

Theatre Appreciation: THE2000 – Summer A 2024
(UFO) Web/Asynchronous
Section 142U (16927)

Instructor

Hello and welcome to Theatre Appreciation! My name is Thomas Vazquez (he/him), and I will be the lead instructor this semester. My Zoom office hours are by appointment. Please email me to set up a time to talk if you need ☺

I can be contacted by email at thomasvazquez@ufl.edu

Because of the size of the class, we break all of you into sections, and each section will be graded by a specific teaching assistant (TA). If you have questions about grades or extensions on specific assignments, you should contact your assigned TA directly. To find contact information for the TA assigned to you, click on "How to Contact Your TA" in the Canvas shell. This information will be available as soon as the add/drop deadline passes.

Most answers to your questions are in this syllabus and on the Canvas shell. 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. Throughout the semester, you will look behind the scenes 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. Pre-recorded 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 diverse 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 and discussion of assigned plays by underrepresented Americans will provide a context for understanding how cultural identity has been created in 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 several 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

To be successful in this course, all students must participate fully in the activities listed below:

- Close readings of assigned textbook chapters, plays, and posted materials
- Watch video lectures and supplementary videos
- Take quizzes on assigned readings and videos
- Produce a creative project based on the reading of a play
- Make posts on the course discussion board based on the provided prompts
- View two (2) theatrical performances and write a critique about each one

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 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—do not 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. I can't violate copyright laws by sending you PDF versions of plays. Playwrights make little money, so please support their work.

Textbook: *Theatrical Worlds - Beta Version* (University Press of Florida, 2014). This textbook was developed in response to the high cost of theatre textbooks which commonly retail between \$90 and \$120 for new editions. The text is FREE and is linked [here](#) for your convenience. Some students find that a physical copy is easier to read and study, and if that is the case, you are welcome to purchase a hard copy. It's your choice!

Required Plays:

*Note: Since this is an accelerated course, I highly recommend purchasing the instantly available electronic copies wherever possible. This is to avoid inevitable shipping delays on hard copies. Don't forget to also check your local library, local bookstores (like Barnes and Noble), or other cool book sites (like Thrift Books) for other hard copy options if that's more your speed. Either way, you need to have read the play before you can complete the discussion prompt/quizzes!

I And You by Lauren Gunderson

ISBN: 9781623842772 - Playscripts.com

Kindle/electronic edition available for instant purchase here: [I and You](#)

The Mountaintop by Katori Hall

ISBN: 9780822226031 - Dramatist Play Service

Kindle/electronic edition available for instant purchase here: [The Mountaintop](#)

Tiger Style! by Mike Lew

ISBN: 9780822239826 - Dramatist Play Service

FREE audio play available instantly on YouTube! I am linking each episode for your convenience:

- [Tiger Style Part 1](#)
- [Tiger Style Part 2](#)
- [Tiger Style Part 3](#)
- [Tiger Style Part 4](#)

Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz

ISBN: 0822220008 – Dramatist Play Service

Kindle/electronic edition available for instant purchase here: [Anna in the Tropics](#)

Kill Move Paradise by James Ijames

ISBN: 9780822240020 - Dramatist Play Service

I could not find an electronic version for sale, but if you do, please let me know so I can share with the rest of the students! 😊

Angels in America Pt. 1 by Tony Kushner

ISBN: 9781559363846 - Theatre Communications Group

Kindle/electronic edition available for instant purchase here: [Angels in America: Part 1](#) (REMEMBER: you are only required to read PART 1. No need to read Part 2)

Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith by Yussef El Guindi

ISBN: 088145754X - Broadway Play Publishing

Also on Amazon: [Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith](#)

How the Class is Conducted

There is no live component to this course; it will be conducted entirely online. Instead of going to a classroom, you will do the assigned reading, watch video lectures, or listen to audio material. The course includes the following assignments:

