

Exploring World Theatre: *All The World's A Stage*
ENG –175, Group 3
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SYLLABUS – Summer 2009

REQUIRED TEXT: Theatre, 6th Edition, by Robert Cohen

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To develop an understanding, and appreciation for the theatre as an art form, and as a creative process. To make the students aware of the many styles of theatre from ancient forms to the Musical Theatre. To have a command of the basic vocabulary of a working professional on the stage. To stage two different scenes from the works to be studied in the term in the capacity of the actor, or director. To use a theatrical vocabulary to interpret one professional stage performance, and write a short term paper about that experience. Finally, to demonstrate the art of the theatre, and its power within the community.

GRADING REQUIREMENTS:

The students will be graded on a 1000 point scale. Attendance is worth 250 points, and all students will begin with a credit of 250 points. Each session, (3 per weekend), missed will result in 50 points being deducted from the final grade. More than four sessions missed will result in a failing grade. Attending a professional theatre production and writing a (5) page paper is worth 250 points. The two scenes to be staged readings in class will comprise the Mid-term and Final exam requirement worth 200 points each. These scenes will be performed on the last period Sunday of Week #3 and #6. The student group reports on the readings are worth 100 points.

GRADING SCALE:

1000-900 = A, 899-800 = B, 799-700 = C, 699-600 = D, 599-0 = F

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

Be on time for all classes. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, laptops, and headphones. No talking during videos, or student performances. All class discussions should respect the opinions of others. Breaking the classroom concentration will result in ONE warning, and subsequent disruptions will result in 100 points being deducted from the final grade for each incident. Never hurt another actor in a scene, but remember that there is no wrong way to do anything creatively in the theatre. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. (See MSMC catalogue p.40-41) For Attendance, Learning Disabilities, and Academic Freedom refer to MSMC catalogue p.39, and p.104.

EXPLORING WORLD THEATRE

All The World's A Stage

WEEK #1

Theatre terminology, theatre direction, functions of various personnel, theatre games, mime exercises, divide class into groups, lecture on stage direction and blocking, the ancient Greeks and Aristotle's Poetics, view *Trojan Women*, or *Electra*.

WEEK#2

Theatre rituals and superstitions, students reports on Roman Theatre drama and structure, Italian Renaissance Drama, Neoclassical Drama, William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Johnson, and the Old Globe Theatre. Lecture on Comedia della Arte, Iambic Pentameter, and Elizabethan Drama. View *Julius Ceasar*, *Othello*, *Scaramouche*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet*.

WEEK #3

Student reports French Drama 1500-1700, German Drama 1740-1787, Goethe, Moliere, Ibsen, Chekhov, Zola, Synge, O'Casey, and stage lighting & scenery. Lecture on Realism & Irish Renaissance. Student Mid-Term scenes. View *Tartuffe* and *A Doll's House*. Discussion, and group meeting to select Final scenes.

WEEK #4

Student groups rehearse Final scenes, Students group reports on Modern Theatre, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Eugene O'Neill, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, and Moscow Art Theatre. Lecture on Stanislavsky and "The Method." View *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, *Steambath*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

WEEK #5

Student scene rehearsals. Turn in Theatre performance papers. Lecture on stage lighting, set design, and WPA. Student reports on Theatre in America 1948-1968, Theatre in Europe 1948-68, Theatre in Japan, Kabuki & Noh Theatre, Latino Theatre, South African anti-apartheid drama, and African American Theatre. View *A Raisin In The Sun*, and *Master Harold And The Boys*.

WEEK #6

Rehearsal of student scenes. Lecture on Musical Theatre from 1903-2000. Concept choreography, "Tin Pan Alley," tap dancing, Presentational styles, and signature shows such as *A Chorus Line*. View selections from *Dockstatter's Minstrals*, *Minsky's Burlesque*, *Little Johnny Jones*, *Ziegfeld Follies*, *Show Boat*, and *West Side Story*. View *Oklahoma*. Student Final scenes. Discussion and Video farewell.

WEEK #1

Session One:

Introductions, theatre games: name game, theatre terminology, (Chapter 1), theatre direction, divide students into groups, hand out scenes for staged readings.

Session Two:

Mime exercises, lecture on Ancient Greeks, (Chapter 3), Aristotle's Poetics, improvise *Medea*, read selections from *Medea*.

Session Three:

View *Electra*, starring Irene Papas. Discussion.

WEEK #2

Session One:

Students reports on Roman Theatre, Italian Renaissance Drama, Neoclassical Drama, Shakespeare, (Chapters 3 & 5). Theatre rituals, students demonstrate everyday rituals, students tell a story, student exercise *Rashomon* style.

Session Two:

Comedia della Arte, view scene from *Scaramouche*, lecture on iambic pentameter and Elizabethan Drama, improvise scene from *Hamlet*. View *Romeo and Juliet*.

Rehearsal of student scenes.

Session Three:

View *Hamlet*, starring Richard Burton

WEEK #3

Session One:

Student reports French Drama 1500-1700, German Drama 1700-1800, Goethe and *Faust*, Moliere, (Chapter 7). Lecture on Realism and Ibsen. Students brush up rehearsals.

Session Two:

Student staged readings, (Mid-Term). Discussion of scenes. View *Tartuffe*.

Session Three:

Student groups select next scenes and view *A Doll's House*. Discussion.

WEEK #4

Session One:

Student reports on Modern Theatre, Bernard Shaw, Anton Chekhov, Bertolt Brecht, Tennessee Williams, Oscar Wilde (Chapters 8 & 9). Lecture on Stanislavsky and "The Method." Group Theatre and the WPA.

Session Two:

Student rehearsals, view *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.

Session Three:

View *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Discussion

WEEK #5

Session One:

Student reports on Theatre about women, One Man or Woman shows, Eve Ensler, Lillian Hellman, August Wilson, Stephen Sondheim, Kabuki & Noh Theatre, and South African Anti-Apartheid plays, (Chapters 6 & 10). Lecture on stage make up, lighting, and scenery, theatre superstitions, 1950s “Blacklist.”

Session Two:

Rehearsal of student scenes. Turn in theatre papers. View *Vagina Monologues*.

Session Three:

Lecture on Athol Fugard, and view *Master Harold and the Boys*. Discussion.

WEEK #6

Session One:

Lecture on history of American Musical Theatre, concept choreography, “Tin Pan Alley,” tap dancing, Presentational style, and *A Chorus Line*. View *Jolson Story*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Ziegfeld Follies* (Streisand).

Session Two:

Lecture on theatrical turning points, and view clips from *Show Boat*, *Oklahoma*, *West Side Story*. Students brush up rehearsal.

Session Three:

Final scene performances. Discussion, and professor’s reel. Return papers.

