

Honors Theatre Survey

THE 1020H
T TH 11:30 – 12:45
Room: Phillips Hall 220
Spring 2002
Office Hours: MWF 9:30 – 11:30
And by appointment

Professor Kristina Tollefson

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Course Catalog Description:

Honors-level overview of the art and craft of the theatre.
Prerequisite—Honors Student
Not restricted to Theatre Majors

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to give you an overview of theatre. This overview will include the nature and purpose of theatre, the practice of theatre, and the history of theatre. At the end of this course the successful student will be able to:

- identify the types of performance that are theatre
- read a script for story, structure, and style
- critique a performance of a play
- understand the steps, elements, and decisions that go into a theatrical production
- identify major characteristics within the history of western theatre
- describe the role of lighting, set, sound, and costume designers
- display a working knowledge of stage directions and blocking

Course Philosophy:

I believe students are as much responsible for their own education as their professors. It is imperative that you read the textbook or script before coming to class. In class we can clarify and synthesize the information you have read and add real life examples and situations to help you understand. Please come to class with an open mind, a willingness to speak, and an enthusiasm for participation.

Required Text:

Theatre: The Lively Art 4th ed. By Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb

Additional Required Readings:

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen Adapted by McGuinness (\$6.00)
Lysistrata by Aristophanes
in Classical Comedy Greek and Roman by Corrigan (\$13.00)
also in Four Plays by Aristophanes by Arrowsmith (\$12.00)
The Menaechmi by Plautus
in Classical Comedy Greek & Roman (\$13.00)
The Second Shepherd's Play by Anonymous (We will read in class)
The Miser by Moliere (\$6.00)
Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare (Not for sale at the Bookstore)
Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett (\$7.50)
Wit by Margaret Edson (\$6.00)

Classroom Policies:

No beepers or cell phones
Only quiet foods and drinks (ie. No chips, no opening soda cans, etc.)
If you fall asleep you will be asked to leave and counted absent

Course Grading:

There are 950 points possible in this class. I will use the +/- grading system. Please keep all graded material from class on file until the end of the semester in case of grade discrepancies. **All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in this course.**

100-94% = A		
93-90% = A-		
89-88% = B+		
87-84% = B	3 Exams @ 100 pts each	300
83-80% = B-	2 Production Critiques @ 30 pts each	60
79-78% = C+	2 Production Critique @ 60 pts	120
77-74% = C	7 Quizzes @ 20 pts each (Lowest 2 of 9 dropped)	140
73-70% = C-	1 Proof of Tickets	20
69-68% = D+	1 Production Observation Project	100
67-64% = D	1 Final Exam	<u>200</u>
63-60% = D-		940 total points
59% and Below = F		

Attendance Policy:

I understand that you all have other classes and obligations pulling you in many directions. If you need to be gone from class for any reason please let me know ahead of time, but please do not ask me for permission. This class is important too. It is your responsibility to sign the daily attendance sheet. If your signature is not on the attendance sheet, you will be counted absent. Please note that three tardies equals one absence. These are BONUS points. You are NOT penalized for poor attendance through point reduction or grade lowering but you have the opportunity to improve your grade through regular attendance. Every absence is an excused absence.

Bonus points will be awarded for good attendance using the following point scale:

0 classes missed	= 20 points extra credit
1 class missed	= 15 points extra credit
2 classes missed	= 10 points extra credit
3 classes missed	= 5 points extra credit
4 or more missed	= no points extra credit

Contacting Me:

Please feel free to contact me at home if necessary. I do not take calls Friday night or Saturday, but my voice mail will be on and if you leave a message I can return your call Saturday night. If you call other than Friday night or Saturday please restrict your calls between the hours of 10am and 10pm unless it is an absolute emergency. My home phone number is (407)265-6707. I am also very available through email. I check my email several times a day (again not Friday night or Saturday).

Exams:

There are three exams (100 pts each). You may choose to take a multiple choice, matching, and True/False style exam or an essay/short answer style exam. More than one person must take an exam style or join the rest of the class on the other form. The exams will cover the same material but will test your knowledge in different ways. You must choose your form one-week prior to the exam date to ensure adequate copies of each are available. If you do not submit your preference you will be given the Multiple Choice exam by default.

I hope that this will be of benefit to you so that you may choose the method of assessment that you think will highlight your knowledge most accurately. If you have any concerns about this please come see me. Exams will cover all assigned readings, lectures, videos, and UCF productions. You will receive your scores approximately one week after the exam, but you will not be allowed to keep your exams. Attempting to keep an exam will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be cause for disciplinary action. Your exams will be kept on file in my office and you are welcome to review the questions during my office hours or by appointment. The comprehensive final (200 pts) may be a combination of essay, matching, multiple choice, and true/false questions. You may submit possible exam questions for all exams. Check syllabus for due dates.

