

# THEATRE APPRECIATION 101

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Spring 2017

**DAYS & TIME:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** HA 105  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Amanda Profaizer  
**OFFICE:** HAAS Fine Arts Center 172  
**OFFICE HOURS:** M, W, F 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Or by appointment  
**PHONE:** 715-836-3432  
**E-MAIL:** profaiaj@uwec.edu

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Theatre Appreciation is designed to introduce non-theatre major students to a general survey of dramatic principles and theatrical conventions. The course content is designed to increase the student's awareness of the performing arts and their impact on society. The major fields of dramatic art are examined through historical perspective, the functions of theatre personnel, and practices of the contemporary stage. This course fulfills the Breadth Creative Arts general education requirement.

## REQUIRED READING & MATERIALS

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- ❖ The Art of Theatre, A Concise Introduction  
ISBN: 9781111348311
- ❖ 3x5 Cards
- ❖ iClicker ( For all technical help/problems you need to contact the Help Desk)
- ❖ Our Town By Thornton Wilder (D2L)

## OBJECTIVES

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Upon successfully completing this course, students should expect to acquire the following knowledge and/or skill set:

- ❖ The ability to answer the following questions:
  - Define theatre and why it exists;
  - Is theatre still relevant?
  - What are the current trends in American Theatre?
- ❖ Development of a personal appreciation of theatre as an audience member, and the ability to express a knowledgeable critical style when addressing a theatrical production.
- ❖ Understanding of the complex relationship between live performance and society.
- ❖ The ability to describe and understand the collaborative and creative processes undertaken by the different roles and jobs of theatre personnel.
- ❖ The ability to identify basic tasks associated with a live campus production

## **OFFICE HOURS**

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Office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. Students are welcomed and encouraged to meet with me prior to turning in any assignments to review their work, to discuss their standing in the class, or to ask for clarification on any points made in discussion or lecture. However, I will NOT review content missed for a class you choose not to attend. Nor will I provide any student with any type of notes, outlines, or PowerPoint presentations for unexcused absences. It is up to your fellow classmates to provide you with any notes if they choose to do so.

## **LEARNING GOALS OF UWEC**

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The UW-Eau Claire Liberal Education (LE) Core curriculum serves as a strong foundation for all of our academic programs. Our LE Core embodies the Power of [AND] in its design. It has been developed to ensure that you acquire the knowledge AND skills AND responsibility that you will need to actively engage in a global society. Through meeting the requirements of the LE Core you will develop the ability to think critically, creatively and independently. You will learn to integrate and apply your knowledge and develop the values essential to becoming a constructive global citizen. The outcomes below will empower you and prepare you to deal with complexity, diversity, and change in multiple settings. They will also develop highly marketable skills and lead to life-long learning and civic engagement.

Knowledge Outcome 3 (K3): Humanities.

Use knowledge, historical perspectives, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation, and the standards of evidence appropriate to the humanities to address problems and explore questions

## **IN-CLASS EXERCISE**

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During the first week of class, we are watching the film *Sweeney Todd* by Stephen Sondheim. Following the film, we will have a detailed in-class discussion of themes, theatrical elements, plot, characters, etc. Based on this discussion and each student's interpretation of the film, students will write their first critique using an outline and rubric provided by the instructor.

## **INCLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

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Theatre 101 is not a straight lecture course. I expect students to participate in class discussions and activities. There are several ways that you will be graded for participation that includes:

- ❖ Note cards – Every Monday students will need to bring a 3x5 card to class that lists one interesting point or topic from the reading assignment from the prior week, along with one question for the instructor or the class. Other requirements include:
  - Must be a 3x5 card.
  - Must include your name and the Chapter from the textbook you are referencing.
  - Must be written in a legible manner.
- ❖ Classroom Discussions – Being a part of the class is important. Students must come to class prepared to learn and ready to participate in classroom discussions.
- ❖ In-Class Assignments/Activities – Throughout the semester, there are several in-class assignments and activities that provide ample opportunity for students to participate and provide questions or comments.
- ❖ In-Class iClicker Assignments/Activities – There will be a short iClicker assignment every

Wednesday and Friday these questions will come from in class discussions, readings, and videos. You will need to bring you iClickers EVERYDAY.

## **DREAM BOX CREATIVE PROJECT**

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For this assignment, students will create a Dream Box, similar to a “Diorama” that you may have created in grade school. I will go over a detailed example and will be sending around a signup sheet during the first week of class. Requirements for the Dream Box include:

1. Must be a box of some form.
2. You must utilize the elements of design that will be presented in detail during regular lecture. This includes the technical use of line, shape, color, size, texture, and scale.
3. The box, combined with the elements of design will be used to tell a story of an dream or an experience you have had.
4. Students will present the box and its associated story to the class. There will be a worksheet that you will need to be filled out and turned in the day that you present. You will be graded on your
  - ❖ Creativity (Originality of the presentation)
  - ❖ Emotion (Does the emotional quality match the dream’s?)
  - ❖ Intention (Have you conveyed what you intended?)
  - ❖ Execution (Quality of construction and craftsmanship?)
  - ❖ Use of Elements of design
5. Students will present the box and its associated story to the class. Be creative and have fun with this assignment.

## **LAB HOURS – “BACK STAGE”**

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Each student must log a total of **2** lab hours in the costume studio for the semester. A signup sheet will be available during the second week of class. The lab hours are designed to give students hands on experience working on a current UWEC theatre production. Attendance to the lab hours that you sign up for is mandatory.

## **QUIZZES**

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There will be one quiz every Monday at the beginning of class throughout the semester, using your iClickers. The quizzes will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The questions will be formulated from reading assignments found in the course textbook.

## **CURRENT EVENTS**

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For this assignment, you will locate a current report or article that pertains to theatre or entertainment news and present your findings, along with a completed worksheet that I will provide. A copy of the article and the worksheet will be due on the date that you have signed up for. I will send around the signup sheet the first week of class.

## **READING & OUR TOWN PROJECT**

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You will be required to read the play, *Our Town*. There will also be a project assignment, essay questions, and in class discussion of content and themes. You will find the play on D2L.

## **“WOMEN IN HOLLYWOOD”, “SING FASTER”, “AUGUST WILSON” AND “WAR HORSE”**

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You need to watch these four films outside of class. There will also be essay questions and in class discussions of their content and themes. There is a links and essay questions on D2L. You will submit your essays via Drop box.

## **FINAL EXAM**

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The final exam is cumulative (covering material from the entire semester) and will include questions from the course textbook, lecture, live performances, classroom discussion, and guest lectures. The format for the final is a combination of multiple choice, short answer, matching, and short essays.

## **LIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCES & CRITIQUES**

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Throughout the semester, students are expected to attend live performances. Students must attend a total of **three** live performances sponsored by the UWEC Theatre Department. You **MUST** see *Kingdom Come* and *The Tempest*, and the third live performance can be chosen from the list of shows under Critique 3 below.

- ❖ Requirements for live performance
  - Written Critique
  - Ticket
  - Program
  - Quiz/Essay (in class)

Responsibility for obtaining tickets and attending performances lies solely with the students. The cost of a ticket is \$10.00 and can be purchased in the service center in Davies. If you have any questions please see me during regular office hours.

### **❖ UWEC SPONSORED PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:**

#### **Critique 1**

- **Production:** *Kingdom Come*
- **Performance Dates:** **March 1-3 & 6-10** at 7:30 p.m. **March 11** at 1:30 pm
- **Location:** Riverside Theatre

#### **Critique 2**

- **Production:** *The Tempest*
- **Performance Dates:** **April 26-28, May 2-4** at 7:30p.m. **April 28&29** at 1:30p.m.
- **Location:** Riverside Theatre

### Critique 3 (Choose one of the following):

- **Production:**           **One Act Festival**
- Performance Dates:   **May 10-12** at 4:00 & 7:30
- Location:                Riverside Theatre
  
- **Production:**           **UWEC TYA**
- Performance Dates:   **May 4-6@4:00 & 7:30**
- Location:                Thea 190

### **ATTENDANCE & TIMELINESS**

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Students are expected to attend and arrive on time to each class. You have 3 unexcused absences. After 3 your grade will be dropped half a letter grade. Excused absences you will need to give me in advance documentation for your absences. Attendance is mandatory. **Communication** is the key to success in this course!! Please arrive on time and let's have fun. The last day to drop this course with no record is February 9th.

### **PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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Cheating is not a small issue. There are severe consequences to even the "mildest" forms of academic dishonesty. Including, but not limited to, automatic failure of the course, probation, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

### **ACADEMIC FREEDOM & COURSE CONTENT**

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This course may deal with subjects, ideas, acts, and imagery that some students may find offensive or objectionable. There may be opinions expressed that conflict with individual students beliefs. While every attempt will be made to respect students' beliefs and values, this class will engage the issues and avoid censorship. The classroom will be a neutral space for discussion and debate in which no idea, word, thing, or image will be off limits to study and discussion (so long as it is not gratuitous). When studying theatre, it is vital to contemplate the expressions of the human condition in all its beauty, ugliness, and complexity. In this course you may be exposed to different cultures and different ideologies from your own.

### **CIVILITY**

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For questions regarding UWEC policies on Civility, please go to <http://www.uwec.edu/Civility/classroomhelp/>

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), Centennial Hall 2106. Please contact the SSD as early in the semester as possible. Please be aware that any instructor is unable to provide any accommodations prior to coordination with the

SSD. For questions regarding SSD, go to <http://www.uwec.edu/ssd/>

**BREAKDOWN OF AVAILABLE COURSE POINTS**

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ASSIGNMENTS	TOTAL	POINTS	POINTS
Quizzes/ In class	12 Quizzes	120	20%
Participation	30 In class	135	
Sweeney Todd	1	55	25%
Kingdom Come	1	55	
The Tempest	1	55	
Critique 3	1	55	
Note Cards	12	50	5%
Final Exam	1	100	10%
Back Stage	1	100	10%
Dream Box	1	100	10%
Woman In Hollywood	1	25	10%
Sing Faster	1	25	
August Wilson	1	25	
The War Horse	1	25	
Our Town Project	1	50	5%
Current Event	1	25	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>100%</b>

**LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENTS**

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POINTS	GRADE
1000 – 940	A
939 – 900	A-
899 – 870	B+
869 – 830	B
829 – 800	B-
799 – 770	C+
769 – 730	C
729 – 700	C-
699 – 670	D+
669 – 630	D
629 – 600	D-
599 >	F

**INCOMPLETE GRADES**

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Only illness or extenuating circumstances (usually family concerns) requiring the student to be absent from campus for a lengthy period will be reasons for granting an incomplete grade. NOT poor performance. See UWEC policy for any questions regarding incomplete grades.

## **FINAL NOTES/RULES ABOUT THIS COURSE**

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- ❖ No use of cell phones, ipods and ipads in class. FOR REALS! If I see you with your phone I will ask you to leave my classroom.
  
- ❖ Respect your fellow classmates and remember this room is a safe place.
  
- ❖ See the Dean of Students webpage regarding attendance, incomplete grades and civility policies. <http://www.uwec.edu/DOS>
  
- ❖ 10 things that require zero talent
  - Being on time
  - Work ethic
  - Effort
  - Body language
  - Energy
  - Attitude
  - Passion
  - Being coachable
  - Doing extra
  - Being prepared