

M,T,W,R,F | Period 2 (9:30 AM - 10:45 AM)

Class Room Location: Ben 0328

### **Instructor**

Hello and welcome to Theatre Appreciation! Sarah Sulewski and Teroy Roberts are your instructors this semester. Both Zoom office hours are by appointment. Please email us to set up a time to talk if you need.

We can be contacted by email at [sarahsulewski@ufl.edu](mailto:sarahsulewski@ufl.edu) ; [roberts.teroy@ufl.edu](mailto:roberts.teroy@ufl.edu)

Most of the questions to your answers are located in the syllabus. Look through this module thoroughly for answers to your questions before you reach out.

### **Course Objectives**

This course is designed to expose you to live theatre so that you will better appreciate its cultural importance and the processes that make live theatre happen. Over the course of the semester, you will look behind the scenes in order to explore the collaborative processes that make live theatre work. In addition to studying some of the literature, theories, history, forms, and styles of theatre, you will explore how influences such as ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and economic class shape the experience of theatre in the United States. You will also learn to write and speak critically about theatrical production. This course fulfills a general education and diversity requirement.

### **General Education Objectives**

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. Lectures will provide the framework for understanding the theatrical arts and how they connect to the human experience. Additional instruction will come through textbook and play reading augmented by the watching of live theatre.

### **General Education Objectives for Diversity**

Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage students to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups in the United States. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values in relation to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced

by other persons and groups. Lectures will emphasize the struggles and theatrical contributions of marginalized groups while the reading discussion of assigned plays by underrepresented Americans will provide a context for understanding how cultural identity has been created this country.

### **General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

**Content:** Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline.

**Communication:** Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline.

**Critical Thinking:** Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed in various ways. Exams and quizzes on assigned readings will test mastery of content. Communication and critical thinking will be tested through the writing of papers that critique live performance and creative projects that interpret the symbology of theatrical texts.

### **Course Requirements**

In order to be successful in this course, all students must participate fully in the activities listed below (read carefully):

- Close readings of assigned textbook chapters, plays, and posted material
- Attend lectures and watch supplementary videos
- Every week, take a quizzes ONLINE on assigned readings and videos
- Every week, you have to participate in class Discussions based on prompts we will give you

View two (2) theatrical performances and write a critique about each one.

- One (1) critique will be about Pipeline, which you will watch via the Digital Theatre Plus subscription service provided by UF. (<https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/theatreguide>)

To access the Digital Theatre Plus subscription off-campus, you'll need to download the VPN from the UF website to access the platform, and instructions to do this are found under the FAQ section in the Canvas shell. Please reach out sooner rather than later if you are having trouble finding plays to watch. This is not something to troubleshoot at the last minute!

(<https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/>)

The other production **must be in-person: you must attend the School of Theatre and Dance's summer production the collective *Y no habia luz***. You have registered for in person course meant for students in-residence at UF, and that is why this requirement is in place. Tickets for the show are already paid for with the course fees, and you will receive instructions to acquire a coupon to redeem at the box office later in the semester.

More information about the play with ***Y No Habia Luz*** can be found in the FAQ section.

- Produce a creative project based on a required play

A full schedule of assignment due dates can be seen by choosing the Calendar button on the left hand side of the screen.

### **Required Texts**

All of the texts below are required. You can purchase any edition of these plays from any source but **get them all at the beginning of the semester**. Don't wait. After a few weeks, unsold books in the campus bookstore are returned to the publishers. No exceptions will be made for students who have ordered texts from third parties and are waiting for delivery. We can't violate copyright laws by sending you pdf versions of plays. Playwrights make very little money -- please support their work.

### **TEXTBOOK:**

*Theatrical Worlds - Beta Version* (University Press of Florida, 2014). This book was developed in response to the high cost of theatre textbooks which commonly retail between \$90 and \$120 for new editions. [A free pdf version is availableLinks to an external site.](#)Links to an external site. to read online but most students find that a physical copy is easier to read and study. It's your choice.

### **REQUIRED PLAYS:**

*I And You* by Lauren Gunderson  
ISBN: 9781623842772 - Playscripts.com

*The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall  
ISBN: 9780822226031 - Dramatist Play Service

*Tiger Style!* by Mike Lew  
ISBN: 9780822239826 - Dramatist Play Service

*Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz  
ISBN: 0822220008 - Dramatist Play Service

*Kill Move Paradise* by James Ijames  
ISBN: 9780822240020 - Dramatist Play Service

*Angels in America Pt. 1* by Tony Kushner

ISBN: 9781559363846 - Theatre Communications Group

*Ten Acrobats In An Amazing Leap Of Faith* by Yussef El Guindi

ISBN: 088145754X - Broadway Play Publishing

Some of these plays have epub versions available. Check the publisher's websites for details.

### **How the Class is Conducted**

**The course includes the following assignments:**

**Quizzes:** You will take multiple choice/true-false quizzes based on the material assigned.

**Discussions:** You will also be asked to find information or offer ideas and bring this material to class. *Meaningful thoughts, comments, questions* that are *on topic*, fulfill the requirements, and use college-level critical thinking skills will receive 10 points. If you are awarded fewer than 10 points, it is usually for the following reasons:

- Lack of depth in your answer
  - Opinions that are not supported by details
- Lack of knowledge or input on the subject matter
- Absence on Discussions days

**Papers:** You will watch two (2) theatrical performances and write a two-page paper about each one. Guidelines will be provided.

