

TRE 1001-1 INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

Department of Communication Studies

Point Loma Nazarene University

Fall 2019

Instructor: Jamie Criss
Email: jcriss@pointloma.edu

Office location: Behind Salomon Theatre
Office hours: By appointment

PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Understand the different aspects of theatre.
2. Identify and explain changes theatre has made throughout history.
3. Discuss where theatre is going in the future and imagine new possibilities.
4. Design and “produce” your own production.

COURSE TEXT

Cassady, Marsh. *An Introduction to the Art of Theatre*. Colorado: Meriwether Publishing.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Please arrive on time. Turn off your cell phones before class starts and place them where they will not be a distraction to you or others. Personal computers, tablets, smartphones can be used only for taking notes or completing in-class assignments. You will be asked to leave the classroom if you are found texting or doing other homework, playing games or are on social networking sites on laptops during class time. Food must be consumed outside of the classroom, but drinks are fine.
2. **ATTENDANCE:** Regular attendance is required. You need to be present to learn and this is a participation course. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Excused absences (University-sponsored sports, forensics or other activities) need to be brought to my attention in email before the day(s) you will be absent. See “Academic Policies” in the undergraduate academic catalog.
3. **SYLLABUS:** You are responsible for the due dates stated in the schedule. If changes are given verbally in class, any student absent on that day is responsible for getting the changes.

4. **COMMUNICATION:** Please check your Point Loma email regularly. This is the primary way that I will be contacting you. You are responsible for any changes to assignments that are sent through the pointloma.edu address. Allow up to 24 hours for a response from me. If you have not received a response within 24 hours, please follow up.
5. **FINAL EXAMINATIONS:** No accommodations for early examinations or alternative days are allowed per university policy. The final examination is posted on the “Class Schedules” site.
6. **ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS:** All work is due by 11:59pm on the day indicated on the assignment requirement sheet and on the schedule. If you turn in an assignment after the due date indicated on the syllabus there will be a 5 point deduction for each day the assignment is late.
7. **GROUP PRESENTATIONS:** You must be ready to present on your assigned day. If there are extenuating circumstances (medical or family emergencies, PLNU team game/activities), you may pre-arrange to exchange speech days with another group if prior notice is given to the instructor. I am not responsible for finding another group to switch with you.
8. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:** At PLNU, we want you to exhibit integrity in your work. If you reference another person, give them credit. If credit isn't given, it demonstrates academic irresponsibility and reflects disrespect for your community and yourself. As stated in the university catalogue: “Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course.”
9. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:** Students requiring special accommodations on the basis of physical, learning or psychological disability for this class are required to file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (in the Bond Academic Center). The DRC will write me with recommendations as to how to meet the individual needs of the student. Please contact Pat Curley within the first two weeks of the term so as to give accommodations as early as possible.
10. **FERPA POLICY:** In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without written permission from the student. This class will meet the federal requirements by distributing all grades and papers individually. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See ‘Policy Statements’ in the undergrad student catalog.

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

PLAY CRITIQUES (50 points each, 100 points total)

You will be required to attend two plays this semester. The PLNU Fall play *The Shakers of Mt Lebanon Will Hold a Peace Conference This Month* (which goes up in November), as well as one outside play. San Diego is one of the best regional theatre cities in the country so there are plenty of opportunities for you to see a show. If you need help finding a production, I am happy to assist. Using your knowledge from our textbook and lectures you will compose a critique of the production, giving me your insight into the direction, production design and execution and acting performances.

QUESTIONS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS (25 points each, 100 points total)

I have invited guest speakers to visit the class for question and answer sessions throughout the semester. They are working professionals in the theatre and they have real-world knowledge and experience. These lovely people are our guests and I expect that each of you will compose several thoughtful questions to ask them.

THEATRICAL ERAS GROUP PROJECT (200 points)

You will be arranged into groups for our section on theatre history. You will be expected to teach the class about your topic (a historical era in theatre). It will be required for you to divide the work between you, each presenting an aspect of the theatrical era.

PRODUCE A PLAY FINAL PAPER AND VISUAL PROJECT (100 for paper, 100 for presentation, 200 points total)

In your final project you will be required to select a play of your choosing and imagine that you are the director/producer for that show. Why did you choose this play? What is your concept? How is it different from past productions? You will compose a 5-7 page paper and an accompanying visual component (i.e. a model of the set design, a powerpoint of your concept).

