</u> History – Contemporary Theater <u>Wednesday, September 25th</u> History – Eastern Theater Part 1
Week 8	<u>Monday, September 30th</u> History – Eastern Theater Part 2 <u>Wednesday, October 2nd</u> Watch <i>The Complete Works of Shakespeare</i> <u>Friday, October 4th</u> <i>*Quiz #4 – Contemporary and Eastern</i>

Week 9 **Monday, October 7th**
NO CLASS – Fall Break

Wednesday, October 9th
NO CLASS – Fall Break

Week 10 **Monday, October 14th**
Narrative Structure
**Assign Script to Read*
**Assign Dramaturgical Presentations*

Wednesday, October 16th
Genre: Audience Expectations

Friday, October 18th
**The Complete Works Review Due*

Week 11 **Monday, October 21st**
Theatrical Form / Shape

Wednesday, October 23rd
Theatrical Styles

Friday, October 25th
**Quiz #5 – Genre, Form, and Style*

Week 12 **Monday, October 28th**
Watch [*Show TBD*]

Wednesday, October 30th
Finish Watching [*Show TBD*]

Week 13 **Monday, November 4th**
Discuss [*Show TBD*] with Dramaturgical Lens

Wednesday, November 6th
**Dramaturgical Presentations*
**Assign Final Performance Scenes*

Thursday, November 7th
The Prom Opening Night

Friday, November 8th
The Prom Performance

Saturday, November 9th
The Prom Performance

Week 14 **Monday, November 11th**
NO CLASS – Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 13th
Script Reading

Thursday, November 14th
The Prom Performance

Friday, November 15th
The Prom Performance

Saturday, November 16th
The Prom Closing Night

Week 15	<u>Monday, November 18th</u> Rehearse Scenes
	<u>Wednesday, November 20th</u> Rehearse Scenes
	<u>Friday, November 22nd</u> *The Prom Review Due

Week 16	<u>Monday, November 25th</u> Rehearse Scenes
	<u>Wednesday, November 27th</u> Rehearse Scenes – Off Book

Week 17	<u>Monday, December 2nd</u> <i>*Dress Rehearsal for Scenes</i>
	<u>Wednesday, December 4th</u> <i>*Dress/Tech Rehearsal for Scenes</i>

Week 18	<u>Monday, December 9th</u> NO CLASS – Our Lady of Camerin Day
	<u>Wednesday, December 11th</u> Final Exam Day – 2:00pm – 3:50pm
	<u>Final Performance</u>

PROJECTS

Production Assignment (20):

Students are required to work for at least one of the shows during the semester, either as Front of House, Stage Crew, Construction Crew, or, if cast, as an actor.

Front of House

Duties: You will act as ushers who greet the audience, take payments, and hand out programs. You are responsible for cleaning the house and lobby before and after every performance.

Time Commitment: November 6th – 9th and November 14th – 16th from 6pm – 10pm

Stage Crew

Duties: You will be backstage during the productions, assisting with the technical aspect of the show. This may involve being up in the booth with the Stage Manager who will cue you for lighting or sound effects, or being backstage to assist with scene transitions or costumes.

Time Commitment: November 4th – 9th and November 13th – 16th from 6pm – 10pm

Construction Crew

Duties: You will work with the Scenic Designer during the mornings/afternoons to help build sets or props for the productions. Prior skill is encouraged but not required.

Time Commitment: Flexible hours, though they must add to 20 hours for full credit.

Quizzes (25):

There will be five quizzes given throughout the semester, based on the lectures given in class, each worth 5 points. The content ranges from theatrical terms relating to how a theater operates to the history of the artform, to the more detailed elements of what makes a play, such as form and style.

Papers (10):

There will be two required papers this semester, each worth 5 points. Standard MLA format, at least 1 page in length. I will be looking for quality rather than quantity.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Review:

We will be watching the dress rehearsal for our touring show, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, during class and **your review will be due October 18th before 12am.** This paper should be a simple reflection on what caught your attention regarding the performance, written either formally or as a journal entry. In either direction, you will be expected to utilize terminology and historical context given from the prior lectures to supplement your thoughts.

The Prom Experience Review:

As there is only one full production this semester, most of the class will be working on *The Prom* in some capacity. As a result, your second paper will focus on your experiences working in your designated area. What was the process like? Did you enjoy it, or did you struggle (or both)? What did you learn? Did anything interesting happen in the process? This paper will be a little more relaxed—write it as if you were telling a friend who knows nothing about the theater.

This paper will be due November 22nd before 12am.

