

BEYOND THE FOOTLIGHTS

Theatrical Tradition in Britain

Sponsored by
Cooperative Center for Study Abroad

Winter Break Program: 2018/2019

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Course Registration

Registration in “Beyond the Footlights: Theatrical Tradition in Britain” is handled in three differing ways. The experience is designed for you to receive three hours of undergraduate credit upon successful completion of the course. If you are a student enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN, you need to register for THEA 4690-001 International Studies in Theatre for the spring 2019 semester. If you are a student at one of the other CCSA consortium schools, you should contact your campus representative for information concerning course registration options at your home institution. If you are from another university outside of the CCSA consortium, you need to contact the CCSA office at Western Kentucky University (800-319-6015) and register with them to receive undergraduate credit.

Course Description

This course examines the rich heritage of theatrical production in Britain from the medieval to the current West End stage. Included will be backstage tours of British theatre and concert halls, as well as discussions with London theatre critic Matt Wolf. Emphasis will be placed on the difference between British and American theatre practice and production. This exploration will culminate in the viewing of selected theatre productions. In addition to the above, students will have the opportunity to explore the rich cultural heritage of London, which will provide inspiration for future artistic endeavors.

Textbooks

This course will not require a formal textbook. You are, however, required to read and/or listen to scripts/soundtracks of the following productions that we will see. While some of these may be difficult to obtain, you should be able to acquire the following scripts and soundtracks from various web sites. Below lists some possibilities where you can find them. I'm not advocating Amazon for this, merely offering an option.

<i>Switzerland</i> By Joanna Murray Smith	amazon.com (\$9.00) -read and explore reviews and historical accounts thru online search
<i>Tartuffe</i> By Moliere	amazon.com (\$5.99) -read and explore reviews and historical accounts thru online search
<i>The Book of Mormon</i> By Trey Parker and Robert Lopez	amazon.com (\$12.41) -read and explore reviews and historical accounts thru online search
<i>True West</i> By Sam Shepard	amazon.com (\$10.95) -read and explore reviews and historical accounts thru online search
<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i> By Henry Lewis and Henry Shields	amazon.com (\$8.79) -read and explore reviews and historical accounts thru online search
<i>The Book of Mormon Soundtrack</i> By Robert Lopez, Matt Stone, and Trey Parker	amazon.com (various formats and prices) -listen and explore reviews thru online search

Also, research the Internet for plot summaries and reviews of the pieces we'll be seeing in London. Bring this research with you as well.

Additional Money

Your CCSA package takes care of almost all of your needs for your class requirements. There are, however, a couple of items of note that require additional money on your part to fulfill your class obligations. CCSA is currently booking our theatre tickets for us. There is the possibility that one or more of the theatres are located outside of the 'central underground/tube (subway) district'. CCSA provides tube passes for the 'central tube district' (zones 1 and 2) which usually works for the vast majority of our trip. While most of our activities are within this area, there is the possibility that some might not be. Therefore, you might be required to 'upgrade' your tube pass on those rare occasions. Approximately 10 pounds additional spending money will be needed for this (if at all.) You will also see under item #8 in the Course Requirements that you are to see an additional West End or Fringe theatre show along with the five that CCSA is booking for us and one additional backstage tour along with the two CCSA is booking for us. The price of these can vary greatly depending upon what show/tour you choose to see. I would recommend an additional 60 to 110 pounds for this aspect of your class requirements. Feel free to speak to me with any questions about this.

Lectures

There will be few lectures in the traditional sense of the term. We will have a formalized class at the beginning of our stay outlining and discussing Aristotle's Poetics. This will be the basis for all other class activities. We will also have a lecture concerning Nell Gwynn just prior to our visit to the Theatre Royal at Drury Lane as well as a discussion on the Royal Lineage of England. At the end of our stay, we will meet again to discuss and clarify requirements for completing the course. Along with this, we will have the opportunity to discuss current British theatre with Matt Wolf, London theatre critic. Other 'walking lectures' will occur as we make our way around London. I will provide you with information relative to the events that we experience as they arise, and we will engage in the give and take discussion subsequent to the performance of each play. It is important that you feel free to ask questions about our theatre activities as we become involved with them.

Course Requirements

1. Read *Tartuffe* prior to your arrival in London. Write a three to five paper (double spaced, APA format) addressing the relevancy of the story to today's society. This is due at the first class meeting in London. Acquire and read/listen to the remaining scripts/soundtracks of the other shows we will be attending.
2. Attend performances of all five plays listed in the itinerary.
3. Attend all class meetings. They are designed to address course requirements and answer any questions pertaining to our time in London. Also, attend lecture with Matt Wolf, London theatre critic.
4. Actively participate in the various pre-show and post show discussions at a time designated by the instructor. These will usually happen immediately prior to and after each production. However, due to logistical hurdles, times and places will vary.
5. Keep a daily journal, detailing your experiences in London. This is due by February 15, 2019.

6. Attend all required activities. Dates and times will be listed on the final itinerary.
7. Write a five to seven page review of three of the five productions attended. The focus of each review will concentrate on the adherence to Aristotle's Poetics. We will go over the review format in one of our early class sessions in London. These reviews are due by February 15, 2017.
8. Attend one additional performances of either a West End or Fringe theatre show. This is in addition to the five that CCSA will arrange for us. Attend one additional backstage tour. This is in addition to the two that CCSA will arrange for us.
9. Write a detailed, seven to ten page paper based on your most memorable theatre related experience while in England. Consider this your Final Exam. Give it the proper attention and weight that it deserves! We will go over the format in one of our early class sessions in London. This paper is due by February 15, 2019.

Time Limit

All papers are due in my office by February 15, 2019!!!! Papers and reviews are to be in double spaced, APA format. Your journal can be handwritten in a more 'stream of consciousness' style. Journals will be returned to you at the address specified on your CCSA application. Mail your written assignments, in a single packet, to the following address (for your own peace of mind, I suggest sending your assignments via certified mail in order to obtain documentation of its delivery):

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Evaluations

Evaluation of the various activities is weighted in the following manner:

Discussions and attendance at required events	10%
Written reviews and pre-trip paper (10% each)	40%
Journal	20%
Final Paper	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Grading

The grading scale is as follows:

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
Below 60%	F

Academic Integrity

Simply put, cheating will not be tolerated. Any student found cheating on a project, etc., will receive a zero for the work in question and be referred to the appropriate affiliated Dean of Students for sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. Submitting the work of another person as your own is a blatant form of cheating. Submitting the written work of another as your own is plagiarism. Cheating is not limited to an individual who may feel it necessary to use unauthorized materials or to look on the paper of another during a quiz, exam, or even a project, but also includes any other person who assists or helps to further an act of cheating.

Attendance Policy

You are required to attend all scheduled events/programs. Unexcused absences for major events such as day trips, backstage tours, theatre performances, etc., will result in a 10% deduction from your final grade for each offence. Unexcused absences for all other events such as lectures, post-show discussions, etc., will result in a 5% deduction from your final grade for each offence.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with the instructor immediately. Students should also contact their individual campus Office of Disabled Student Services as well as the CCSA main office with questions about such services at least one month prior to the starting date of our program. Before any accommodations may be made, the Office of Disabled Student Services from the home institution must verify the nature of the disability and recommend the specific measures that will effectively accommodate the student's needs.

In addition to the following itinerary, you are all invited to join me on all non-scheduled adventures we may have! A centralized message center will be set up for just this purpose. Check it daily for further information.

***** Itinerary to Follow*****