

Theatre Appreciation – THR 161.xxx
Sample Syllabus – Fall 2014 – Course Reference# XXXXX
DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL: School of Theatre

Instructor: (Instructor's Name)
Phone: **E-mail:**
Office: **Office Hours:**

Lecture Time and Place:

Catalogue Description: Intended primarily for non-theatre majors.

Objective: This course will expose students to works of drama and theatre through required attendance at play productions and reading of a variety of dramatic literature. Students will synthesize and interpret these works through written assignments, group projects, oral reports and discussion that will encourage critical thought and the development of intellectually defensible, conscientiously expressed personal opinion.

Required Texts:

Textbook: *Understanding Theatre* by WK Waters, 3rd ed.
Plays: *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
The Post Office by Rabindarath Tagore (available online)
Plays from SFA Mainstage Production Season (3-4)

Graded components:

1) Midterm Exam	15%
2) Final Exam	15%
3) Quizzes (5 @ 3 points each)	15%
4) Production Critiques (3 @ 10 points each)	30%
5) Group "Theatre Season" Project	15%
6) Participation and Attendance	10%

Final Grading: (0-59) F (60-69) D (69.5-79) C (79.5-89) B (89.5-100) A

Tests: A midterm and a final will be given covering the lectures and reading material. No makeup exams are given for unexcused absences. (See section on Attendance for what qualifies as an excused absence.) Exams will include multiple choice/short answer questions, and some short writing. This assignment supports the development of Core Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4, and of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Quizzes: Five Quizzes will be given covering the scripts and/or productions. No makeup quizzes are given for unexcused absences. This assignment supports the development of Core Objectives 1, 3 and 4, and of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 3 and 4.

Critiques: You will be required to attend *both* SFA Mainstage productions and one student production (at the Downstage Theatre). You will write a 2-3 page critique about each these

productions. Details about what to include in the critiques will be discussed in class. Each student will be given a card to obtain tickets at the box office well in advance of the productions. A student who loses this card will be required to purchase tickets at the student rate. This assignment supports the development of Core Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4, and of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Participation/Attendance: The participation grade consists of attending the two required theatre productions during the semester, attendance, and contribution to class discussions. It helps if I know who you are; if you are shy in class, e-mailing me questions or your thoughts will suffice. This assignment supports the development of Core Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4, and of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Three (3) unexcused lecture absences are allowed, after which a final grade reduction of 3% of your final grade will be applied for each additional absence. **As stated by School policy: (7) absences will result in an automatic failure of the course.** Only religious holidays, sponsored school events, and **documented** medical or personal issues may qualify as excused absences upon the instructor's discretion. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain any missed notes from a dependable classmate.**

It is the responsibility of the student to check in with the instructor after class if s/he arrives after attendance is taken, and the student will be marked tardy. **Two tardies = one absence.**

Group "Theatre Season" Project: Around the time of the 20th class session, students will be divided into groups of 3-4 students to complete the Theatre Season Project. Each group will develop a proposal to put together a theatrical "season" of at least three productions, designed to appeal to a specific theatre audience (children, regional, audiences with special interests, etc.) The final proposal will consist of:

- A "mission statement" of the company/season.
- A written short synopsis of each play (that might be used in advertising/marketing)
- A visual element (promoting either an individual production or the entire season); this could include a poster, a promotional video, television commercial, etc.
- A proposal for a special event (fundraiser, colloquium, Q+A, etc.) in conjunction with at least one production that is designed to reach out to the company's specific audience.
- An oral presentation in class (15 minutes) that explains and introduces all of the above materials to the class.

Students will be graded on completeness of project, originality, and collaboration (including a self-assessment by group members). This assignment supports the development of Core Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4, and of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Course Work: All course work must be done and turned in as indicated by the calendar. This includes tests, quizzes, papers, and other assignments. Tests and quizzes cannot be made up without an excused absence. **Papers and other assignments will lose 25% of your possible grade per day late; papers more than 48 hours late will only be accepted at the professor's discretion.**

A note about exams and quizzes: The instructor passes out quizzes and exams approximately two minutes after the class period begins. Quizzes will last five minutes, the midterm and final will last the entire class period (though it may not take you that long.)

Students who come in AFTER quizzes have been completed will not be given the quiz and will receive a zero (unless there is a legitimate medical or other excuse). Additionally, once the exams/quizzes are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in their work.

