

## TRE 101: Introduction to Theatre, 2 credit hours

Fall Semester, 2015, London Term

Professor: Dr. Ronda Rice Winderl

M W 1:00-3:20pm 8/10-9/9 + tba, Garden Room

Office Hours: MTW 10:15-11:15am or by appt.

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Phone: (emergency)

### 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.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** By the end of this course,

- 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 the dramatic terms and elements.
- 4) You will be able to participate in and contribute to the performance/production of a dramatic piece for the stage.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Cohen, Robert. Theatre, 9th ed. Mountainview, CA: Mayfield, 2008.

Shakespeare, William. Much Ado About Nothing. New Folger Library series.

### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:

*All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the instructor during the first two weeks of class and provide approved documentation and verification of need. The Academic Support Center is available to students for a variety of tutorial needs.*

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

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

### COURSE PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS:

1. Prompt, consistent attendance will ensure your success. More than 1 absence will seriously impact your class participation for the course, and 2 late arrivals count as an absence. Actually, since each session is compacted to cover more than a week's worth of material, full attendance is expected. 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 assigned unless officially excused, in which case arrangements must be made ahead of time.
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 will be given as needed to reward careful reading and enthusiastic response to the material. Bringing your book to class each session and taking careful notes are an essential part of preparation and participation.
3. Attendance at several and written response to a current theatre production will be required, including the group attendance for Much Ado About Nothing and Our Country's Good. At least one evening film screening of a play studied in class may also be arranged and required.

The format of the response 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 apply and underscore terms and concepts from class, examine all the pertinent elements of production as discussed in class, and will assess their effectiveness within the overall endeavor. The response paper will account for 20% of your final grade. A sample paper 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 be an 8-10 min. cutting selected from a play by an established playwright, and then developed as an ensemble project incorporating 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. Each student should bring to London a scene cutting from a play ( no Moliere or Shakespeare- verse is more difficult) which they would like to work on for Scenefest (3-5 char)

#### GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

- A: Indicates excellent work that reflects thinking, creativity, individuality, and a very high level of intellectual attainment. University level final draft writing is essential.
- B: Indicates good work that reflects a thorough understanding of theory but is lacking in individual thinking and creativity. University level final draft writing is important.
- C: Indicates work that reflects a satisfactory completion of the assignment as directed, but is lacking in thoroughness, individual thinking, and creativity. Writing acceptable but lacks polish and clarity.
- D: Indicates work that reflects a lack of understanding of theory and/or fails to fulfill the assigned tasks. Writing not at University standard.
- F: Indicates work that reflects an inability or unwillingness to do the assigned task.

Grading for this course will be determined in the following manner:

Exams (2)	40%
Live Performance Response Paper	20%
SceneFest	20%
Voluntary Participation & Attendance	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

#### COURSE SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT DUE</u>
	<b>8/8 Plautus and Euripides adaptations, Women of Troy,</b>	the Scoop Theate, 6:00-10:00pm
8/10	What is Theatre? A Play? <b>8/10 Much Ado About Nothing, Shakespeare's Globe,</b>	<b>Much Ado</b> due for Quiz, Chapters 1 and 2, 7:30pm
8/12	The Ancients and the Role of the Critic	Chapters 3 and 16
8/17	The Middle Ages	Chapter 4,
8/19	The Shakespearean Era <b>8/19 Shakespeare on Film Series: Shakespeare in Love! 7:30 or tba</b>	Chapter 5,
8/24	Review chapters 1-5, 16; Exam #1	2 Copies of review questions/answers; <b>EXAM #1</b> Globe discoveries assignment due
8/26	Royal Theatre, The Actor <b>8/27 Shakespeare's Globe tour and assignment</b>	Chapters 7 and 12:
8/31	Modern Theatre: Realism; The Director	Chapter 8 and 15
9/2	Designers & Technicians; SceneFest Review for exam 2 <b>9/3 Tour of the National Theatre complex (3 theatres)</b>	Chapter 14; SceneFest Project handout; Script due (7,8,12,14,15, <b>Much Ado</b> )
9/7	<b>EXAM #2,</b> <b>9/7 Our Country's Good, Olivier Theatre,</b>	<b>EXAM #2</b> <b>National Theatre, 7:30</b>
9/9	SceneFest begins, discuss <b>OCG</b>	<b>Response Paper Due (Our Country's Good)</b> Register groups/scripts; Class meets Lee Abbey, tba
9/24-10/2	Britain Exploration Tour! <b>Bizarre Bath, Henry V, Shakespeare historic sites, tour of Royal Shakespeare Theatres!</b>	
9/9-10/12	SceneFest rehearsal/prep	
10/12 or tba	SceneFest performances	<b>Production Books Due Perf Day</b>