

THEATRE 201: APPRECIATION OF THE THEATRE

Fall 2018

<u>SECTION 5</u> Tuesday 8:00 – 9:15	<u>SECTION 6</u> Thursday 8:00 – 9:15	<u>SECTION 4</u> Thursday 9:30 – 10:45
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INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor

Peter Wood

Email

pcwood@olemiss.edu

Office Location & Hours

Isom 204

I will not check email between 5pm – 7am.

I may check email over the weekends sporadically, but if you email me after 5pm on Friday, you may not get a response until Monday morning.

You must email with the following subject line:

LastName-201-SectionNumber-Subject

This would look like the following:

Smith-201-5-Quiz Score

If you do not email with the proper formatted subject line, I may not see your email in a timely fashion. I will also ask you to send me another email with the proper format.

I will be sorting my email based on this section of the subject line: -201-5- so don't forget the dashes and use your correct section.

Office Hours:

Tues 9:30 – 11:30

Wed 8:00 – 12:00

If you cannot meet during my posted office hours, email me and we can schedule another time.

You do not need to make an appointment if coming to my posted office hours.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Description

Theatre has been around in various forms for thousands of years. It draws audiences by the millions in busy cultural centers like New York, Tokyo, and London. It has been an important part of public life, from the Greek agora to the Elizabethan court to current shows like *Fun Home* and *Hamilton*. What keeps us coming back? Is it the intimacy and sense of community of live theatre? Does theatre speak to the basic human drives of storytelling and mimicry? Does it expand our emotional intelligence? Our capacity for divergent thinking? Our sense of empathy?

This course explores theatre through a broad survey of its basic components. We will build our appreciation and understanding of this art form by discussing its functions within society, by examining the process of theatrical production, and by considering theatre within a number of its historical contexts. Students will also be exploring individual plays, including reading three plays and seeing the two productions that will be put on by the Theatre department.

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Display knowledge of key periods and figures in theatre history
- Recognize and identify major styles of international theatrical traditions
- Identify and describe the responsibilities of key professional roles in the theatre including playwrights, actors, designers, and directors.
- Demonstrate an understanding of theatre as both an aesthetic pursuit and a cultural production
- Demonstrate an understanding of theatre as an integrated art form by being able to classify the elements of a production separately and also understand them together as an artistic whole.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze and ethically evaluate theatrical representations of cultural issues and social identities (General Education).

Students may vary in their competency levels on these abilities. You can expect to acquire these abilities only if you honor all course policies, attend class regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of you as a student.

Please Note: This is a hybrid course and you will be expected to complete a considerable amount of your work online. Online materials will be posted at www.blackboard.olemiss.edu. You will access your textbook assignments through Blackboard as well.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts

Theatre Brief, 11th Edition Connect Online Version
ISBN: 9781259673870
Cost: \$80 for 6 months access

Sweat by Lynn Nottage
ISBN: 978-1559365321

She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen
ISBN: 978-0573705649

Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Copy provided on Blackboard. You may use any edition you prefer.

Required Productions

You are required to see the two productions being staged by the Department of Theatre Arts, *She Kills Monsters* (September 28 – October 14) and *Assassins* (November 9 - 11). The cost of the tickets is included in your class fee, but you are expected to arrange your own tickets for these shows. Tickets are available at the university box office, located in lower level of the Ford Center. They will be given a list of THEA 201 students after the add/drop date so you will need to provide your student id as confirmation. You **must** do this in advance. Don't wait until the last minute to get tickets and then discover that the productions are sold out! **This will not be an acceptable excuse for missing the assignment.** Details of the times and locations of the shows can be found on the Theatre home page: <http://theatre.olemiss.edu>.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS (1000 POINTS AVAILABLE)

Chapter Reviews (60 points)

Each chapter in Cohen's *Theatre* will include a series of review/practice questions that reinforce the central concepts of the reading. Each chapter review will be worth 4 points for a total of 60 points. These reviews will be due by Sunday, 11:59 pm at the end of the unit week that they are assigned. For example: Module 1, Unit 1 has two chapters assigned in the Cohen book. Thus, *both* reviews will be due by Sunday, August 26 at 11:59 pm. You will do these reviews directly through the textbook as you read each chapter.