Evaluation Criteria:

Superior (A) – Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet requirements. This work is superior in every respect, and represents the highest level of achievement.

Above Average (B) – Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. Not only were all the basic expectations met, it exceeded expected quality levels.

Average (C) – Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect. The work showed basic understanding and mastery of the course material.

Below Average (D) – Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it does not fully meet course requirements. While there was merit to what was done, there were also deficiencies that meant the work did not fully meet the minimal expectations.

Failure (F) – Represents performance that fails to meet the course requirements and is unworthy of credit. This work shows serious deficiencies in regard to the expectations for the assignment.

Students with documented disabilities *must meet* with the instructor to arrange accommodations for that disability.

CORE OBJECTIVES:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared goal or purpose.
4. **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop basic understanding of dramatic literature, dramatic theory and criticism, and performance from multiple perspectives (supports objective #1)

2. Students will develop their abilities to analyze, write about, and discuss performance, both informally and through formal presentation (1, 2)
3. Students will learn functions of the various theatrical sub-disciplines and how they relate to each other in production, and the value and purpose of professional and artistic collaboration (3)
4. Students will learn a broad history of the theatre from ancient to modern, including non-traditional theatrical forms, theatre produced in non-Western cultures, and theatre for specific audiences (4)

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

(Class #)

#1	Introductions – Discussion of syllabus	
#2	Introduction to key concepts A Tour of the Theatre Building	READ: Syllabus Get the textbook
#3	What it means to appreciate How to Read a Play / Theatre Etiquette	READ: Chapter 1-3 Fill out Survey page 9
#4	How to Read a Play Theatre Etiquette	READ: Chapters 2-3
#5	The Actor/Audience connection Willing Suspension of Disbelief	
#6	Writing about Theatre Production Critique Instructions * CRITICAL THINKING instruction * COMMUNICATION SKILLS (Written) instruction	READ: Chapter 5-6
#7	Theatre as the Living Art Theatrical Spaces	READ: Chapters 17
#8	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Discussion <u>QUIZ ONE – A Raisin in the Sun</u>	READ: <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
#9	Tragedy, Comedy, and Genres	READ: Chapters 7-8
#10	Ancient Theatre / Classical Dramatic Theory	READ: Chapter 11
#11	Renaissance Theatre and Shakespeare	
#12	<u>QUIZ TWO – Mainstage Show #1</u> Realism and other “isms”	READ: <i>Stage Door</i> Mainstage Production – must attend
#13	Musical Theatre: Variety / Vaudeville	READ: Chapter 9
#14	Musical Theatre: Modern	
#15	Discuss Mainstage Production Review for Midterm	
#16	MIDTERM EXAM	<i>Mainstage #1</i> reviews due
#17	Naturalism, Absurdism and other “Isms”	READ: Chapter 12
#18	Theatre Around the World and Performance Studies *SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY instruction	READ: Chapter 13
#19	<u>QUIZ THREE – The Post Office</u> Discuss World Theatre and <i>The Post Office</i>	READ: <i>The Post Office</i>
#20	The Producer Group “Theatre Season” Project Assigned *TEAMWORK instruction * COMMUNICATION SKILLS (Oral and Visual) instruction	READ: Chapter 14
#21	The Playwright	

#22	The Director	READ: Chapter 15
#23	<i>PLAY #4</i> Discussion <u>QUIZ FOUR – Play #4</u>	READ: <i>Play #4</i>
#24	The Designer (Scenic/Lighting/Sound)	READ: Chapter 18, 20, 22
#25	The Designer (Costumes/Makeup)	READ: Chapter 19 + 21
#26	<u>QUIZ FIVE – Mainstage Show #2</u>	READ: <i>Mainstage Show #2</i> Mainstage Production – Must Attend
#27	The Art of Acting	READ: Chapter 16
#28	<i>Mainstage Show #2 – Discussion</i>	
#29	<u>GROUP PROJECTS DAY</u>	
#30	<u>GROUP PROJECTS DAY</u>	
#31	<u>GROUP PROJECTS DAY</u>	<i>Mainstage #2 and Downstage reviews due</i>

FINAL EXAM: Time, date, info listed here.

NOTE: Because the “Downstage” (student-directed) series varies on the calendar from semester to semester, details of when to attend those productions are not included in this sample syllabus. A complete syllabus would list those dates and times and due dates for the production reviews.