

THEA 1340: Aesthetics of Theatre Throughout the World
University of North Texas
Fall 2017
BLB 015

Course Instructor: Dori Leeman

Email: Dori.leeman@unt.edu

Phone: (404) 725-3662 (emergencies only)

Office Hours: T/Th 12:00 - 2:00 PM by appointment only

Office Location: DATH Adjunct office: RTFP 222

***Please Note:** Much communication for this course takes place through UNT Blackboard. Students must be able access and navigate our class site in Blackboard and check it DAILY for announcements, assignments, syllabus changes, and other postings. Students will submit most assignments and quizzes on Blackboard. To stay on track, you must have access to a reliable computer and the Internet. For technical assistance, contact the UIT Help Desk: 940-565-2324; <http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>*

Course Description

Theatre 1340 is a survey course that is designed to acquaint students with the theory and practice of theatre art throughout the world; appreciation of drama in both western and nonwestern cultures; principles of dramatic criticism; and cultural and social significance of the theatre and its drama. This interactive course promotes awareness of the scope and variety of works in the theatrical arts, critical analysis and formation of aesthetic judgments, and appreciation of the arts as fundamental to the health and survival of any society. An overview of the major aspects of theatre history, genres, play production, the audience and its relationship to theatre, and specific study of scripts and productions, including attendance and thoughtful analysis or criticism of the live works, will help develop a deeper understanding of theatre in its many forms.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course a student should be able to:

1. Identify several works by contemporary and classic playwrights, performers, directors, composers, nations, and movements.
2. Develop, improve, and apply critical analytical skills to live performances.
3. Discuss what genres or artists or works appeal to his/her personal sense of aesthetics, and convey respect to differing individuals.
4. Connect with, consider, and discuss the cultural allusions our society has taken from certain dramatic works such as *Lysistrata*, and *Twelfth Night*.
5. Speak and write in an educated manner on the appreciation of the arts.
6. Utilize skills, observed in theatre, in personal expression and communication.
7. Collaborate with classmates on the creation of a creative project in which theatre skills are utilized.

THEA 1340 Disclaimer:

This course incorporates global content and often addresses content with adult themes. Some of the plays are heavy in nature, containing adult language and addressing issues that are controversial in nature. Please be aware of this and plan accordingly. *Look through the plays early on so as to determine if taking this course is right for you.*

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

I. Required Texts:

Wilson, E. & Goldfarb, A. *THEATER: THE LIVELY ART*, 9th Edition. ISBN: 9780073514307
LaBute, Neil. *The Shape of Things*. ISBN: 9780881452228
Nottage, Lynn. *Ruined*. ISBN: 9780822223900

II. Required Tickets/Attendance to Performances:

To satisfy the course requirements, you must attend **TWO** live performances outside of our scheduled class time. Think of these events as “living textbooks” for the class. You are entitled one free ticket to each of these two productions, but you must get your ticket in advance. The Box office is located in the RTFP building on the first floor.

Box Office: 940-565-2428; Or confirm with me and I can get group tickets.

<http://danceandtheatre.unt.edu/productions-ticket-purchasing/ticket-purchasing>.

Required Performance #1: *Fabulation* by Lynn Nottage | Thursday, October 12th @ 7:30pm | RTFP Building: Studio Theatre

Required Performance #2: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller | Thursday, November 9th @ 7:30pm | RTFP Building: University Theatre

III. Written and Oral Responses to Events

- A. Discussion Board Assignments:** For each play read (and chapters not discussed in class), you are required to complete a WRITTEN RESPONSE via a DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENT (DBA) analyzing various aspects of the content and relating it to personal experience and course topics. This should mirror a discussion that would take place in a face-to-face course.
- B. Essay Paper and Critique (DBA #4):** For each performance you attend, you are required to write a short essay, connecting the performances to the plays read in class as well as the class content. This should be written in MLA or APA format.

Please note: Save your ticket AND program. This is proof of attendance, along with a sign in sheet at the end of each performance.

