



Department of Communication and Theatre
TRE101 section 2 , Introduction to Theatre
2 Units

Spring Semester, 2016

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| Meeting days: Tues., Thurs. | Professor: Dr. Ronda Rice Winderl |
| Meeting times: 10:00-10:50 | Phone: 619-849-2687 |
| Meeting location: Starkey B 100 | E-mail: rwinderl@pointloma.edu |
| Final Exam: 5/7, Thurs. 10:30-1:00pm | Office location and hours: Cabrillo 201, MW 8:30-9:45 and other times 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 DESCRIPTION

This is a one-semester course designed to introduce you to the principles and practices of theatre. The content will primarily be explored through lecture and discussion, and you will be asked to take part in participatory activities related to the theatrical art. Though theatrical and dramatic elements are an integral part of every society (consider a presidential campaign, a basketball game, even a church service), this class makes a distinction between theatre as an everyday part of human function and theatre as a conscious form of art. What we will explore in this class is the art of theatre that has powerfully impacted societies from the beginning of recorded history.

This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of ***Seeking Cultural Perspectives***. By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the survey of human endeavors from a historical, cultural, linguistic and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression--both artistic and literary.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1) You will be able to list and discuss the dramatic elements of theatre (Aristotle's).
- 2) You will be able to identify the major genres and periods of theatre.
- 3) You will be able to critically examine stage performances by use of dramatic terms..
- 4) You will be able to participate in and contribute to the creation of a dramatic piece for the stage.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Cohen, Robert. Theatre, 10th paperback ed. >C<. McGraw publishing, ISBN: 9781308451503.
 Durrenmatt, Friedrich. The Visit. Perseus publishing, ISBN: 9780802130662
 Shakespeare, William. Much Ado About Nothing. Folger Shakespeare Library, ISBN: 9780743482752

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

| DATE | TOPIC | READING/ASSIGNMENT DUE |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1/14 | Course orientation and overview | Syllabus |
| 1/19 | Class introduction | |
| | What is Theatre? | Chapter 1 and 2 |
| 1/21 | What is a play? | Chapter 2 |
| 1/26-28 | The Ancients | Chapter 3 |
| 2/2 | The Role of the Critic/ Reviews | Chapter 16 |
| 2/4 | The Middle Ages | Chapter 4 |
| 2/9 | The Middle Ages | Chapter 4 |
| 2/11 | The Shakespearean Era | Chapter 5 |
| 2/16-18 | The Shakespearean Era | Chapter 5 |
| 2/23 | EXAM #1 (Chapters 1-5, 16) | |
| 2/25 | Discussion of/Quiz on <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> | |
| 3/1-3 | Royal Theatre | Chapter 7 |
| 3/6-14 Spring Break ! | | |
| 3/15 | The Actor | Chapter 12 |
| 3/17 | Designers & Technicians | Chapter 14 |
| 3/22-29 | Modern Theatre: Realism | Chapter 8/ |
| 3/31 | Modern Theatre: Antirealism | Chapter 9/ <i>The Visit</i> (quiz); |
| 4/5 | SceneFest Project Discussion | Potential scenefest script due |
| 4/7 | EXAM #2 (7,8,12,14, Much Ado, Visit) | Register groups/scripts |
| <i>And Then They Came for Me</i>- PLNU Salomon Theatre - 4/7-9,14,15at 7:00 pm, 16 at 2:00pm! | | |
| 4/12, 14 | SceneFest rehearsal/prep | |
| 4/19, 21 | SceneFest rehearsal/prep | Play response Due 4/19 |
| 4/26, 28 | 9:55 -10:55am SceneFest performances | Production Books Due Perf Day |
| 5/3 Tues. | 10:30 am-1:00pm SceneFest performances | |

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Prompt, consistent attendance will ensure your success. More than 2 absences will seriously impact your class participation for the course, and 3 late arrivals count as an absence. According to catalog policy, at 5 absences you may be de-enrolled from the course and the only excused absences are those approved by the Provost. We have so much terrific material to cover that we will need to start on time and need your full involvement in each class. Assignments, quizzes and tests are due and may be handed in/taken only on day/time assigned unless officially excused, in which case arrangements must be made ahead of time.

NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

2. Thorough reading of assigned texts evidenced through active class participation and discussion is essential. I will throw out leading questions and expect you to be ready to explain and comment on the material. Lively discussion is so much more memorable than lecture! There will be 2 exams over readings and material presented in class. Unannounced quizzes at 10:00am sharp will be given as needed to reward careful reading, prompt attendance, and enthusiastic response to the material. Bringing your book to class each session and taking careful notes are an essential part of preparation and participate

3. Attendance at and written response to a current theatre production will be required, the PLNU Salomon Theatre production of *And Then They Came for Me*. Students should budget \$10 for this ticket although ushering and a number of frugal options will be explained to fulfill part of this requirement. At least one evening film screening of a play studied in class may also be arranged and required.

The format of the responses will be according to the *MLA Style Manual* and will be two to three typed double-spaced pages (1" margins, font size: #12 Times New Roman). The response will examine all the pertinent elements of the production as discussed in class, incorporating and underscoring terms from class and assessing their application within the overall endeavor. Your ticket should be attached to the back of the response, which will account for 20% of your final grade. A sample production response and guide will be provided and discussed more fully in class.

4. *SceneFest*: As a final project, each student will participate in the staging and presentation of one production scene. Each scene will consist of a fairly structured cutting from a play developed as an ensemble project and should incorporate all the components of the process (i.e. students will be directors, actors, designers, stage managers, publicists, etc.). These are group projects and will require some time commitment outside of class, therefore, cooperation with the ensemble will be considered in grading. The group project is weighted at 20% of the course grade, but lack of participation in SceneFest means you will fail the course. SceneFest will be discussed more fully in class, but **all performances must be fully attended and evaluated.**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Cell phones must be disabled during class (no texting) and laptops/tablets used for note-taking only (in the front row and visible to instructor, wifi disabled.) Other use will heavily impact the class participation portion of your grade.

GRADE COMPUTATION:

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|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Exams (2) | 40% | 400 points |
| Live Performance Responses (1) | 20% | 200 |
| SceneFest | 20% | 200 |
| Attendance, Participation, Quizzes | <u>20%</u> | <u>200</u> |
| TOTAL | 100% | 1000 points |

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| GRADE SCALE: | |
| A=93-100 | C=73-76 |
| A-=90-92 | C-=70-72 |
| B+=87-89 | D+=67-69 |
| B=83-86 | D=63-66 |
| B-=80-82 | D-=60-62 |
| C+=77-79 | F=0-59 |

- A: Indicates excellent work that reflects thinking, creativity, individuality, and a very high level of intellectual application.
- B: Indicates good work that reflects a thorough understanding of theory but is lacking in individual thinking and creativity.
- C: Indicates work that reflects a satisfactory completion of the assignment as directed, but is lacking in thoroughness, individual thinking, and creativity.
- D: Indicates work that reflects a lack of understanding of theory and/or fails to fulfill the assigned tasks.
- F: Indicates work that reflects an inability or unwillingness to do the assigned task.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/and are accepted only at the beginning of the class session when they are due.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, 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. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. 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 following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students must request that academic accommodations by filing documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

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 student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (Note: each faculty member should choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). 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/ graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

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