Makeup Exams: It is my policy not to give makeup exams. If you miss an exam a research paper may be able to fulfill those points but will be assigned at my discretion. Makeup exams will only be given in extreme circumstances, again at my discretion, and will be given orally during final exam week. If you know you will miss an exam I suggest you contact me significantly prior to the scheduled exam. There is *no guarantee* you will have the opportunity to make up those points.

Quizzes: There will be nine quizzes over the course of the semester. The two lowest scores will be dropped. No makeup quizzes will be given. If you miss a quiz that score will be one of your scores dropped. If you miss more than two you will have to have zeros figured into your grade.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Attempting to gain unfair advantage over other students through the use of unauthorized materials or information on quizzes or examinations is cheating. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) crib sheets, copying answers from another student's exam, use of recording devices, use of a calculator capable of storing alphanumeric data, and gaining unauthorized prior access to current exams, old exams, or answers. It can be generally defined as giving or receiving aid in examinations or on assignments which are intended to be done individually or the presentation of the work of other persons as one's own.

On quizzes and examinations, all information other than that which is in your head is unauthorized unless the instructor specifically informs the class otherwise. No talking or communication of any type is authorized during the taking of an examination. No communication about a quiz or examination is authorized between students who have completed the examination and those who have not. Any talking or looking in the direction of another person's paper is presumed to be cheating and will be treated as such. Leaving the room while taking an exam will be considered an attempt at academic dishonesty. Gather tissues, extra pencils, etc. before the exam begins.

You will be held accountable and responsible for your actions. Disciplinary action will be taken against those caught cheating and may be grounds for dismissal.

Extra Credit Option: You may earn up to 10 points of extra credit for performing a scene or monologue in class at the end of the semester. You must "contract" to do a scene or monologue by 4/4 . Details to follow in class.

ADA: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible. You also must contact Student Disability Services at (407) 823-2371.

Religious Observance: I will reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays, however, you will be held responsible for any material covered during the absence. By 1/15 please provide me with a list of the holiday's that will require you to miss class.

Adult Content: There are plays and materials in this course which express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language. If this presents a problem for you, please see me immediately to address your concerns and assess your chances for success in the course.

Changes to the Syllabus: Changes to this syllabus may be necessary throughout the semester. I will present all changes verbally in class as well as in written form.

Play Attendance: You are required to see two UCF productions and two viewer's choice productions. Of the two viewer's choice productions, one must be off campus and one can be UCF or off campus. There are 5 UCF productions for you to choose from. Death of Salesman, The Dining Room, Damn Yankees, Lips Together, Teeth Apart, or Look Homeward Angel. Check On Stage for dates and times. Photocopies of the tickets for the two UCF productions are due 1/15. See ticket policy for information on purchasing tickets. You are responsible for choosing your off campus production and attending it on your own. Theatre by children, high-school theatre, opera, ballet or other dance performances, and concerts do not qualify. If you have any questions about what qualifies please ask me before attending the performance. In order to receive credit for attending all four of these performances you must write a Production Critique Paper. Please see that section of the syllabus for details and due dates. Check www.icflorida.com for local venues.

Production Critique Guidelines: Critiques are due in class only. It is up to you to purchase tickets early enough to insure admission. Please refer to the Ticket Policy section of this syllabus. You must see the entire production to get credit and your ticket must be stamped at the end of the production for UCF shows. In the top RIGHT corner, please type your course pin#, Theatre Survey, UCF or Viewer's Choice, and the date. Staple your stamped ticket stub onto the left top corner. No late tickets will be accepted and tickets without the stamp will not be given credit. Please limit your critique to no more than two pages. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins. Please use Times or Times New Roman for your font and a point size of 12. Standard Written English is required. Please proofread and spell check. **One point will be deducted for every misspelled word or typo.** Due Dates for the UCF productions are in your syllabus schedule. To get credit for the Viewer's Choice production, you must turn in your paper **WITHIN TWO CLASS PERIODS** of seeing the production. For example, if you see a production on a Sunday, your critique is due by the following Thursday in class.

POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED IF/WHEN:

- You fail to staple your ticket stub onto the paper/no ticket stamp (-10 UCF/-20 Viewer's Choice)
- You fail to cover the 6 topics below (-5 UCF/-10 Viewer's Choice)
- You turn in your paper late (-2 UCF/-4 Viewer's Choice--each class day late)
- If your writing is of poor quality your paper may be given no credit at all.

