

Theatre Appreciation: New York Theatre

Syllabus: Winter 2024

Updated 12/28/23

Course No: THEA 151-880
CRN: 13279
Credit Hours: 3
Destination: New York City

Instructor: David Young
Trip Co-Leader: Carol Jordan

Course Description: A study of the literary, historical, and creative aspects of the theatre. It is designed to develop an understanding and appreciation of the art of theatre from the point of view of the audience.

Common Learning Goals, THEA 151:

With the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Use appropriate vocabulary for the description and critical analysis of dramatic and theatrical works. You should also be able to identify the major elements, approaches and terminology used in contemporary theatrical practice.
- 2) Demonstrate the ability to analyze dramatic literature on the page and/or in performance for theme, genre, and dramatic structure, as well as to evaluate the production choices made by theatre artists in specific cultural, political and social contexts using a variety of sources and evidence.
- 3) Analyze how social, cultural and historical contexts have influenced theatre in various cultures and time periods.
- 4) Explore how theatre and theatre artists have challenged, supported or shaped social values, political systems and aesthetic practices in various cultures and time periods.
- 5) Identify common themes, ideas and artistic approaches in theatre from a range of periods and cultures, and examine how these issues as well as newer concerns are currently being addressed by attending and analyzing live theatrical performances.

Required Text: You should consider the shows we will be seeing to be your chief text for this class. There will be additional reading assignments as well. Prior to departure, we will read several articles and/or chapters on topics pertinent to the trip. You will also read at least one of the plays we are seeing. There may also be other reading assignments posted to Blackboard before we leave for New York. These readings will provide context for our explorations and provide practical travel tips.

Attendance: We will have class meetings at the hostel most mornings of the trip. Attendance at these is required. We will also attend eight theatre productions while in New York. These are included in the cost of the trip and attendance is required, as well. Additional events such as backstage tours, after-show discussions, and trips to museums, are also planned. Attendance at all classes, shows, and other events is mandatory, unless they are marked as optional on the trip itinerary. If you miss a class meeting, show, or other required event without a suitable excuse, and it better be good, your

final grade will be docked by the following percentages:

- 1 absence - 5% of your total points earned during the semester
- 2 absences - 15% of your total points earned during the semester
- 3 absences - 30% of your total points earned during the semester
- 4 or more unexcused absences – F

This penalty is in addition to any lost points for participation, discussion questions, or presentations due to an unexcused absence.

Excused Absences: Exceptions to the above policy will only be made in cases of serious illness or emergency. These exceptions will be approved only at the instructors' discretion. It is possible that exceptions to this policy may be made prior to departure, upon discussion with the trip leaders. Please speak to us right away if you think you may have a legitimate reason for missing a show, class, or other trip event.

Grading: Grading will be based on evaluations of your attendance and participation at shows, after-show discussions, and class meetings as well as your scores on quizzes, small research assignments and your final paper. The following point values are approximate and may vary if the number of required performances changes. You will always be notified beforehand of significant changes.

Categories	Approximate Point Value	Approx. % of Total Grade*
Participation / Discussion	150 pts.	30 %
Pre-Show Presentation	150 pts.	30%
Quizzes & Misc. Assignments	50 pts.	10 %
Final Paper	150 pts.	30 %
	500 pts.	

Grade Components: What follows is a quick review of the major components of your grade. More detailed explanations of the specific assignments will be given to you at the appropriate time during the semester.

Participation: To earn full points in this category you must be engaged at every required event. This includes participating appropriately in class discussions, tours, talkbacks, and other events. You are expected to be curious, collaborative, supportive of your fellow travelers. Please listen carefully to your classmates and engage productively with their ideas. Disagreement is fine, disrespect is not. Proactive communication with the trip leaders is also an important component aspect of your grade for participation.

Things that will hurt your grade in this category: Skipping class meetings or events (you can't discuss an excursion or performance you missed!), coming in late, or leaving early. Sleeping, texting, surfing the internet on your phone, using social media, or doing anything else that distracts you from the class, performance, or event you are attending.

Pre-Show Presentations: Prior to departure you will be assigned a topic to present at one class meeting. Details will be provided in Blackboard.

Quizzes and Miscellaneous Assignments: This category covers the points earned on quizzes other small research assignments intended to help you prepare for this trip and better understand the shows you are seeing.

The Final Paper: A final paper will ask you to reflect on the productions you saw and draw connections between them. Detailed instructions will be provided on Blackboard. This will be due by Tuesday, January 16th at noon.

Make-up and Late Work: Grades for late quizzes, homework and smaller assignments will be reduced by up to 5% for every day they are late. Major projects may be reduced by as much as 10% for every day they are late. I also reserve the right to alter the requirements of any make-up assignment or quiz. (In other words, my make-up work is usually harder than the original.)

Physical Requirements: This can be a strenuous trip. New York is a pedestrian city and participants should be prepared to walk a few miles per day. There are visits to museums and cultural sites as well as daily trips to the theatre. Participants are often at the theatre late into the night and then up the next morning by 9:00 or 9:30 for class meetings. Also, please keep in mind we will be travel around, and often outside, in New York in January. The weather can be very cold and wet. You want a study winter coat, hats, gloves, lots of layers, and comfortable water-proof shoes.

WKU Student Code of Conduct: All trip participants are required to read and agree to abide by the WKU Student Code of Conduct while on the trip. You will sign a form attesting to this. Violating the Code of Conduct may mean immediate dismissal from the program. Should you be dismissed during the trip, you will be responsible for the cost of your return travel. Please note these policies, in particular:

Illegal Drugs: WKU maintains a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, sale, exchange, or distribution of illegal drugs by anyone participating in or traveling with a WKU Faculty-Led program. A violation of this policy would mean immediate dismissal from the program.

Alcohol Use: Participants below the age of 21 are strictly prohibited from consuming alcohol while on the trip. A violation of this policy would mean immediate dismissal from the program.

COVID-19: All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. This should be done 14 days prior to departure. Students are responsible for any costs of testing, medication, isolation, or treatment as the result of a positive Covid-19 diagnosis while on the trip. In certain cases, the student may be asked to return home at their own expense. We highly recommend masking if you feel there is any possibility of infection. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

ADA Accommodation: In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the [Student Accessibility Resource Center](#) located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Inclusion: Western Kentucky University is committed to ensuring all members of our campus community have access to equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. Consistent with our campus purpose statement and creed, this classroom will be a respectful space, welcoming all sexes, races, ages, national origins, ethnicities, gender identities/labels/expressions, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, faith/non-faith perspectives, income levels and socio-economic classes, political ideologies, educational backgrounds, primary languages, family statuses, military experiences, cognitive styles, and communication styles. If at any time during this course you are excluded or feel a sense of alienation from the course content, please feel free to contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

Title IX: Sexual Misconduct and Assault: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

AI Tools Prohibited: We want to know your thoughts, not Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the [WKU Student Code of Conduct](#).

And Finally: We reserve the right to make reasonable changes in the syllabus, particularly to the schedule, at any time. This is to tailor the course to your needs and to remain flexible should unforeseen circumstances arise. Significant changes will be given to you in writing. Any schedule changes will be announced with adequate warning, so they do not adversely affect preparation times.

Additional Resources and Information:



[Academic Integrity](#)



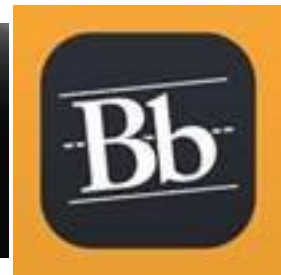
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