MIDTERM (100 points)

A multiple choice exam worth 100 points on your knowledge of theatre based on the first half of the class, both the reading, in class lectures and guest speakers.

FINAL (200 points)

A multiple choice exam worth 200 points on your knowledge of theatre based on the second half the class, both the reading, in class lectures, and group presentations.

CLASS PARTICIPATION (100 points)

Attendance and participation is 100 points of your grade. Please be sure to attend class, arrive on time, having done the reading and ready to listen and participate. It is up to my discretion on whether or not you seem engaged and contributing to the conversation in class.

EXTRA CREDIT

Occasionally extra credit will be offered. You will be notified of any opportunities verbally in class, you must attend to receive this news.

This course is out of 1000 points. See the grade/points breakdown below.

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
925-1000	93-100	A
895-924	90-92	A-
885-894	88-89	B+
825-884	83-87	B
795-824	80-82	B-
775-794	78-79	C+
725-774	73-77	C
695-724	70-72	C-
675-694	68-69	D+
625-674	63-67	D
595-624	60-62	D-
0-594	0-59	F

COURSE SCHEDULE

- September 5** Instructor Absent. Go over syllabus with Mr. Terrell Sledge.
Please make sure you get your text book from the book store.
Homework: Read Chapter 1 What are Theatre and Drama?
Prepare discussion questions/answers
- September 10** Chapter 1 What are Theatre and Drama?
Homework: Read Chapter 2 Dramatic Structure
Prepare discussion questions/answers
- September 12** Chapter 2 Dramatic Structure
Homework: Read Chapter 3 Dramatic Style and Genre
Prepare discussion questions/answers
- September 17** Chapter 3 Dramatic Style and Genre
Homework: Read Chapter 4 Architecture and Space
Prepare discussion questions/answers
- September 19** Chapter 4 Architecture and Space
Visit the Salomon Theatre
Homework: Read Chapter 5 The Playwright

	Prepare discussion questions/answers
September 24	Chapter 5 The Playwright Homework: prepare questions for guest speaker
September 26	Guest Speaker Rachel VanWormer Turn in questions Homework: Read Chapter 6 The Actor Prepare discussion questions/answers
October 1	Chapter 6 The Actor Homework: prepare questions for guest speaker
October 3	Guest Speaker Wil Bethmann Turn in questions Homework: Read Chapter 7 The Director Prepare discussion questions/answers
October 8	Chapter 7 The Director Homework: prepare questions for guest speaker
October 10	Guest Speaker Anthony Methvin Turn in questions Homework: read Chapter 8 The Designers and Supporting Artists Prepare discussion questions/answers
October 15	Chapter 8 The Designers Homework: prepare questions for guest speaker
October 17	Guest Speaker TBD Turn in questions Homework: read Chapters 9 The Business Side of Theatre & 10 The Audience and the Critic Prepare discussion questions/answers
October 22	Chapters 9 The Business Side of Theatre & 10 The Audience and the Critic Brief overview of what will be on the test Study for your midterm
October 24	MIDTERM Homework: read Chapter 11 Theatre's Beginnings
October 29	Chapter 11 Theatre's Beginnings Groups assigned for theatre history presentations Homework: read Chapter 12 Medieval Theatre

October 31	Chapter 12 Medieval Theatre Homework: read Chapter 13 Renaissance Theatre
November 5	Chapter 13 Renaissance Theatre Election Day, go vote! Homework: read Chapter 14 Seventeenth- and Eighteenth Century Theatre
November 7	Chapter 14 Seventeenth- and Eighteenth Century Theatre Homework: read Chapter 15 Nineteenth- to Twenty-First Century Theatre
November 12	Chapter 15 Nineteenth- to Twenty-First Century Theatre
November 14	Group presentations
November 19	Group presentations
November 21	Group presentations Final Project Assigned PLNU Play Critique due next class
November 26	PLNU Play Critique Due
November 28	Thanksgiving! Enjoy the time off. Remember that we live on stolen land.
December 3	Physical Theatre (no reading required)
December 5	Physical Theatre: Pina Bausch
December 10	Pina Bausch cont'd
December 12	FINAL PAPER AND VISUAL PROJECT DUE <i>Bring in physical copy</i> Last day of class!
December 17	No Class Outside Play Critique due (can be turned in any time during semester)
December 19	FINAL EXAM 10:30am - 1:00pm