Please spell check all work and make sure it is college level writing. Handwritten papers will not be accepted nor will papers without full sentences. Please refer to the "Written Assignment Guidelines" section. Correct terms and titles covered in class must be used or points will be deducted. Please remember that play titles of full-length plays are underlined or italicized. Only titles of one-act plays (usually under an hour in length) are put in quotation marks.

The Environment:

Tell me about the physical space, your state of mind, and your first impressions as you entered the theatre.

The Play:

In two or three sentences, what was the story or subject? Who were the main characters? How did it end?

The Production:

How would you describe the costumes, lighting, set, & sound? (Give examples so I know you saw this particular production.)

The Acting:

Chose one or two actors whom you found particularly good or particularly bad and explain why, as best you can. Did the cast seem to have varying levels of talent, or was the acting good/bad overall?

The Audience:

How did the audience react to this production? Was their reaction similar to your own? Why or why not?

Your Comments:

Summarize your own response to this performance. Would you recommend it to a friend? Why or why not?

Theatre UCF Ticket Policy for Students in Theatre Survey: Your tickets must be purchased both UCF productions by 1/15. On 1/15 you must submit a photocopy of your UCF tickets for 20 points of credit. The box office has a No Exchanges/No Refunds Policy. However, exchanges are possible for you if an academic scheduling problem occurs. If this is the case please discuss the problem with me. I must approve all exchanges and sign and stamp your original ticket. If I approve your exchange you must present your original ticket (no photocopies), class syllabus, and student ID in person at the box office. Even if I approve your exchange, if the performance date you request is sold out you will not be able to exchange. If I do not approve your exchange you can purchase another ticket for the preferred performance, or attend on your original date. Box office 823-1500.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- If you lose your ticket you may have to buy another ticket—check with the box office
- Exchanges will depend upon availability and are not guaranteed.
- Theatre UCF productions usually sell out.
- In order to receive credit for attending a production your ticket must be stamped at the end of the performance.

Production Observation Project:

This project is designed for you to observe the production process from beginning to end. We will discuss which show you will be observing in class. You will be given a rehearsal schedule as soon as possible. After the first rehearsal, which you must attend, you are to attend one rehearsal a week for ONE hour per week until the play opens. You must attend one technical rehearsal—I will give more details about this in class. We will schedule your rehearsal attendance in class. Please sit in the back of the rehearsal space and BE SILENT while you observe. Do not interact with the actors or bring a friend. If it is reported to me that you are disruptive you will not be allowed to attend rehearsals and that will result in a zero for this project. After each rehearsal write a 1-2 page journal entry. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins. Please use Times or Times New Roman for your font and a point size of 12. Standard Written English is required. Please proofread and spell check. One point will be deducted for every misspelled word or typo. Please contact the University Writing Center if you need help. (407) 823-2197.

Questions you may want to explore include, **but are not limited to:**

- What was the main goal of this rehearsal?
- How did the director approach that goal?
- What significant obstacles or challenges did the cast, director, or stage manager face?
- How were these obstacles addressed?
- What part of the rehearsal did you find particularly interesting? Why?
- Did anything happen that surprised you?
- What progress had been made since the last rehearsal you attended?
- Was progress made outside of the official rehearsal?

Before you begin this project write a brief statement explaining your knowledge of the production and rehearsal process before this experience as the first entry in your journal. At the end of the process write an entry about the actual performance you attended. How did you see this production change over time? Did seeing this play through all of the stages of development change your perception of the production? What did you learn through this process? Please explain.

Please type all of your journal entries and include the date time on each entry. Begin a new page for each entry. Staple them together with a title page and table of contents. Please do not put your name on your cover page, but use your course pin # instead. Your journals will be due on the last day of class but you may turn them in at any time. Please do not use this late due date as a reason to delay writing your journal entries. You will do yourself a huge favor by taking good notes and writing your journal entries immediately following the rehearsal you attend. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to talk to me.

Course Calendar:

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| T 1/8 | Introduction to the Course—What is Art? |
| R 1/10 | The Nature of Theatre
Introduction pgs. 1-14
Read Syllabus
Quiz 1--Syllabus |
| T 1/15 | Chapter 1 "Audiences and Critics"
Tickets Due |
| R 1/17 | Producing, Directing, and Playwriting
Chapter 3 "The Director and the Producer" and Chapter 7 pgs. 143-149 "The Playwright"
<u>Death of a Salesman</u> Opens—Critique Due Jan 31 |
| T 1/22 | Dramatic Structure and Genre
Chapter 7 pgs.150-161 "The Playwright" and Chapter 8 "The Text: Dramatic Genre"
Read <u>A Doll's House</u> — Quiz 2 |

