

## **THEA 2340: THEATRE APPRECIATION**

**Classroom: Gate 132 Thursdays 6-9:50**

**pm Julie Brinker, MFA**

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Office Hours: M/W 9-10:45 am and by appt.

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### **Required Text**

Robert Cohen. *Theatre: Brief Version*. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (Referred to in syllabus as *Theatre*)

### **Course Description**

The study of the elements and production of the theatrical art form. A survey of theatre productions in and around the Metroplex. Field trips. May not be counted toward a major or minor in theatre arts. May be repeated for credit when the productions vary. Satisfies the Visual and Performing Arts requirement of the Core Curriculum.

### **Course Objectives**

- 1) To construct social meanings from theatrical performances representing a variety of cultures and historical periods, and relate these to current personal, national, and international issues.
- 2) To articulate and justify personal aesthetic criteria for critiquing theatre events.
- 3) To analyze and critique all aspects of the theatrical performance and articulate one's opinion through written word and group discussion..

### **Attendance Policy**

Because this class meets just once a week, and because seeing the scheduled productions and attending the lectures is vital to passing the course, you are expected to attend each class for the entire period. You have the syllabus and will be expected to keep up even if you miss a class. Active class participation is important, and you need to be in class to participate.

We will be attending 5 productions (during class time) this semester: 2 on campus and 3 in the greater DFW Metroplex. You are responsible for transportation to and from the productions off-campus. If you know that you can't attend one of these shows, please let the instructor know ASAP—do not call the theatre to cancel your “group ticket.” These tickets have already been purchased, **so you will not receive any type of refund**. If you

want to write the required paper over the production, you may see the play on an alternate date/time, at your own expense and initiative.

Regular attendance is expected. **Starting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> absence (for whatever reason), your final point total will be reduced by 75 points. With the 4<sup>th</sup> absence, you will receive a failing grade.** If you desire a “make-up” assignment to retrieve points, you will need to discuss the matter with me. I must approve the substitution and the point value.

Three late arrivals (or “tardies”) will count as one absence. Leaving class early without prior notice will result in an “absence” for the class period. In sum, poor attendance and excessive tardiness will seriously affect your grade.

### **Class Content**

Theatre is a reflection of life and the material in this class will reflect that diversity. If an individual student is uncomfortable with certain language or subject matter it is important that they speak with the instructor either before or after class or during the instructor’s office hours. During the semester various play, movies, and scenes will be presented that might contain language or subject matter that some might view as objectionable. Confidentiality will be assured.

### **Classroom and Theatre Etiquette**

Treat the classroom as your “rehearsal” for attending the theatre. Turn off your cell phone (“silenced” cell phones can still receive Amber and Emergency Alerts—at full volume—and interfere with some wireless microphone/hearing impaired systems). We will take an “intermission” each class night, if needed, just as there will usually be at the theatre. Violations of this rule may result in loss of attendance points or being asked to leave the class. Do not bring food into the classroom or theatre. Water bottles and closed-top beverages are acceptable.

The two most important rules of theatre etiquette are:

- 1) BE ON TIME
- 2) RESPECT THE ACTORS AND FELLOW AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Plan to arrive 15-30 minutes before “curtain” (the scheduled start time for the production). This is extremely important. Many theatres have a “NO LATE SEATING” policy. Even if a person has purchased a ticket, the theatre has the right to institute this policy and refuse to seat latecomers (and not issue a refund). Please understand that it is your responsibility to arrive at the theatre on time. Plan for traffic, unexpected delays, parking, etc.

You will find me in the lobby of the theatre from 30 minutes before curtain until 15 minutes before curtain. I will have your ticket: do not go to the box office.

The theatre experience is unique with each performance and the bonds created between the stage and the audience vary accordingly. For everyone to have the best possible experience: no talking; no cell phones; no texting or game-playing; no photography of any kind; no food/drink (unless permitted by the theatre). Please try not to take notes during the show—wait for intermission or afterwards.

