

TOPICS:
THEATRE IN LONDON
Maymester 2026

THEA 4500.888 - 3 Units

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I. CLASS GOAL

This class is a contemporary theatre training experience which will explore the artistic and cultural diversity of London theatre, one of the world's most historic and stimulating cities.

Through the study of theatrical performances, students will engage with artistic works that investigate our world. Performances, workshops, and our subsequent discussions will examine the history and methodologies of contemporary theatre practitioners examining our multi-cultural 21st century lives.

This experience is designed to inspire each student's creativity by direct and immediate application in the theory and practice of British theatre performance traditions and modern approaches. The goal is to engender insight and inspiration in the theatre artist leading to the ability to create and appreciate more skilled and socially aware performances.

This is a senior level course designed for theatre students but accessible to all students in the arts and humanities. Familiarity with theatre history and theatre practice is helpful.

II. CLASS DESCRIPTION

Obviously, our events are determined by what is running in repertory, and what tours and experts are available during our visit. Luckily, there's always exciting theatre in London!

A. Performances

During our three weeks, you will experience a vast array of performances from various types of production companies. From subsidized theatres like the National Theatre, the Globe, and the Royal Shakespeare Company, to the commercial West End theatres (London's Broadway), to the smaller fringe, pub, immersive and experimental theatres. Styles and production values will drastically differ. These various experiences will give students a greater understanding of the potential of live theatre to entertain, educate and enlighten.

B. Workshops

To experience in greater depth how theatre is made, workshops will be conducted in various areas of acting, design, dramaturgy, stage combat, etc. All students are expected to participate, and our experts will coach at the student's level.

C. Tours

The course will include several tours to take us to sites of historical and contemporary significance. A guided tour of London starts our course and later we are off to Stratford-upon-

Avon to experience Shakespeare's birthplace and the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which includes a backstage tour and performance. To give us a historic context we will visit Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace. And the Harry Potter Experience, will be particularly interesting to designers and artists as it shares the process of the movies' production and design.

In London, we will take backstage tours of The National Theatre, The Globe, and the oldest theatre in London: Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

D. Class Meetings and Discussions

Regular class meetings will include information regarding performances, workshops and tours, guest lectures, discussion of performances, workshops, and activities.

III. ASSIGNMENTS

Your discussions, reports and final presentations will be assessed based on the quality and depth of thought. Be rigorous and dig deep into your subject matter.

A. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is regulated by the University and the Department of Dance and Theatre Arts. The following policy is consistent with all performance-oriented classes in the department.

1. Please be reminded that University policy states that any instructor who informs students in writing about the necessity of class attendance may request that the Registrar drop a student from the course with a grade of WF or F upon the accumulation of the stated number of absences.
2. Attendance is mandatory. This course is largely experiential and missed experiences cannot be made up.
3. *2 absences and/or 1 absence and 3 tardies are sufficient for course failure.*
4. Performances and Tours start on-time. **If you are late, you will be left behind** and be counted absent. There are no refunds.

B. DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

Students will be required to lead group discussions and present discerning critical commentary of experiences.

C. REVIEWS AND REPORTS

Students will be required to write 3 performance reviews following industry format. Alternatively, students may wish to write 2 reviews and one workshop report.

D. FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT

After meeting with the professor, each student will decide how to present their course findings. This could be a practical application (as an actor, director, designer, etc.) or a critical, historical, or theoretical presentation of findings. You will be required to actively present your research on British Theatre via a monologue or scene, academic paper presented, social media podcast or a design for a theatrical production. Since this is a senior level course, your final project should be in your area of emphasis.

Projects might explore:

- 1) Directing, Playwriting, Education or General Theatre Emphasis: Historical, societal, and philosophical meaning of a period, play or author. (8 min presentation)
- 2) Acting Emphasis: The acting skills necessary for a British comedy, drama, or experimental production. Chose a monologue or song (4 mins) or duo scene (8 mins)
- 3) Design-Tech and Art Emphasis: Explore the technology or design skills needed to create historical or contemporary productions in Britain. (8 min presentation)

IV. RESEARCH MATERIALS

1. Students should have a general theatre history text that they can refer to that includes British Theatre history.
2. Student may need to purchase play scripts, programs and/or historical/analytical texts to complete their final projects.
3. Student may take advantage of the study abroad and public libraries in addition to theatre bookstores in London.

V. SCHEDULE

You will receive a schedule of all activities including free time for self-directed research when you arrive. Consider other activities such as:

Historical and Archival Visits

Be sure to explore other experiences London has to offer: The Tower, The Theatre Archive of live performances at the Victoria and Albert Museum, National Theatre Archive, BFI-BBC Archive, London Theatre Walking tours, the National Gallery, Tate, Fashion and Textile Museum, and the Mechanical Art and Design Museum.

1. Students will have free time to investigate other types of performances and historic homes, i.e., of Samuel Johnson, Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes), to name a few.
2. Students may wish to visit possible Graduate Schools. For example: Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), and Rose Bruford College.

VI. POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE MATERIAL

Please be advised that this class requires viewing performances that may be considered offensive by some. You may encounter literary and directorial points of view that differ from your own. In theatre we seek to explore all possible forms of human behavior and we may at times give “voice” to characters and plays that hold different views than our own. If you choose to take this course, you must participate in the experiences scheduled. If acting, you are required to speak the text as written and to fulfill the actions the author describes.

If concerned about subject matter, students should read about the productions we will visit beforehand and inform the professor of any concerns. Theatres will post content warnings on their websites.

The performances are chosen to represent a broad spectrum of theatre artists and the theatre art form.

VII. TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology will be lecture, discussion, critical assessment, participatory workshops, skill training, creative exercises, group interaction, peer review, verbal public critiques, and performance experiences.

VIII. COMMUNICATION

Information regarding activities will be distributed in advance to Canvas, and/or via email. It is your responsibility to check for information and activity updates daily.

IX. GRADING

This is a senior level course. Your creative growth and thoughtful responses constitute the major focus of this class. This course is designed for Theatre majors/minors and students interested in theatre performance. The grading standard is A=excellent work, B=above average, C=average, D = Below Average, F = Insufficient quality to pass. Your grade will be assembled based approximately on these percentages.

Discussion Participation and Promptness	5%
Workshop Participation	5%
3 Theatre Performance Reviews Or 2 Performance Reviews and 1 Workshop Report	45%
Final Project: Presentation of Research	45%
	100%

X. PARTICIPATION/PREPAREDNESS

1. It is expected that you give your undivided attention and support to your guest artists or classmates during workshops, presentations, or rehearsals. You can learn a great deal from watching others work.
2. *Please note that it is considered extremely discourteous to enter or leave the room while others are working. