

THE 4970 – Senior Project BA in Theatre
1 Credit Hour – Meeting Time To Be Arranged
Spring 2025

Instructor: Ryan Hope Travis

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Office Hours: 8:30AM-10:30AM Wednesday + By Appointment

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Course Description:

The Senior Project offers graduating BA students in theatre an opportunity to synthesize and expand upon the knowledge and skills acquired throughout their academic journey. This course emphasizes the integration of practical theatre experiences with rigorous academic research. Students will undertake a comprehensive research assignment, culminating in a thesis-style senior project paper that articulates their findings and insights. This Senior Project serves as a platform for students to demonstrate their scholarly and creative abilities, preparing them for future academic or professional pursuits in the field of theatre.

Highlighting Former Successful Senior Projects:

The following examples showcase the diversity and depth of research and creative work possible:

1. *The Involvement of Women in Theatre and the Feminist Movement:* This project explored how women's participation in theatre has supported and advanced the feminist movement in the United States. The student conducted extensive research to highlight key figures and moments in theatre history that contributed to feminist progress.
2. *Directing and Choreographing 35MM with Florida Players:* One student took on the dual role of Director and Choreographer for a production of 35MM with Florida Players. Their project detailed the preparation, process, and experiences related to their Theatre degree and Dance minor. The student reflected on the skills and insights gained, which they plan to apply in future directorial positions.
3. *Catharsis through Film and Theatre Viewing:* This project delved into the concept of catharsis, examining the psychological effects of watching films and live theatre performances. The student conducted a comparative analysis to understand how different mediums evoke emotional responses and contribute to psychological well-being.

Required Materials:

1. Access to a computer and/or writing software
2. Ability to convert documents to PDF files

MLA or Chicago Style Format:

Senior Project should follow MLA (Modern Language Association) or Chicago Style Guidelines. The Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) is a great resource:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/index.html

Grading:

This course embraces the philosophy of *un-grading*. Simply, complete assignments (meeting paper benchmarks) receive complete points. Because students come to this space with varying synthesis and exegesis proficiencies, diverse pedagogical backgrounds and analytical skills, *time*, *effort*, and *commitment* are the crux of your grade.

Full participation is crucial in grading – i.e., thorough and thoughtful revisions, clear communication through drafting process, etc.

1. *Synthesize Knowledge and Skills*: Students will integrate practical theatre experiences with academic research to produce a comprehensive thesis-style paper, demonstrating their ability to synthesize and apply their accumulated knowledge and skills.
2. *Conduct Independent Research*: Students will design and execute an independent research project, employing appropriate methodologies and critical analysis to explore a specific topic within the field of theatre.
3. *Communicate Scholarly Insights*: Students will articulate their research findings and insights effectively through written and oral presentations, showcasing their scholarly and creative abilities and preparing them for future academic or professional endeavors in theatre.

Outline, Abstract, Annotated Bibliography or Draft	20pts
First Draft	20pts
Second Draft	20pts
Final Draft	40pts
Total	100pts

Grading Scheme:

The following grading standard will be used to determine your final grade in this class:

Grade	Range
A	100pts to 93pts
A-	< 93pts to 90pts
B+	< 90pts to 87pts
B	< 87pts to 83pts
B-	< 83pts to 80pts
C+	< 80pts to 77pts
C	< 77pts to 73pts
C-	< 73pts to 70pts
D+	< 70pts to 67pts
D	< 67pts to 63pts
D-	< 63pts to 60pts
F	< 60pts to 0pts

Late Assignment Policy:

Assignments submitted 48hrs beyond the due date will receive a half letter grade deduction every day it is late. Keep track of due dates. Keep the lines of communication open. If you are having a challenge, let me know. Extensions will be permitted if you email me 24hrs *before* the deadline.

Requirements for late work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner while pursuing their studies. They are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy, which defines an academic honesty offense as “the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage.” In the context of this course, this includes conducting original research and properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in the writing reaction papers, journals, and self-analysis paper. Submitting work that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade. For more information on the UF Academic Honor Code visit: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Our Honor Code on AI Usage:

As students committed to academic integrity and personal growth, we recognize the importance of producing original work that reflects our own understanding and effort. The use of AI tools can be beneficial for learning and research, but it must be balanced with ethical considerations to maintain the integrity of our academic work.

1. Originality and Authenticity – Students must ensure that all submitted essays are their own work. AI tools should not be used to generate entire essays or significant portions of text.
2. Permissible Uses of AI / AI tools may be used for:
 - Grammar and spell-checking
 - Generating ideas or outlines
 - Conducting preliminary research
 - Providing feedback on drafts
3. Prohibited Uses of AI / AI tools may not be used to:
 - Write entire essays or large sections of text
 - Paraphrase or rephrase existing content to pass it off as original work
 - Generate citations or references without proper verification
4. Transparency:
 - Students must disclose any use of AI tools in their work. This includes specifying which tools were used and how they contributed to the final essay.
5. Accountability:
 - Students are responsible for the content of their essays, including any errors or inaccuracies introduced by AI tools. Proper verification and critical evaluation of AI-generated content are required.
6. Respect for Intellectual Property:
 - Students must respect copyright laws and avoid using AI tools to generate content that infringes on the intellectual property rights of others.
7. Commitment to Learning:
 - The primary goal of essay assignments is to enhance learning and critical thinking skills. Students should use AI tools as aids, not substitutes, for their own intellectual efforts.

By adhering to this honor code, we commit to upholding the values of academic integrity, personal responsibility, and ethical use of technology in our academic pursuits.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. A meeting with the student, instructor and DRC representative will be scheduled to discuss students' needs. Absences related to accommodation are not retroactive.

Campus Resources:

Health & Wellness

1. *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
2. *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
3. *University Police Department*: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
4. *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources:

1. *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
2. *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
3. *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
4. *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
5. *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
6. *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
7. *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Course Journey:

This is a judgment-free zone. As your senior project takes shape, we commit to sharing and listening mindfully, thoughtfully, and patiently. We hold space for each other and listen with open hearts. The quality of your work hinges on your dedication to excellence, thoughtfulness, and rigor. You've got this.

Project Benchmarks + Deadlines:

Project benchmarks and deadline will be developed in collaboration with Advisor. Schedule a meeting within the first week of class to discuss research project and develop paper deadlines.

Date: _____

Outline, abstract, annotated bibliography or draft by 11:59PM

Date: _____

First draft due to advisor with bibliography by 11:59PM

Date: _____

Second draft due to advisor by 11:59PM

Date: _____

Final Paper due to advisor by 11:59PM

Note: The Senior Project is a different document than the Honors Thesis. Although students may incorporate some information from THE 4970 BA Senior Project into their Honors Thesis, the two papers should be unique. For more details on the Honors Thesis, please refer to the SoTD student handbook.
