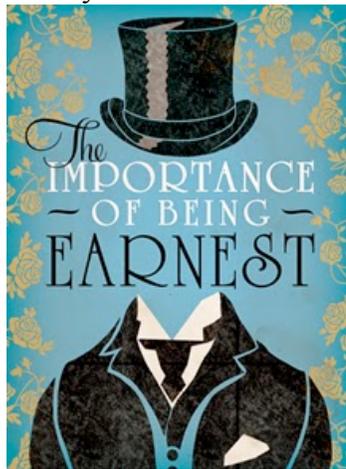
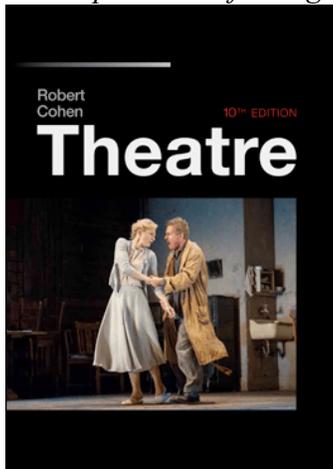


TRE 101: Introduction to Theatre

Fall 2015 Section: 1 T Th—11:00-11:55 Starkey B 100

Professor: Brian Redfern MFA, MTS
Office Location: Salomon 103
Office Hours: Make appointment via email
Phone: x2248
Email: bredfern@pointloma.edu

Texts: *Theatre* by Robert Cohen 10th edition
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde*



*The library has a few copies of all of *The Importance of Being Earnest* to check out. This play can be found online for free and there are also free versions available for e-readers such as the Kindle.

Overview

This is a one-semester course designed to introduce you to the principles and practices of theatre. Through lecture, student presentations, participatory activities, and performance attendance, the student will gain a basic understanding and appreciation of the theatrical arts. We will explore 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.

All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with documented learning disabilities who need accommodations should discuss options with the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the course. The ASC will contact professors with suggestions related to classroom strategies and necessary accommodations. Approved documentation must be on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will have an understanding of the elements of theatre from both historical and values perspectives.
2. Students will explore the societal effects (both historical and contemporary) of theatre.
3. Students will develop an understanding of the roles of the various participants in the theatrical art in order to gain an aesthetic appreciation.
4. Students will gain an appreciation of theatre as the seminal art form in its relationship to film, television, and radio.
5. Students will gain, to some degree, an experiential appreciation of the art of theatre.

Expectations for Student Work

All work is to be completed to the best of the student's abilities prior to the due date and submitted on time. **No late work will be accepted** with the exception of circumstances beyond the student's control, i.e. extreme illness or bereavement. A malfunctioning alarm clock is not a circumstance beyond your control. If you know you will not be in class, it is your responsibility to inform me as soon as possible so that you may turn in your work prior to the missed class session. If absent without prior arrangement on the day of a quiz, exam, or presentation, the student will not be able to make up the missed assignment. All written work completed outside of class must be typed and double-spaced. Please bring appropriate note-taking material everyday as well as your textbook.

Academic Honesty

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As stated 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. 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." See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

Assessment and Grading

Grades will be given based on the following scale:

A	94-100%	C	73-76.99%
A-	90-93.99%	C-	70-72.99%
B+	87-89.99%	D+	67-69.99%
B	83-86.99%	D	63-66.99%
B-	80-82.99%	D-	60-62.99%

C+ 77-79.99% F 59.9% and below
Final grades will be weighted as follows:

Final	15%
Midterm	15%
Group Presentation	10%
Scene-Fest	10%
Quizzes	15%
Performance Reviews	15%
Play Analysis	10%
Attendance & Participation	10%

Any unsubstantiated request for a grade change will result in the student's actual percentage being lowered by one letter grade. Your grade will be calculated according to the scores you earn on your assignments only. Do not ask for a change unless you feel there has been an error in scoring or in grade entry. I will enter grades in a reasonable time frame to keep you up to date. I do NOT round final grades up.