- IV. Quizzes:** Assessments for this course include **3-4 Quizzes** on vocabulary and concepts covered in the course lectures, assigned readings, and performance events. To succeed, you must attend class regularly and take good notes. The quizzes will be objective (multiple choice/ true or false/short answer) in format. All quizzes are given through Blackboard. See schedule for dates. Pop quizzes may occur if it is evident that students aren't completing the readings required for each class. *There will be no make ups for quizzes.*
- V. Group Project: The Theatre Experience:** Students are required to participate in a “hands on” group project. Working in teams, you will create a 3 to 5-minute play in response to one of our core themes. This project involves close collaboration with fellow students; each team member must make significant, documented contributions to the group effort. I have allotted considerable class time for group work on this project. On any “Group Project Day” (labeled on the course schedule), your attendance and participation is *essential and mandatory*, not

only to your success, but also to that of your group as a whole. Chronic absences, tardiness, and lack of preparation and involvement in the group project are grounds for dismissal from your group and forfeiture of 150 points. *Your group will also have the ability and authority to assign you a failing grade for this assignment should you not fulfill your obligations in their eyes, so be certain to put your best foot forward at all times.* In groups, you will present your short plays and related research during our final examination period for the class.

VI. Grading: (subject to change)

POINT SUMMARY:	POINTS
<i>Syllabus Quiz</i>	5
<i>Required Performance #1 Program & Ticket Proof (assignment drop box)</i>	10
<i>Required Performance #2 Program & Ticket Proof (assignment drop box)</i>	10
DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENTS	
Four (4) Topic Discussion Board Assignments (25 points each)	100
TESTS/QUIZZES	
3 Review Quizzes (25 pts. each)	75
ESSAY PAPER	100
REFLECTION PAPER	50
FINAL EXAM GROUP PROJECT & DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENT	150
Total Points and Percentages	500

Final grade breakdown for points earned:

A = 500 - 450 points
D = 349 - 300 points

B = 449 – 400 points
F = 299 and below

C = 399 - 350 points

If you have any specific needs that require academic accommodations please email your professor immediately and contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at (940) 565-4323. For additional info, please visit: <https://disability.unt.edu>

VII. Course Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

- This class demands your active, engaged *presence*. You must attend regularly and pay close attention to succeed. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting lecture notes, material handouts, and class announcements from another student. Any Group Project Day is mandatory and attendance points will be given on these days.
- **TARDINESS:** Class will begin promptly. Please respect your classmates, your instructor, guests, and your investment in your education and show up on time. Three (3) tardies will be counted as one absence.
- **ATTENDANCE ON GROUP PROJECT DAYS:** We have several Group Project Days (asterisked on the schedule). These add up quickly, particularly in the second half of the semester.

Each day will have a related group assignment with points allotted toward your project grade. Students who are absent or tardy will not be eligible on for group points related to that day's assignment. Groups will be empowered to dismiss a member for chronic absence or lack of participation and contribution. Students dismissed from their group have little chance of passing the course. **Each group member will be allotted ONE excused absence in the group project portion of the class. **25 pts will be subtracted from individual students' final project grade for any absences above the one excused absence. ****

- Because there are grading points allotted for attendance and in-class assignments, signing-in for someone else who is not present, or leaving class after signing-in, is an infringement of the UNT Academic Integrity policy.
- On **non-group project days**, you are allowed THREE (3) absences (unexcused or excused). On the 5th unexcused absence, your grade will drop a full letter grade.
- Excused absences need official documentation and are related to religious observance, UNT sanctioned events, and illness when seen by a medical professional. You must inform me of a legitimate anticipated absence PRIOR TO THE ABSENCE to have it excused. At that point, we will determine what you need to do to fulfill your responsibilities to the class.
- **FINAL EXAM/GROUP PRESENTATIONS:** Your Group Performances will occur during the time allotted for our final exam. Students who do not attend the final exam period (or who leave early) will receive a zero ("0") as their grade for the Group Project (a 150-point deduction from their final grade). *All students will stay for the duration of all performances. Travel/holiday plans do not constitute a valid excuse for missing the final.*

FALL 2017 EXAM SCHEDULE (FINAL GROUP PERFORMANCES):

Tuesday, December 12, 8am-10am | Location TBD

- B. Academic Integrity:** Every UNT student is responsible for upholding the Student Code of Conduct. Section 06.003 of the UNT Policy Manual addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating. In accordance with the University policies on student conduct, any acts of dishonesty, including, but not limited to, Cheating, Facilitating Academic Dishonesty, or Plagiarism ("1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. 2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.") will result in automatic failure of the assignment in question and possible failure of the course and suspension from the University as deemed appropriate by the instructor and the Vice President for Student Development Office <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>. All graded work is to be completed by the Individual Student (with the exception of the Group Project) unless otherwise instructed. Any outside sources must be properly cited.
- C. Electronics Policy:** Laptops will be allowed for note-taking only. Once a student disregards this policy and uses his/her laptop for anything else during class time, the entire class will return to a "no electronics policy". Tablets and cell phones are not allowed.
- D. Class Conduct and Etiquette:** Please be courteous to your professor and your fellow students at all times. Please refrain from talking (while others are talking), texting, and doing other work during lectures, and remain in class for the entire session. **Cell Phones** can be a particularly disruptive device in theatres and classrooms. Please **SILENCE THEM AND STOW THEM BEFORE ENTERING THE CLASS OR PERFORMANCE**