Chapter Quizzes (150 points)

You will read 15 chapters of Cohen's *Theatre*. Each chapter will include an end of chapter quiz worth 10 points. These quizzes will be due by Sunday, 11:59 pm at the end of the unit week that they are assigned. For example: Module 1, Unit 1 has two chapters assigned. Thus, *both* of those quizzes will be due by Sunday, August 26 at 11:59 pm. These quizzes will be linked on Blackboard.

Other Quizzes (50 points)

In addition to the chapter quizzes built into the book, there will be a few other quizzes worth a total of 50 points. These will be taken in Blackboard and will be clearly identified in the calendar and through class announcements.

Lecture Attendance (50 points)

Attendance for lecture sessions will be taken via scanners using your ID card. In order to be counted as present, you must bring your ID card with you to each class meeting and scan it in the machines at the rear of the auditorium. Scanners will count attendance beginning 15 minutes prior to class time and will continue through 30 minutes after class has begun. After that, you will not be counted as present. Additionally, I may randomly assign something in class to verify that you have not scanned in and left.

To receive the full amount of 50 points you must attend at least 11 lectures throughout the semester. For every lecture fewer than 11, you will lose 5 points. (Example: if you only attend 9 lectures, your attendance grade will be 40 and if you only attend 6 times, your attendance grade will be 25.) If I find evidence that you did not stay for the duration of the class, I will mark you as absent, regardless of what the scanner data shows.

If you are a parent and need to bring your child to class for any reason, this is entirely acceptable, just let me know before class that you have done so.

Play Review (150 points)

Students will write a 750-word review of *She Kills Monsters*. Specific details of this assignment will be outlined in a separate document. This assignment *must* be submitted as an MS Word or PDF document and will be checked against Safe Assign for instances of plagiarism. It will be due on October 14 at 11:59pm. However, since this play starts its run on September 28, you should write your review within 24 hours of the time you see a performance. You will be allowed to write a second review for the play *Assassins* if you would like to try for a better grade on this assignment.

Play Attendance (200 points)

You will be expected to swipe your id card *after the end of the show* for each of the two productions you are required to attend. Each production will be worth 100 points. Pictures of you in the theatre, ticket stubs, or programs **will not be accepted** as proof of attendance.

Journals (240 points)

6 journals will be assigned throughout the semester, with each response worth 40 points. Each journal response will be given a specific question to respond to and an assigned word count. The prompts and responses will be offered through Blackboard. These assignments will always be due on a Sunday at 11:59 pm. Each journal *must* be submitted as an MS Word or PDF document and will be checked against Safe Assign for instances of plagiarism.

Production Portfolio (100 points)

Students will create a portfolio project for one of the plays we read that addresses some of the research and questions a director, designer, or actor encounter when beginning to work on a play. This will include responses to specific questions as well as a visual, video, or audio component. This is due November 25 at 11:59 pm. If you want to have the opportunity to revise for a better grade, you *must* submit a draft by November 11 at 11:59 pm. A more detailed assignment sheet will be provided. Parts of this assignment will need to be submitted as an MS Word or PDF document and will be checked against Safe Assign for instances of plagiarism.

Extra Credit

There will be several opportunities for up to 50 points of extra credit. These opportunities will be discussed in lecture and will be posted on Blackboard.

GRADING SCALE

Total Points Available: 1000

Grade	Points	GPA
A	900 – 1000+	4.0
B+	870 – 899	3.3
B	800 – 869	3.0
C+	770 – 799	2.3
C	700 – 769	2.0
D	600 – 699	1.0
F	0 – 599	0

ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Many assignments will be completed online and will be offered only during specific windows of time. You must complete these assignments in the given time frame unless you have a documented excuse. The only excused absences are those of serious illness (which may require documentation per the instructor), religious observance (where the nature of the observance prevents the student from being in class – prior notification must be given to the instructor), and participation in University activities at the request of University authorities (prior notification must be given to the instructor). Students who do not give the instructor prior notification of absences, or documentation of excused absence will not be permitted to submit make-up work.

In addition to graded assignments, there will be reading and viewing assignments posted on Blackboard. You are expected to keep up with these materials as lectures, quizzes, and exams will draw from these assignments. Keep in mind that while we only have one lecture per week, in a hybrid class *you* are responsible for completing the remaining credit hours that are due. I strongly suggest building into your schedule specific times to work on this class.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The Department of Theatre Arts adheres to the University Academic Honor System that states:

“The University is conducted on a basis of common honesty. Dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are regarded as particularly serious offenses. Disruptive behavior in an academic situation or purposely harming academic facilities also are grounds for academic discipline.