COURSE PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

Each class session will begin on time (We have very little time in this course and must be very conscientious in our use of it.). Though the class structure is primarily oriented toward lecture, I strongly encourage questions, ideas, and discussions. Take an active roll in the process and you will get far more from the experience. Take notes in class, I will not post PowerPoints online.

- 1) **Exams:** There will be two formal examinations, each worth 15% of the final course grade. The exams consist primarily of multiple choice and short essay questions. The multiple choice questions will be developed almost exclusively from the material in the text though some extra-textual material may apply. Missed exams cannot be made up unless prior arrangements were made.
- 2) **Quizzes:** There will be frequent, unannounced quizzes. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage you to keep up on the readings and to provide you with sample test questions. The questions will be taken from recent chapters and the readings due on the day of the quiz. Quizzes account for 15% of your final grade.
- 3) **Reviews:** Each student will be responsible for a written review of the PLNU (Salomon Theatre) fall semester play: *The Importance of Being Earnest* The format of the review will be two to three typed double-spaced pages (1" margins, font size: #12 Times New Roman). The review will critically examine pertinent artistic and craft elements of the production (as discussed in class) and will assess their effectiveness within the overall endeavor.

Students will also be required to see a minimum of one professional production off campus during the course of the semester and write a review of that production as well. San Diego is a very rich theatre city with many offerings year round and most theatres offer steeply discounted student tickets. If there is enough interest, I will put together a group trip to one of the major San Diego theaters for a production. Below

is a list of recommended theatre companies in the San Diego area.

1. **The Old Globe Theatre:** San Diego's largest professional theatre, offering a wide range of theatrical fare from classical works to pre-Broadway musicals.
2. **The La Jolla Playhouse:** Another large regional theatre mostly offering new works as well as pre-Broadway musicals.
3. **Broadway San Diego:** Brings in touring productions of Broadway Musicals.
4. **San Diego Repertory Theatre:** Mostly contemporary plays and musicals that have recently played in New York.
5. **Lamb's Players Theatre:** is a Coronado theatre company producing quality work from a wholesome perspective.
6. **Cygnets Theatre Company:** Located in Old Town, Cygnets produces edgy productions of contemporary plays and musicals. Often thought of as a "rising star" in San Diego Theatre.
7. **Ion Theatre Company:** VERY small theatre that produces off-beat and edgy, often dark works. **Make sure you look into what they are producing before you go and decide if it is for you or not.*
8. **Moxie Theatre Company:** Moxie produces work by female playwrights about contemporary issues.
9. **Mo'Olelo Theatre Company:** Mo'Olelo produces work by minority playwrights about contemporary issues.

Be advised that you should always look into what the play you are considering is about and what content you are comfortable with. The reviews will account for a total of 15% of your final grade. Guidelines for the reviews will be discussed and posted on Canvas. **Submit on Canvas.** You must also turn in a ticket stub to me separately for each review, or you can take a photo of yourself at the production with your ticket stub and embed the photo at the end of your paper.

- 4) **Literary Analysis:** Each student will read *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde and compose a written analysis of the play. The format of the analysis will consist of three to four typed double-spaced pages (1" margins, font size: #12 Times New Roman). Guidelines for the analysis will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas. Original topics may also be acceptable with prior consent of the instructor. The literary analysis will account for 10% of your final grade. **Submit on Canvas.**
- 5) **Scene-Fest:** Each student will participate in the staging and presentation of an original scene. Each scene will be an ensemble performance related to/based on current events and will be presented in the style of one period from theatre history. To the degree that we are able given the obvious restraints, we will incorporate all the components of the process (i.e. students will be directors, playwrights, actors, designers, etc.). These are group projects and will require some time commitment outside of class, therefore, cooperation with the ensemble will be considered in grading. This project is weighted at 10% of the course grade, but lack of participation in Scene-Fest will result in failure of the course. Scene-Fest will be discussed more in depth throughout the semester.
- 6) **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in all class activities and complete all assignments. Participation points will be earned through attendance, class

discussions, personal and group assignments, improvisation, and completed written work.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every class. Participation points will be given every session for attendance: three points for each full class, two points if tardy and zero points if absent. Any student missing more than **THREE** classes will be reported to the Vice-Provost with recommendation to be dropped from the course. Please be on time and plan on staying until the end. Students arriving late or leaving early **THREE** times will earn the equivalent of one absence. Once again, a student missing class for a legitimate reason should inform me as soon as possible prior to the absence. Absent students are responsible for knowing all material covered in class. Participation and attendance make up 10% of the final grade

