

COMM/HUM 2423 Introduction to Theatre
8:30-9:45 a.m. ♦ M-W ♦ HUGH 215

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| <i>Instructor:</i> | Russell A. Guthrie, Associate Professor of Communication | | |
| <i>Office:</i> | Hughes Strong Hall 221, telephone 580-349-1478 | | |
| <i>Office Hours:</i> | 10:30-11 & 2-2:30 (M&W), 9:15-10:15 (T&R), & 8:30-9:30 (F) | | |
| <i>Home Phone:</i> | 349-2245 before 9 p.m. | e-mail: | <i>rguthrie@opsu.edu</i> |

Course Objectives & Assessment Methods [T=pencil/paper instrument, P=performance]

By the end of this course you should be able to

- Give a brief history of the development of theatre. [T]
- Describe the roles of the director, playwright, actor, scene designer, costume designer, light designer, and tech director. [T]
- Characterize the differences between dramatic theatre and readers theatre. [T]
- Diagram the four basic organizations of theatrical space, and know associated terminology. [T, P]
- Construct a flat and create a basic lighting diagram. [T, P]

Course Description

“Introduces students to various areas of theater including history, acting, criticism, playwrights, and technical theater. Introduction to new trends in theater designed to give students a better knowledge and appreciation of theater. Creative dramatics and children’s theater will aid those students interested in education theater.” (*Gen. Cat.* p. 207 & 232)

Course Content

Material will be presented via lecture, discussion, performance, and reading. Lecture and discussion may touch upon or serve to further explain text material, but more often lecture material will not be covered in the text. You are responsible for all material and reading assignments as well as in-class handouts. Tests will cover both text and class materials.

Attendance is required at one off-campustheatre performance (probably Amarillo). Date and time will be announced. Attendance will be worth 10% of course grade. Student will be responsible for ticket cost and meal. University will provide transportation.

Course Grade

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

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|------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| playwright paper | = 15% | presentation | = 5% |
| tests | = 35% | final exam | = 20% |
| miscellaneous | = 15% | theatre attendance | = 10% |

Miscellaneous: anything which does not fall under the other categories, e.g., homework.

Bonus points may be awarded for attendance/participation at OPSU drama production(s).

Preparation & presentation of a scene, or active participation in an OPSU theater production may substitute for the playwright paper and presentation. Consult the instructor for the substitutions.

You will receive a ½ letter grade bonus if you have 100% class attendance for the semester.

Grading Policies

I utilize a 10% scale for grades: A=90%, B=80%, C=70%, and D=60%. When you are assigned a letter grade, the numerical equivalents are:

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|-----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| A+ = 100% | B+ = 89% | C+ = 79% | D+ = 69% | |
| A = 95% | B = 85% | C = 75% | D = 65% | F = 50% |
| A- = 91% | B- = 81% | C- = 71% | D- = 61% | |

Late assignments will normally not be accepted for unexcused absences. With extenuating circumstances an accepted late assignment will lose 10% per weekday late.

Due to the nature of the material, makeup quizzes are usually more difficult than the original. Any curve which might have been applied to the original test will NOT apply to makeup quizzes

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. Only required attendance at university sponsored activities will normally be excused. You have three *cuts* available to you without penalty--don't waste them. EARLY DEPARTURE FOR OR LATE RETURN FROM VACATION WILL NOT BE EXCUSED. Your grade may drop 5% with the fourth absence, and 5% for every absence thereafter. It is an **automatic F** with the eighth (8th) absence.

To **possibly** be credited with an excused absence you **must** fill out an absence form available on-line or from the instructor. If your absence is excused, work may be made up without penalty.

Within reason, it is better to arrive late for class than not at all. Please note, however, that for grading purposes three (3) late-to-class equal one absence.

Textbook (rental)

Brockett's & Ball's *The Essential Theatre* (7th edition)

Written Assignments

All work outside class must be typed or word processed, using standard 8½" x 11" paper. Good form, grammar, and spelling are expected. Use only one side of the paper.

Assignments requiring bibliographies must follow a standard format. The following are two of the most widely used on college campuses. You may choose either of the two. The MLA book is available on the instructor's reserve shelf in the McKee Library.

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009.

Final Exam

Final exam will be on Friday, May 14 at 8 a.m.

Classroom Policies

- Hats, caps, & all other head coverings are not to be worn during class [**this applies to both genders**].
- The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited.
- If you bring a drink to class, dispose of the container properly.
- If you leave during class, **don't return**. Exception: consult instructor and sit by door.
- Academic misconduct and plagiarism, as defined on page 74-75 of the General Catalog, may result in any or all of the following: a grade of zero on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and/or suspension from the university.
- Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic media are to be turned off or silenced during class. Use during class will be grounds for ejection. Use of any during testing will be considered academic dishonesty

Persons with Disabilities

"Requests for accommodation for disabilities should have been made prior to the start of the semester through the Vice President for Academic Affairs Office (academic, i.e. learning disabilities or the Vice President for Student Affairs (physical, i.e. mobility, vision, hearing). However, if you think you have a disability and are in need of special accommodations, the instructor will work with you to provide a reasonable accommodation to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform well in this class. Please advise the instructor (**and appropriate VP**) of such disability and the desired accommodation at some point before, during, or immediately after the first scheduled class period.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as "Verbatim copying of an entire paper or other assigned work, not writing or composing your own work, submitting anyone else's (student, friend, professional, web) work, structure, or ideas, in whole or in part, without adequate acknowledgement of the sources used to construct a paper or other assigned work, giving or obtaining answers on a test." The following includes, but does not limit, specific items that constitute plagiarism:

- un-cited ideas, structure, organization, data, or information;
- verbatim passage(s) or phrase(s) not in quotation marks and cited;
- submitting another student's paper or program or art or musical composition or design or machine, etc. as your own.
- submitting a paper (etc) written by a spouse, relative, roommate, parent, etc.,
- mosaic plagiarism, i.e. plagiarized passages included in the author's own work,
- submitting a paper (etc) so heavily edited by a tutor or anyone else that it is no longer the original student's work,
- submitting the same paper (etc) in two different classes without the knowledge and approval of instructor,
- using any source without citation, including web/internet sources,
- buying or downloading a paper (etc),
- having someone else do a substantial portion of the work for you - called by some improper collaboration,
- submitting any work which you were to have created but didn't as your own.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will be handled as per published university policies.

**For copies of class materials, go to
<http://www.opsu.edu/Academics/LiberalArts/Speech>**

Important Dates to Note

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| 01/20/10 | LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS OR CHANGE SECTIONS |
| 4/8/10 | LAST DAY to withdraw with a "W" |
| 04/23/10 | LAST DAY to withdraw with a "W" or "F" |

****This course description is subject to change at instructor's discretion.****