VENUE. *If you fail to adhere to the entirety of the above policy, you will be asked to leave the class and you will be counted absent for the day. Repeat offenders will be asked to withdraw from the class.*

- E. Grading:** I make every effort to evaluate and return your work in a timely manner. Generally, you may expect me to return graded assignments within two weeks of submission. The size of our class limits my ability to provide detailed feedback to each of you on your assignments. If you are confused about my grading procedures or wish further feedback from me regarding your work a particular assignment, please email your questions or make an appointment to see me. Points are most often deducted due to the following reasons, so be certain to avoid these errors to receive full credit for an assignment:
- Vague, thin discussion, lacking in detail and depth.
 - Poor structure/lack of thesis.
 - Typographical errors. (Proofread your assignments prior to turning them in.)

*SEE RUBRICS/GUIDELINES FOR DETAILED EXPLANATION OF GRADING

- F. Extra Credit:** Students may earn up to 15 points extra credit by attending a live theatrical event and writing a paper on it. Event must be approved by me prior to attending.
- G. Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.
- H. SETE:** The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on this class. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

AND FINALLY: If something is preventing you from experiencing this class fully, please talk to me. I care very much, but I can't read your mind. If there is a problem we can't solve immediately, we will find someone who can. My job is to challenge you—and help you—to get the most possible out of this course, and I will try my best to do so within the aforementioned parameters. I look forward to a stimulating and productive semester!

Course Schedule (subject to change):

DATE	IN-CLASS	WHAT'S DUE
Tuesday, 8/29	Introduction/Syllabus	
Thursday, 8/30	What is Performance	
Tuesday, 9/5	What is Art	
Thursday, 9/7	<i>Shape of Things</i> (Online)	<i>Shape of Things</i> /DBA #1
Tuesday, 9/12	What is Theatre	Ch. 1 & Ch. 11 (241-251)
Thursday, 9/14	<i>Lysistrata</i> (Online)	DBA #2/Quiz #1
Tuesday, 9/19	The Playwright	Chapter 3
Thursday, 9/21	*Group Project Day 1: Intro/Genres	Chapter 4
Tuesday, 9/26	The Director/Theatre Spaces	Chapter 6 & Ch. 7
Thursday, 9/28	The Designers (Online)	Chapter 8, 9, & 10/Quiz #2
Tuesday, 10/3	The Designers Pt. 2/The Actor	Chapter 5
Thursday, 10/5	*Group Project Day 2: The Script	"Ideas" Due
Tuesday, 10/10	Theatre for Social Change/RE 1 Prep	Chapter 2
Thursday, 10/12	No Class/Attend <i>Fabulation</i>	
Tuesday, 10/17	<i>Ruined</i>	
Thursday, 10/19	Social Responsibility (Online)	Essay Paper
Tuesday, 10/24	Asian Theatre	Chapter 12
Thursday, 10/26	*Group Project Day 3: Assign Roles	Script Due
Tuesday, 10/31	Renaissance Theatre	Chapter 13
Thursday, 11/2	<i>Twelfth Night</i> (Online)	DBA #3/Quiz #3
Tuesday, 11/7	Modern Theatre/RE 2 Prep	Ch. 15
Thursday, 11/9	No Class/Attend <i>Crucible</i>	<i>The Crucible</i>
Tuesday, 11/14	*Group Project Day 4: Staging	Final Draft/Research Due
Thursday, 11/16	*Group Project Day 5: Blocking	DBA #4 /Design Drafts Due
Tuesday, 11/21	*Group Project Day 6: Rehearsal	
Thursday, 11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Tuesday, 11/28	*Group Project Day 7: Run-through	Off-Book!
Thursday, 11/30	*Group Project Day 8: Run-through	

Tuesday, 12/5
Thursday, 12/7
Tuesday, 12/12

***Dress Rehearsal Groups 1-4**
***Dress Rehearsal Groups 5-8**
***Final Exam Day**

Design Elements Due
Design Elements Due
Group Project Due