

THEA 2340: THEATRE APPRECIATION

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Required Text

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

You really need the text for this course; if you find an older edition feel free to get it (I wouldn't go back further than about the 7th edition). The biggest differences will be the photos/examples and sometimes the order of the chapters, but you should be able to follow along pretty well. I'll post PowerPoints for each chapter for you to view before you take the quiz, but the quiz will go into deeper detail than the Powerpoint.

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.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency, all assignments will be online; there will be no field trips this semester.

Course Objectives

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

*Makeup/Extra Credit Performances: There are 2 opportunities for makeup/extra credit performances scheduled this semester. Reviews of these productions will be worth the same amount as the class-arranged productions.

Class

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 contact the instructor.

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**).

Quizzes over text	40-50 pts each	(11 total)	460 pts possible
Discussion posts/responses	40 pts each	(6 total)	240 pts possible
Critical Review	125 pts	(2 total)	250 pts possible
Final project	50 pts		50 pts possible

NOTE: Canvas can be a little confusing; be sure to check your total POINTS, not percentages!

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>. ([Links to an external site.](#)) You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

Course Calendar

Week 1 (1/11-17) **Read Syllabus and contact me with any questions.** Get your textbook (if you haven't already) or make plans to access the one on reserve at the UNT library.

DUE by 11:59 pm 1/17: One original post and 2 replies to others in Introductions (Canvas discussion)

Week 2 (1/18-24) Watch *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqmfrqAVeK0> or go to YouTube and search this title; you're looking for the video that runs 1:28:22 with Adam Long, Reed Martin, and Austin Tichenor. (If you're going to watch with family members, this is a pretty "tame" production—there's some language and mock violence, but I'd rate it PG.) Be sure you watch ALL the way through until the credits roll—there's some bonus material after the curtain call.

DUE by 11:59 pm 1/31: One original post and 2 replies to others' in CWWWS(A) (Canvas discussion)

Week 3 (1/25-31) *Theatre: Chapter 1*

DUE: Take Quiz #1 by 11:59 pm 1/31

Week 4 (2/01-07) *Theatre: Chapter 2*

DUE: Take Quiz #2 by 2/07 at 11:59 pm

Week 5 (2/08-14) *Theatre: Chapter 3*

DUE: Take quiz #3 by 2/14 at 11:59 pm

WATCH: *Small Island*

https://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2452/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C4749437 or go to the UNT Library website and search "Alexander Street Press," enter your UNT info to get into the

database, and then search *Small Island*. It runs about 2:49:00, so don't wait til the last minute of the last night to start it. You may need to enable the closed captions, at least at first, until you adjust to the dialects (takes me about 10 minutes). This is an amazing performance from the National Theatre of the UK—it starts slowly and then gets more and more intense. There's some adult language and violence, and some very frank talk about sexual and racial issues—I'd rate this PG 13.

If you can't get the website to work or don't want to watch this, you can substitute *Machinal* from UNT (see Week 7 below).

DUE: Critical Review (see rubric on Canvas) of *Small Island* due by 11:59 pm 2/21.

Week 6 (2/15-21) *Theatre: Chapter 4;*

DUE: Take quiz #4 by 2/21 at 11:59 pm

Week 7 (2/22-28) *Theatre: Chapter 5*

DUE: Take Quiz #5 by 11:59 pm 2/28

Alternative/Extra-credit Production: *Machinal* (UNT production to be streamed; more info TBA). This production can replace *Small Island* (see above) or it can be for extra credit—all Critical Reviews will be worth the same number of points. If you choose to write about it, it will be

DUE: Critical Review (see rubric on Canvas) of *Machinal* by 11:59 pm 3/07.

Week 8 (3/01-07) *Theatre: Chapter 6*

DUE: Take Quiz #6 by 11:59 pm 3/07

WATCH: *Into the Woods* (Original Broadway Cast)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqCsQCsinK4> (or go to YouTube and search *Into the Woods* Bernadette Peters—it's the one that's 2:31:13). If you've seen the film or another high school, college, or community theatre production, you'll have more to talk about in the discussion board. This production has really lavish production values and an amazing cast. I've shown the first act to kids under 12, but the second act gets really dark really fast, so use your own judgment. And, depending on the size of the screen you're watching, you may see more of the Wolf than you're comfortable sharing with family members—his costume features his anatomically correct—but fake, I assure you—genitalia.

DUE: Post one original and 2 replies to others' posts by 11:59 pm 3/14.

Week 9 (3/08-14) *Theatre: Chapter 7*

DUE: Take Quiz #7 by 11:59 pm 3/14

Week 10 (3/15-21) *Theatre: Chapter 8*

DUE: Take Quiz #8 by 11:59 pm 3/21

WATCH: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

https://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2452/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C3388883 or go to UNT Library, search for Alexander Street Press and log in with your UNT info, then search *Midsummer Night's Dream* Julie Taymor—the running time is 2:25:37. This is an extraordinary production from Julie Taymor, who directed the stage version of *The Lion King* (which I've seen 3 times and hope to see at least 3 more), *Titus*, and *Across the Universe*. Same offer as the one above for *Small Island*—you can substitute next week's Alternative/Extra Credit production instead.

DUE by 11:59 pm 3/28: Critical review of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (see rubric in Canvas)

Week 11 (3/22-28) *Theatre: Chapter 9*

DUE: Take Quiz #9 by 11:59 pm 3/28

Alternative/Extra-credit Production: *TBA*. Same offer as for *The Diary of Anne Frank* (above), in case you can't watch *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (or don't want to) or would like the extra credit. If you choose to write a review of this production, it will be

DUE: Critical review of *TBA* by 11:59 pm 4/04.

Week 12 (3/29-4/04) *Theatre: Chapter 10*

DUE: Take Quiz #10 by 11:59 pm 4/04

Week 13 (4/05-11) *Theatre: Chapter 11*

DUE: Take Quiz #11 by 11:59 pm 4/11

Week 14 (4/12-4/18)

Watch: *Frankenstein*

https://libproxy.library.unt.edu:2452/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C4167062 or go to the UNT Library website and search for Alexander Street Press, log in, and then search *Frankenstein*

Benedict Cumberbatch. It will also come up with the link for Jonny Lee Miller as the Creature—you have your choice about which (or both!) to view—they each run under 2 hours. This is another amazing production from the National Theatre, but it opens with the almost naked “birth” of the Creature, and may be too intense for little ones. If you’ve seen or read any other version, you’ll have a lot to talk about in the Discussion Board!

DUE by 11:59 pm 5/01: 1 original post and replies to two others’ posts in the Frankenstein discussion (Canvas).

DUE by 11:59 pm 4/18: 1 original post and replies to two others’ posts in the Ethical Dilemmas discussion (Canvas).

Week 15 (4/19-25)

DUE by 11:59 pm 4/25: Final Project

Week 16 (4/26-5/01)

DUE by 11:59 pm 5/01 : One original post and 2 replies to others’ in Curtain Calls (Canvas discussion) NOTE: Due to the end of the semester, this is a Friday due date, not Sunday!

This syllabus is subject to change; dates and productions may change as circumstances dictate.