Extra Credit:

If you are interested in earning Extra Credit, you may also write a review on any other live performances such as 3BlindMice's production of *Into the Woods* in September, live bands, church, etc. Feel free to write about what you enjoyed or disliked, or any thoughtful commentary you may have on the theatrical elements of each performance.

Each Extra Credit paper will be worth 3 points to your overall grade.

Dramaturgical Presentation (20):

Every group will choose a movie to present on, going over elements that make up the film from genre to style to technical elements. Criteria will be covered in class, and the goal is to analyze the films utilizing theatrical theories and terminology from the lectures.

Final Performance (15):

Each group will be required to perform a short play at the end of the semester, to get hands-on experience of what it takes to put on a performance. Scripts will be provided by the instructor, though requests may be taken into consideration. Students will be expected to handle their own props and costumes, though may seek guidance from fellow students. The instructor will be looking for how well you've memorized your lines and actions, your commitment to the project (both in attendance and willingness to perform), and how much effort you are putting into the final product (to avoid one student doing majority of the work.) Theater is a collaborative space, so working together is important!

That said, you will be graded as individuals, with each element worth 5 points. (Memory, Commitment, and Effort.)

MOODLE

Quizzes will be held online via Moodle or Google Forms.

The Moodle Key for this class is: **FA24DSZu6**

Any links or texts relating to the class will also be uploaded to the Moodle Forum if able.

COURSE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance/Participation in Class:

Students will be expected to attend every class and participate in various activities/discussions. Should you not be able to attend for any reason, please notify the instructor and your group members as soon as possible.

Missing a group presentation or performance will result in a failing grade for that assignment.

Three tardies (coming in 15 minutes late to class) will equal to one absence.

Two unexcused absences will be permitted, each one after that will dock 5% from your attendance grade.

Production Assignment Attendance

Students will be required to complete their Production Assignments in order to receive full credit for their work.

Those in Construction Crew will be expected to **complete 20 hours, each hour representing 5% of their Production Assignment grade.** Hours are totaled at the end of the semester.

Those working as FOH or Stage Crew will be expected to be present each night they are called in. **Failure to communicate any absences or tardiness on the required nights will result in a docking of 5% of your Production Assignment grade. Please inform the instructor or Stage Manager as soon as you are aware of a scheduling conflict.**

GRADING

• <u>Attendance</u>	<u>10%</u>
• <u>Production Assignment</u>	<u>20%</u>
• <u>Dramaturgical Presentation</u>	<u>20%</u>
• <u>Quizzes</u>	<u>25%</u>
• <u>Papers</u>	<u>10%</u>
• <u>Final Performance</u>	<u>15%</u>

Grade	Points	Description
A+	98 - 100	Outstanding Honors-level performance with superior quality and extraordinary distinction.
A	93-97	
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good Solid accomplishment, indicating a substantial mastery of course materials and a good command of skills required by the course.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Adequate Students have achieved the level of competency needed for advancing to a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
C	70-76	
D	60-69	Deficient Minimal passing, but not adequate to take a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
F	0-59	
		Failure Inadequate to receive credits.

Course Policies

- Accommodation** If you are a student with disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodations office to discuss your specific accommodation needs confidentially. I will receive notification your approved accommodation(s) from the SCAS Accommodations office.
- If you are not registered, you should do so immediately at the Student Center, Rotunda office #4, ph/(TTY): 735-2460, to coordinate your accommodation request.
- Plagiarism Policy** Plagiarism is a serious breach of the student code of conduct at UOG. It includes copying exam answers, copying writing without proper citation, paraphrasing another author without proper citation or representing another person's work as if it was your own (see the UOG Student Handbook p. 49). If you are caught plagiarizing (or cheating), the minimum penalty is failure of the project or exam. Severe cases will be turned into the student disciplinary board and may be failed from the course.
- Smoke-Free** UOG is a tobacco-free, smoke-free campus. Thank you for not using tobacco products on campus, and for helping make UOG a healthy learning and living environment.
- Food/Gum** No eating is allowed in class, unless required due to health-related issues. Drinks are permitted, though dairy or highly sugared drinks are discouraged for the sake of vocal performance. **Chewing gum is *not* accepted during class or during performances whatsoever.**
- Clothing** Due to the nature of the class, please wear clothing that you feel comfortable moving around in. We will be stretching, laying on the ground, or even climbing onto elevated surfaces, so please keep this in mind. Close-toed, non-heeled shoes are also recommended in case there is moving scenery involved at any point in the class.