- 7) **Group Presentation:** Students will participate in groups of five to create an in depth presentation for the class on a chosen topic. The topic will correlate with the assigned reading for the day; however, each group must extend the breadth of its topic beyond the pages of the textbook. Students will be graded on creativity, thoroughness, participation, and quality of presentation. This will be submitted on Canvas. Complete expectations and grading breakdown will be discussed early in the semester. The group presentation is worth 10% of the course grade. Questions from group presentations may appear on exams.

Extra Credit

There may be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester by helping on Salomon Theatre's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This includes helping to build and paint the scenery, working on costumes and or lighting. Please see me for details.

Daily Schedule

Date	Week	In Class	Required Reading for this day	Due
9/3 Th	1	Introduction to the course Overview of syllabus and expectations	Syllabus	
9/8 T	2	Class introductions Discussion of Group Presentations Groups Formed		Sign up for Group Presentations
9/10 Th	2	What is Theatre?	Chapter 1	
9/15 T	3	What is a Play?	Chapter 2	
9/17 Th	3	The Greeks	Chapter 3	Group 1 Presentation
9/22 T	4	The Greeks	Chapter 3	
9/24 Th	4	The Actor	Chapter 12	Group 2 Presentation
9/29 T	5	Acting Exercises		
10/1	5	The Middle Ages	Chapter 4	Group 3 Presentation

Th				
10/6 T	6	The Shakespearean Era	Chapter 5	Group 4 Presentation
10/8 Th	6	The Playwright	Chapter 13	
10/13 T	7	Playwriting Exercises		
10/15 Th	7	Midterm Review Session		
10/20 T	8	MIDTERM		Bring a #2 Pencil Exam is Scantron
10/22 Th	8	Asian Theatre	Chapter 6	Group 5 Presentation
10/27 T	9	Restoration (Royal) Theatre	Chapter 7	Group 6 Presentation
10/29 Th	9	Guidelines for Play Review		
11/3 T	10	The Role of the Critic	Chapter 16	Literary Analysis Due Submit on Canvas
11/5 Th	10	Designers and Technicians	Chapter 14	
11/10 T	11	Modern Theatre: Realism	Chapter 8	Group 7 Presentation
11/12 Th	11	Modern Theatre: Anti Realism	Chapter 9	Group 8 Presentation
11/17 T	12	The Director	Chapter 15	Group 9 Presentation
11/19 Th	12	Musical Theatre	Chapter 10	Group 10 Presentation
11/24 T	13	Scene Fest Rehearsal		PLNU Play Review Due Submit on Canvas
11/26 Th	13	No Class Thanksgiving Break		
12/1 T	14	Scene-Fest Rehearsal		
12/3 Th	14	Scene-Fest Rehearsal		
12/8 T	15	Scene-Fest		
12/10 Th	15	Scene-Fest		Professional Review Due on Canvas.
12/17 Th	16	FINAL Exam 10:30-1:00	Please note different start time	Bring a #2 pencil Exam is Scantron

Yes Brian,

I not only read the entire syllabus carefully, but I understand it in its entirety and have asked every question I can think of, and will not deny ever having seen it.

I understand that claiming at the end of the semester that I was unaware of what was expected of me will be fruitless.

NAME
(written legibly)

DATE

This form needs to be signed and personally handed to me BY THE END of our 3rd class on 9/10 in order to get class participation credit for the first three sessions.