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

Discussion Board: You will be asked to find information or offer ideas and post it for the rest of the class. Meaningful posts that are on topic, fulfill the requirements, and use college-level writing 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 proofreading (for example, improper spelling, grammar, or punctuation)
- Using slang or instant message language (ex. lol, omg, yolo, etc.)
- The post is off topic, or you did not answer the entire question
- The post is late
- Plagiarism (see below)

Papers: You will watch two (2) theatrical performances and author a two-page paper about each one. Guidelines will be provided. Both critiques will be viewed on Digital Theatre Plus, a subscription service provided free of charge to students at UF. (<https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/theatreguide>). To access the Digital Theatre Plus subscription off-campus, you will first 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! Here also is the link with detailed instructions on how to download, install, and run the VPN:

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

Creative Project: At the end of the semester, you will complete a creative project based on your reading and creative interpretations of an assigned play (*Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith*). Instructions will be available on Canvas.

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 your assigned TA a doctor's note with a formal request. For all other emergencies, late work may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. The best way to ensure that your extension is granted is to keep me and your TA updated about your needs as soon as possible. Please update your personal calendar with due dates to ensure you do not miss assignments.

What is 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 little, is plagiarism. This includes plot summaries! I understand getting behind and panicking when due dates arrive, but you are better off telling me you are not keeping up with deadlines and asking for help rather than risking your academic future. Besides, plagiarism is easy to catch. All my TAs are trained to find it and we are assisted by particularly 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 and then copying and pasting this material and claiming it as entirely original. The penalty is the same.

How do you avoid plagiarism? Simple: **always cite your sources**. It is fine to build upon the ideas of others or use them to support your own argument. All you must do is credit the original thinker. Look to reliable sources with an institutional stamp—a news organization or university entity for example, someone invested in the material's accuracy. Think of yourself as joining a community of thinkers that have 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 and WHY you think that way 😊

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

I 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, I expect you to complete your work in advance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found [here](#).

Computer Problems

Computers crash and internet connections fail. If you are having computer problems, please contact the [UF Helpdesk](#). I am not a technology expert, but I am happy to help troubleshoot basic issues. For much faster resolution of any technological issues, I 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. 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 [here](#). I understand it can be an annoyance during a busy part of the semester, but it helps us maintain and improve the course by incorporating constructive suggestions in future courses. We read these and appreciate all of your feedback.

Students with Disabilities

Students need a current accommodation letter each semester in order to receive academic accommodations. Students must request individual accommodation letters to be sent for each course to their instructors. I need to receive a letter directly from the DRC in order for me to make the necessary accommodations for you. For more information regarding requesting accommodation letters, here is the [DRC](#) site. Once you've registered, if you have questions or want to reach out to me to confirm I received a letter from the DRC, don't hesitate to send me an email ☺

Course Outline

Week 1: Syllabus Quiz; Basics Quiz; Discussion Post: Performative Acts

Week 2: Discussion Post: Focus on *I and You*; Acting Quiz; Directing Quiz; Discussion Post: Stage Pictures; Paper 1 Due

Week 3: Theatrical Design Quiz; Discussion Post: Reading a Set; Genre Quiz; Discussion Post: Expressionism & *Kill Move Paradise*

Week 4: African American Theatre Quiz; Discussion Post: Focus on *The Mountaintop*; American Musical Theatre Quiz; Discussion Post: Your Kind of Musical

Week 5: Discussion Post: Focus on *Anna in the Tropics*; Latinx Theatre Quiz; Discussion Post: Documenting Life; Engaged Theatre Quiz;

Week 6: Discussion Post: Asian American Theatre Quiz; Discussion Post: Focus on *Tiger Style!*; Gay and Lesbian Theatre Quiz; Discussion Post: Focus on *Angels in America Part One*; Paper 2; Submit Creative Project

Grade Breakdown

Discussion Board Posts: 11 posts @ 10 points each = **110 total points**

Quizzes: THE 2000 Syllabus Quiz, 10 points; Topic Quizzes, 12 @ 20 points each = **240 total points**

Production Critiques: 2 Papers @ 20 points 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].

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 59-0

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found in the online catalog at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>