- R 1/24 Auditions & Acting—Chapter 2 “Stage Performers”
- T 1/29 Production Design, Theatre Spaces & Scenic Design
Chapter 4 “Theatre Spaces” and Chapter 5 pgs. 97-111 “Designers: Scenery and Costumes”
Death of a Salesman Critique Due
- R 1/31 Costume & Makeup Design—Chapter 5 pgs. 111 – 120 “Designers: Scenery and Costumes”
- T 2/5 Lighting and Sound Design—Chapter 6 “Designers: Lighting and Sound”
Dining Room Opens—Critique Due Feb 21
- R 2/7 Theatre as a Career—Unions and Professional Organizations—Portfolios
Exam Questions Due Typed in Class or by Email
- T 2/12 **Exam 1**
- R 2/14 NO CLASS—USITT
- T 2/19 Greek Theatre—Chapter 10 pgs. 209-221 “Greek and Roman Theatre”
Lysistrata—**Quiz 3**
- R 2/21 Roman Theatre—Chapter 10 pgs. 221-231 “Greek and Roman Theatre”
The Menaechmi—**Quiz 4**
Dining Room Critique Due
- T 2/26 Theatre in Medieval England—Chapter 11 pgs. 246-253 “Asian and Medieval Theatre”
The Second Shepherd’s Play—**Quiz 5**
- R 2/28 Theatre in Elizabethan England—Chapter 12 pgs. 264-273 “Renaissance Theatre”
The Taming of the Shrew—**Quiz 6**
- Damn Yankees Opens—Critique Due March 19**
- T 3/5 Renaissance Italy, Commedia dell’arte, and Theatre in Seventeenth-Century France
Chapter 12 pgs. 255-264 and 279-285 “Renaissance Theatre”
The Miser—**Quiz 7**
Exam Questions Due in Class or by Email
- R 3/7 NO CLASS—SETC
- T 3/12 NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK
- R 3/14 NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK
- T 3/19 **Exam 2**
Damn Yankees Critique Due
- R 3/21 From Romanticism to Naturalism—Revisit A Doll’s House
Chapter 13 pgs. 308-315 “Theatre from 1660-1875”
Chapter 14 pgs. 317-329 “Modern Theatre: 1875-1945”
- T 3/26 Anti Realism—Chapter 14 pgs. 330-335 “Modern Theatre: 1875-1945”
- R 3/28 Postwar Eclectics
Chapter 15 pgs. 341-351 “Modern Theatre: 1945-1990”
Waiting for Godot—**Quiz 8**
Lips Together Teeth Apart Opens—Critique Due April 4

- T 4/2 The Contemporary Theatre Experience
Chapter 15 pgs. 352-355 "Modern Theatre: 1945 to 1990"
Chapter 16 pgs. 369-372 "Contemporary Trends"
- R 4/4 The Contemporary Theatre Experience
Chapter 16 Read pgs. 372-387 "Contemporary Trends"
Wit—Quiz 9
Extra Credit Scene Contracts Due in Class
- T 4/9 Musical Theatre pre 1960s—Video
Chapter 15 pgs. 356-365 "Modern Theatre: 1945-1990"
Exam Questions Due in Class or by Email
Lips Together Teeth Apart Critique Due
- R 4/11 NO CLASS—Florida State Thespians
Look Homeward Angel Opens—Critique Due at Final Exam
- T 4/16 **Exam 3**
- R 4/18 Extra Credit Scenes
Discussion of Production Project
Production Project Due
- Final Exam as Scheduled by the University
Critique for Under Fire Due

Advice from Past Theatre Survey Students:

"Take really, really good notes. Don't think that you can just read the book to prepare for the tests."

"Try really hard to come to all classes—those bonus points can be a big help."

"Don't procrastinate and buy the plays."

"For the production observation project and plays make sure to write your entries or papers absolutely as soon as you can after you see it. It is much, much easier that way."

"Read the plays so you pass the quizzes."

"Don't slack—if you keep up the tests won't be stressful."

"Be prepared to watch a lot of plays."

"FOLLOW THE SYLLABUS WORD FOR WORD."

Score Summary	Points Possible	Actual Score	
Quiz 1	20	_____	
Quiz 2	20	_____	
Quiz 3	20	_____	
Quiz 4	20	_____	
Quiz 5	20	_____	
Quiz 6	20	_____	
Quiz 7	20	_____	
Quiz 8	20	_____	
Quiz 9	20	_____	(Drop 2 Lowest Quizzes)
Proof of Tickets	20	_____	
Exam 1	100	_____	
Exam 2	100	_____	
Exam 3	100	_____	
Play Critique 1	30	_____	
Play Critique 2	30	_____	
Play Critique 3	60	_____	
Play Critique 4	60	_____	
Production Observation Project	100	_____	
Final Exam	200	_____	940 points possible
Attendance Bonus Points	20	_____	
Extra Credit Scene	10	_____	