**Creative Project:** At the end of the semester, you will be responsible for a creative project based on your interpretation of a play. Instructions will be available later in the semester.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be taken daily. Due to the nature of this course, attendance is MANDATORY.

You are allowed **two (2)** unexcused absences. If more than two absences occur, **3 points** will be deducted from your participation grade for each additional absence. There are **NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES** including those that occur on workshop and/performance days. Absences in excess of **(5) absences** will result in a failing grade.

\* **Excused absences include:** religious holidays (student must notify the instructor at least one week prior to the absence); medical emergencies (accompanied by a doctor's note on letterhead); and mandatory school requirements (which must be approved by the instructor and a letter from the appropriate authority must be provided at least one week ahead of time). Failure to provide the appropriate documentation at least one week before an excused absence will result in an unexcused absence. Students with an excused absence must make up workshops or performances and turn in any missed assignments during the following class period.

\***Tardy Policy:** You are allowed to be tardy to **two (2)** class meetings without penalty. Upon your 3rd tardy, **2** points will be deducted from your participation grade... Please note that it is your responsibility to notify the instructor after the class that you arrived late. If you come in late and the instructor is unaware, you will receive an absence for that day. If you arrive late, **DO NOT** come into the room while another student is performing – please be respectful!

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> Links to an external site.

- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first class meeting.
- In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.
- Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.
- Students cannot participate in classes unless they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.

- If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and he or she has not contacted the department to indicate his or her intent, the student can be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will be dropped, however. The department will notify students if they have been dropped from a course or laboratory.
- The university recognizes the right of the individual instructor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, instructors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

### **Late Work**

We are not required to accept late work or provide an extension on quizzes. Should you need an extension due to sickness, please send us your a doctor's note with a formal request. For all other emergencies, late work may be accepted on a case-by-case basis with a penalty. Please update your personal calendar with due dates to make sure that you do not miss any assignments.

### **Understand Plagiarism**

*Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation at this university and will not be tolerated. **If you plagiarize, I will fail you for the course.*** Cutting and pasting *any* text from a website without attribution (no matter how much) is plagiarism. That includes plot summaries. We understand getting behind and panicking when due dates arrive but you are better off telling me you screwed up and ask for help rather than risk your academic future. Besides, plagiarism is easy to catch. **WE** are trained to find it and we are assisted by very good detection software. Other Honor Code violations include soliciting quiz answers from other students, writing a paper about a show you did not see, or uploading anything from this course to an outside website. The penalty is the same.

So how do you avoid plagiarism? Simple - always cite your sources. It is fine to to build upon the ideas of others or use them to support your own argument. All you have to do is give the original thinker credit. Look to reliable sources with some kind of institutional stamp -- a news organization or university entity for example, someone who is invested in the accuracy of the material. Think of yourself as joining a community of thinkers that's been debating since the beginning of time. It's ok to agree with ideas in the community and use them to prove a point. You just need to tell me who said it first. College is not a system to beat. It's a space where, for four years, people like me want to know what you think.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following

pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

### **Make-ups**

We will accept makeup work under the following conditions: medical illness documented by a physician; serious family emergency, military obligation, and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty or subpoena). For university activities and other events that fall on a deadline, We expect you to complete your work in advance.

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<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

### **Computer Problems**

Computers crash and internet connections fail. If you are having computer problems, please contact the UF Helpdesk:

**Walk-in:** [HUB 132](#)[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)

We are not technology guru! If you have any technological issues, we will send you to these capable folks.

### **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability that is documented with [the Disability Resource Center](#)[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#) and wish to discuss accommodations, contact us as soon as possible so we can arrange longer times for quizzes. If you have a learning disability that has NOT been documented, contact the DRC at 352.392.8565 or email [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu).

## Course Outline

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#### Week 1

- What is Theatre?
- Shakespeare
- Performative Acts
- Acting

#### Week 2

- Focus on *You and I*
- Directing
- Stage Pictures
- Paper 1
- Theatrical Design

#### Week 3

- Reading a Set
- Expressionism & *Kill Move Paradise*
- African American Theatre

#### Week 4

- Focus on *The Mountaintop*
- American Musical Theatre
- Latinx Theatre

#### Week 5

- Focus on *Anna in the Tropics*
- Engaged Theatre



- Documenting Life
- Asian American Theatre
- Paper 2

#### Week 6

- Focus on *Tiger Style!*
- LGBTQ Lecture
- Focus on *Angels in America Pt 1*
- Submit Creative Project

#### **Grade Breakdown**

##### **Discussion Board Posts:**

11 Discussions @ 10pts each = 110 total points

##### **Quizzes:**

THE 2000 Syllabus Quiz, 10pts

Topic Quizzes, 12 @ 20pts each = 240 total points

##### **Production Critiques:**

2 Papers @ 20pts each= 40 total points

**Final Creative Project:** 50 points

It's set up as a point system so you can ignore any group percentages Canvas shows you. The formula is [total points earned] divided by 450 [total points possible]. Any .5 grades are rounded up (ex. 89.5 becomes 90).

We do not curve grades or drop low grades. We round up final grades by .5 only.

#### **Grade Scale**

Grading is based upon the scale listed below.

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

D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-63

E 59-

*Syllabus is subject to change but all students will be notified in that rare occurrence.*