

“Introduction to Theatre”
TRE 101, Section 3
Department of Communication & Theatre
Point Loma Nazarene University

Class Time: Tues & Thur 8:30am – 9:25am

Location: SB 100

Office Hours: By appointment

Final Exam: Thursday Dec.15th, 2016 7:30 – 10:00am

Instructor: Arnica Laurice, MFA

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PLNU MISSION STATEMENT

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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Cohen, Robert (2016). *Introduction to Theatre (10th Ed.)*, McGraw-Hill Education.
Additional TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the principles and practices of the theatre arts, and an exploration of how the theatre has powerfully impacted human societies from the beginning of recorded history. We will employ lectures, applied reading, discussion and participatory activities including group projects and required attendance of local theatrical performances to this end.

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

Through successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the role of theatre in relation to society during major periods and movements
- Identify the various practitioners who collaborate in the creation of theatre and summarize each of their contributions to the work
- Formulate and articulate an informed opinion to critically evaluate stage performances
- Collaborate with others in the creation and performance of a short piece for the stage

COURSE PROCEDURE

- You are expected to be familiar with all material in this syllabus.
- You must create a “Live Text” account at the beginning of the semester. <https://www.livetext.com/>
- All assignments are to be submitted by the beginning of the class session when they are due. Unless otherwise stated by professor in detailed assignment handout, no credit will be given for late assignments.
- Papers must be typed. Work should be proofread and free of errors, following MLA standard formatting, 10-12 point font size, single spaced, and all research materials properly cited. This on-line writing lab from Purdue is very helpful: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/>
As well, the Tutorial Center has people available to help with proofreading, etc., and the staff at Ryan Library can assist with research.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING BREAKDOWN

Your grade for the course will be based on the following breakdown:

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 30% | Class Preparation | Short assignments, pop quizzes and discussions on Canvas will be used to engage with assigned readings and promote greater student involvement in classroom learning. |
| 20% | Play Attendance & Reviews | Students will be required to attend and submit written reviews for two live theatre productions, chosen from a short-list of approved productions which will be provided by the instructor. More detailed information will be provided in class. |
| 25% | SceneFest | In groups, students will prepare, rehearse and present a short dramatic performance for the class. Students will practice the various "jobs" of theatre: writing, directing, scenic & costume design, as well as acting. More detailed information will be provided in class. |
| 25% | Final Research Paper | A final research paper will be submitted in lieu of an exam. Students will explore in more depth an aspect of theatre that has piqued their interest. A list of suggested topics, rubric and more detailed information will be provided in class. |

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

According to PLNU policy, the Grade Scale is as follows: (% to Letter):

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

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. You are expected to attend each class session and participate in a positive manner. Distracting or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the classroom and significantly affect your final grade.

Being on time and ready at the start of class is important not only to your instructor but to your fellow student. If you are late, please enter the classroom quietly. If you are late on a presentation day, you may not enter the class while a presentation is in progress.

Excused absences (University-sponsored sports, forensics or other activities) need to be brought to the instructor's attention in writing before the day(s) you will be absent. Any absences, excused or otherwise, mean you are responsible for finding out what you have missed, including any assignments that may be due before your next class. If absence is scheduled for the same time as you are scheduled for a presentation or exam, it is up to you to notify the instructor well in advance in order to coordinate alternative arrangements.

If you are absent from more than 10% of class meetings, the instructor has the option of filing a written report that may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20%, you may be de-enrolled without notice. See [Class Attendance](#) under Academic Policies in the undergraduate academic catalog. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, you will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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 result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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 Honesty](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

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 require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file 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 learning needs of the student. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, all of which prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology can be a powerful tool for learning, communication, and collaboration. However, it can also be distracting and interfere in other levels of human interaction and syntheses of course material. Please keep cell phones on silent during class. Electronic devices such as laptops, tablets and smart phones, may be used on a limited basis during class with instructor approval, but instructor reserves the right to monitor or eliminate their use or welcome in class.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number will be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member 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 [Education Records \(FERPA\) and Directory Information](#) in the undergrad student catalog.