“When a faculty member believes that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, he/she shall seek to discuss the apparent violation with the student as soon as possible and give the student an opportunity to explain. If the faculty member still believes the student committed an act of academic dishonesty after discussing the matter with the student, the faculty member may recommend an appropriate sanction, such as grade reduction, retake of a test or examination, extra work, failure in the course, suspension, expulsion, or a combination of these sanctions.”

You are also forbidden from communicating about graded assignments in social media apps such as GroupMe, Yik Yak, Babbly, Viper, Gossip, etc. Yes, these apps are monitored and in previous semesters a number of students were caught giving quiz and exam answers to fellow students and were in some cases suspended or expelled from the University. This course is, by design, a basic appreciation course and thus a basic level of commitment to attending lectures, doing the reading, being responsible for submitting completed assignments on-time, and some amount of studying for exams should position you to achieve a passing grade (or higher). Rather than gamble your academic future on getting away with cheating, if you are struggling in the class, see the instructor during office hours or make an appointment with him to discuss your situation.

You can find examples of academic dishonesty in the University’s M Book:
<https://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/m-book/>.

What will happen if you engage in academic dishonesty?

First Time

- We will meet to discuss the incident. If I believe that you have committed any academic dishonesty, I will report the incident to the academic discipline committee and recommend a final grade reduction of one full letter grade as well as giving you a zero on the assignment itself. In the case of a student copying from another student, *both* students will be reported in this manner. Please do *not* allow your friends in this class to see your work because if they plagiarize you, you will still lose a letter grade.

Second Time

- We will meet to discuss the incident. If I believe that you have committed a second case of academic dishonesty, I will report the incident to the academic discipline committee and recommend failure for the class in addition to giving you a zero on the assignment itself. Again, this will be applied to both students in the case of a student who plagiarizes from another student, so do *not* allow other students in the class access to your work.

DISABILITY ACCESS & INCLUSION

The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. If you are approved through SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at <https://sds.olemiss.edu> to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT approved through SDS, you must contact Student Disability Services at [662-915-7128](tel:662-915-7128) so the office can: 1. determine your eligibility for accommodations, 2. disseminate to your instructors a Faculty Notification Letter, 3. facilitate the removal of barriers, and 4. ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE, OR STALKING

Please be aware that in my role as a teacher at the University of Mississippi, I am legally bound to report any sexual assault or harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Some of the writing assignments in this course ask for your own personal experiences in relationship to storytelling and theatre, and you should be aware of my responsibilities and that I am *not* a confidential source on these topics. Please read more about my role as a mandatory reporter here: <https://umsafe.olemiss.edu/sa-mandatory-reporters/>

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER

Part of your student fees go toward the counseling center, so there is no charge for you to use this service. From their website:

The [University Counseling Center](#) espouses a philosophy of acceptance and respect, compassion and support for the individuals that we serve as well as toward each other. We work to create a warm, welcoming environment that expresses respect for the individual and their relationships. We hold a belief in the self-determination and growth of the individual. We seek to create and maintain a dynamic and fluid environment that allows for a sense of safety and trust to build in our clients and ourselves. We adopt a holistic view of ourselves – from being providers of psychological services for the University community (our clients), to working to meet the broader needs of our clients.

OLE MISS FOOD BANK

Many students don't know about the [Food Bank](#). From their website:

The Ole Miss Food Bank, which opened its doors on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012 was established as a student and faculty led effort to alleviate hunger among students in the Ole Miss community. The mission of the Ole Miss Food Bank is to foster a healthy college community by providing nourishing food to students in need. Ole Miss joins numerous other educational campuses across the country who have recognized the necessity of addressing food accessibility. The Ole Miss Food Bank will rely

on the support of volunteers as well as donations. Please visit the [Donate](#) or [Volunteer](#) pages to contribute to our efforts.

Use of the Food Bank is available for anyone with an Ole Miss ID, however your name and your ID number will *not* be recorded. Food from the food bank is free. They are located in Kinard Hall, Room 213.

