

West LA College
Professor Nico Guilak
Theatre 100 Intro To Theatre
Tues.Thurs 9:35-11am HLRC115

***Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodation: If you have a legally protected disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or California discrimination law, and you believe you need reasonable accommodation to participate fully in this class, please make an appointment to see me during my private office hours to discuss your need.*

Textbook: *Theatre Brief Version 9th Edition* by Robert Cohen

Objectives

This course is designed to give a broad overview of the entire field of theatre arts. It will include studying and theory of the following: playwriting, acting directing, set, costume, and lighting design, play structure, criticism, theatre architecture, producing and a brief historical survey. Field trips to theatrical productions, group assignments, and a creative project will give students and experiential understanding of the art form. Because of the interactive nature of this course, I will go through the first two chapters thoroughly and the remaining five will be on your own. There will be a chapter exam every other week, total of seven. We will be working in class simultaneously on live projects as you read the chapters at home. We will read a play out loud, which I will supply to you. For the midterm you are to perform a monologue that I will select for you in costume for a live audience. During the latter half of this semester, you will be put into groups (your own theatre company) and will produce, write, direct, design and perform a final 10 min play which you control from beginning to end for a live theatre audience (each student can invite up to 2 guests; 1 mandatory). The Final Paper Exam will be a timed test with exact questions from the previous seven Chapter tests. You will keep each test, attached to the scantrons and return the day of the Paper Final.

Course Outcomes: Student Learning Outcomes: SLO

Students will exit this course with knowledge and insight into the theatrical processes which will help them analyze, evaluate and articulate responses to works of theatre artists, develop an appreciation for the guiding principles that govern theatrical art, demonstrate knowledge of the theatre's relationship to life, art, performance, and its role in society and culture. They will become informed audience members and let theatre enrich their lives. The student will be able to describe the basic history, cultural significance and process of theatre as an art form. The student will be able to discuss the purpose and value of theatre criticism and its aid and

influence on the art form. The student will demonstrate a knowledge and understanding about theatre in order to intelligently and creatively comment on and critique live theatre events. The student will illustrate and analyze the importance and function of every artist involved in the creative process of theatre including actors, writers, directors, producers, and designers.

Policies

Attendance

I expect students to be on time, to be fully prepared participants who are active learners. If you are late and miss roll call, it is your responsibility to see me after class, on that day to be counted in attendance. Three tardies equal one absence. Three unexcused absences will drop your grade one full letter.

Late Assignments

Any assignment or project submitted late will have point value reduced by 50% before grading. If you know you are going to be absent on the day the assignment or test is due, turn it in early. There will be no make-up test.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be available; it is equivalent to the Play Reviews, however the value is equal to 1pt rather than 3 1/2pts.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according To school polices.

Play Attendance

You must attend two professional plays and write a two-page critique, typed, font 12, double-space paper on each performance. Program and ticket must be stapled to the package.

Evaluation and Grading

Point System

(each pt is valued as one letter grade)

7 Chapter Test (2pts. each)

14pts.

Midterm Monologue

7pts.

2 Play Reviews (3 1/2pts. each)

7pts.

7 Scantrons/Test Return (A or F)

2pts.

Final Exam Paper

14pts.

Final Exam Play

14 pts.

Exclusion Policy

All students who have absences equaling one week's worth of class time by census date, must be excluded with an effective date prior to census. Title 5, Section 58004c3. If a student stops attending and permanently leaves class, **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO OFFICIALLY DROP FROM CLASS, AND SHOULD NEVER RELY ON THE INSTRUCTURE TO DROP THEM; THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE AN "F" AS A GRADE.**

Class Etiquette

Disruptive class etiquette will not be tolerated. Follow these guidelines to achieve the maximum experience and the least disruption to the rest of the class.

- Be on time. If you must be late, enter quietly and sit in the back.
- Do not leave while class is in session, unless absolutely necessary; then do so without disrupting.
- All cell phones, PDA's, MP3players, Ipads, or any similar devices must be turned off prior to entering the classroom.
- No food or drinks are allowed in classroom. (except for bottled water with cap).
- Class participation in discussion and question and answer sessions is greatly encouraged.

Class Schedule

**subject to change in accordance to class organization and time.*

Week 1

Orientation, syllabus and Improvisational games.

Week 2

Review of Chapter One: *What is Theatre.*

Week 3

Chapter One Review and Exam.

Review of *Chapter Two: What is a Play.*

Week 4

Continue reviewing Chapter Two.

Chapter Two Review and Exam.

Week 5

Read Play aloud with class participation.

Week 6

Chapter Three: Actor Review and Exam.

Week 7

Assign midterm monologues: specific to each person.

Prepare Monologues.

Create Theatre Companies and begin the writing process.

Week 8

Direct Monologues

Chapter four: Playwright Review and Exam.

Week 9

Continue with direction of Monologues

Midterm Performances

Week 10

Midterm Performances

Chapter five: Designers and Technicians Review and Exam

Week 11

Crash course on Shakespeare

Viewing of *Looking for Richard*.

Week 12

Chapter six: The Director Review and Exam.

Get into companies, begin memorization and direction.

Week 13

Group Work on 10 min plays

Final revision of scripts handed in

Week 14

Chapter eleven: The Critic Review and Exam

Dress Rehearsal of Final Play Production

Week 15

Final Tech Rehearsal of Play Production.

All scantrons and exams turn in. All assignments and extra credits to be turned in, including 2 Play Reviews.

Final Paper Exam!

Week 16

Final Play Production for live audience. POTLUCK PARTY!

This class is highly interactive; you will be performing and creating your own companies. You will be dealing with one another on a professional level and will respect and work together in a safe environment. You will be rehearsing your shows on your own time and will be responsible for all production values, including your sets, costumes, props, programs, sound/music, lights and furniture.

****Note: IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, THE SYLLABUS AND/OR THE CLASS SCHEDULE MAY BE CHANGED BY INSTRUCTOR.**