Standard attire: Upscale casual to dressy. The idea is not to look sloppy—this shows a lack of respect. No shorts, please (ever). Layers are a good idea, in case the theatre is warmer or cooler than you like.

### **Grading Policy**

A point system will be used to determine your final course grade and your individual assignment grades. The final semester grade will appear in letter form, according to the UNT grading system (*i.e.*, “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” and “F”).

**900-1000 points for an “A”**

**800-899 points for a “B”**

**700-799 points for a “C”**

**600-699 points for a “D”**

**599 points or below results in an “F”**

Assignments turned in “late” are reduced a full letter grade (**10% plus one point**). The in-class presentations cannot be made up.

Critiques of each play	100 pts each	(5 total)	500 pts possible
Quizzes over text/lecture	30 pts each	(6 total)	180 pts possible
Discussion posts/responses	40 pts each	(3 total)	120 pts possible
In class group presentation	100 pts		100 pts possible
Attendance/participation	100 pts		100 pts possible

### ADA Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic reasonable 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](tel:940.565.4323).

### Course Calendar

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| <b>8/31</b> | <b>Course Overview; Syllabus; What is Theatre?</b><br><br><b>Due by midnight 9/6: One original post and 2 replies to others' in Introductions (Blackboard discussion group)</b>  |
| <b>9/7</b>  | <b><i>Theatre: Chapter 11</i></b><br><b>Take Quiz #1 by 9/13 at midnight</b>   |
| <b>9/14</b> | <b><i>Theatre: Chapters 1, 2</i></b><br><b>Take Quiz #2 by 9/20 at midnight</b>  |
| <b>9/21</b> | <b>Off-campus production: <i>Fun Home</i> at Winspear Opera House (Dallas): 7:30 Curtain (Directions and info TBA)</b><br><b>Due by midnight 9/27: Review of <i>Fun Home</i></b> |
| <b>9/28</b> | <b><i>Theatre: Chapters 9, 10</i></b><br><b>Take Quiz #3 by 10/04 at midnight</b>  |
| <b>10/6</b> | <b>Off-campus production: <i>Hair</i> at Dallas Theater Center—7:30 pm Curtain (Directions and info TBA)</b><br><b>Due by midnight 10/11: Review of <i>Hair</i></b>              |

- 10/12**      **UNT production: *Fabulation* (7:30 pm, RTFP Studio Theatre)**  
**Due by midnight 10/18 (Turnitin Dropbox): Critical Review of *Fabulation***
- Extra-Credit Theatre Production: *The Wal\*Martians* at TWU (4 pm—other performances this weekend are also acceptable)**
- We will NOT meet in the classroom this night.**
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- 10/19**      ***Theatre: Chapters 3, 4***  
**Take Quiz #4 by 10/25 at midnight**
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- 10/26**      **Off-campus performance: *Pride & Prejudice* at WaterTower Theatre, Addison—7:30 Curtain (Directions and info TBA)**
- Due by midnight 11/01 (Turnitin Dropbox): Critical Review of *Pride & Prejudice***
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- 11/2**      ***Theatre: Chapters 5, 6***  
**Take Quiz #5 by 11/08 at midnight**
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- 11/9**      **UNT production: *The Crucible* (7:30, RTFP University Theatre)**  
**Due by midnight 11/15: Critical Review of *The Crucible***
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- 11/16**      **Off-campus Extra-Credit Opportunities: *Phaedra* at TWU**  
**We will NOT meet in the classroom this night.**
- Due by midnight 11/22: One original post and 2 replies to others' in Ethical Discussions (Blackboard discussion group)**
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- 11/23**      **Thanksgiving—No class**
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- 11/30**      ***Theatre: Chapters 7, 8***  
**Take Quiz #6 by 12/06 at midnight**
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- 12/07**      **Final Presentations**
- Due by midnight 12/14: One original post and 2 replies to others' in Curtain Calls (Blackboard discussion group)**
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- 12/14**      **Summary/Review/Conferences**