COURSE OUTLINE

Section	Topics Covered	Reading & Viewing	Assignments Due	Complete by
Module 1: The Basics Unit 1 Week 1	What is Theatre? What is a Play?	Syllabus Cohen Ch 1-2	Cohen Ch 1-2 reviews & quizzes Syllabus Quiz	August 26
Module 1: The Basics Unit 2 Week 2	3 Approaches to Drama: Intuitive, Formalist, Social/Cultural Analysis Aristotle's 6 Elements	3 Approaches Powerpoint 6 Elements Powerpoint & Videos	Journal 1: Storytelling 6 Elements Quiz	September 2
Module 2: Theatre Makers Unit 1 Week 3	The Role of the Actor The Playwright	Cohen Ch 3-4 Videos on Blackboard	Cohen Ch 3-4 reviews & quizzes Videos	September 9
Module 2: Theatre Makers Unit 2 Week 4	Designers & Technicians The Director Design Concepts / Production Concept / High Concept	Cohen 5-6 Videos on Blackboard	Cohen Ch 5-6 reviews & quizzes Videos Journal 2: 6 Elements	September 16
Module 3: Criticism Unit 1 Week 5	Overview of Theatre Traditions The role of the critic How to write reviews	Cohen Ch 7 & 11 Examples of theatre reviews on Blackboard	Cohen Ch 7 & 11 reviews & quizzes Examples of Theatre Criticism	September 23
Module 4: Plays Unit 1: Qui Nguyen Week 6	<i>She Kills Monsters</i> Using the 6 Elements to help understand the play	<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	<i>She Kills Monsters</i> quiz	September 30
Module 4: Plays Unit 2: Lynn Nottage Week 7	<i>Sweat</i> Using the 6 Elements to help understand the play	<i>Sweat</i>	<i>Sweat</i> quiz Journal 3: <i>Monsters</i> or <i>Sweat</i> Response	October 7
Module 4: Plays	<i>Macbeth</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>	Play Review	October 14

Unit 3: Adaptation & Concepts Week 8	Thinking about how to apply concepts & adaptations <i>She Kills Monsters</i> Production Discussion	Videos on Blackboard		
Module 5: Theatre History Unit 1: The Ancients, Middle Ages Week 9	Greek & Roman Theatres Theatre of the Middle Ages	Cohen Ch 12 & 13 Videos on Blackboard	Cohen 12 & 13 reviews & quizzes	October 21
Module 5: Theatre History Unit 2: The Renaissance, Asian Theatres Week 10	The Renaissance Asian Theatres Shakespeare	Cohen Ch 14-15 Videos on Blackboard	Cohen Ch 14-15 reviews & quizzes Journal 4	October 28
Module 6: Modern Theatre Unit 1: Realism & Antirealism Week 11	Modern theatre styles Realism & Antirealism	Cohen Ch 8	Cohen – Ch 8 review & quiz	November 4
Module 6: Modern Theatre Unit 3: Musical & Global Theatres Week 12	Modern Theatre Styles Musical Theatre Global Theatres <i>Assassins</i> Production Discussion	Cohen Ch 9-10 Videos on Blackboard	Cohen Ch 9-10 reviews & quizzes Portfolio (w/ option to revise) Play review (2 nd attempts)	November 11
Module 7: Challenging Theatre Unit 1: Political Theatre Week 13	Political and Engaged theatre styles and companies	Political Theatre Powerpoint & Videos	Political Theatre Quiz Journal 5	November 18
Week 14: No Classes			Portfolio (no revision possible)	November 25
Module 7: Challenging Theatre Unit 2: Immersive Theatre Week 15	Immersive Theatres	Immersive Theatre Powerpoint & Videos	Immersive Theatre Quiz Journal 6 All Extra Credit Assignments	December 2

INSTRUCTOR'S PERSONAL NOTE

I understand that these kinds of huge lecture classes inhibit making a strong connection between instructors and students. However, in addition to learning new things, I sincerely want you to find some enjoyment in the class and to succeed at whatever level you choose. Because of the size and hybrid nature of this course, success is going to depend on you and your work ethic. If success for you means a C grade, nobody is going to push you to achieve more. If you *do* want to achieve an excellent grade in the class, you will need to do the work and come to my office hours or make an appointment to see me if you are ever concerned about your grades.

This syllabus is subject to change. When changes are made an updated copy will be posted to Blackboard and all students notified in both lecture and through Blackboard of the change.

Version 1: 2018-08-17

Version 2: 2018-08-24
(added email address & fixed *She Kills Monsters* dates)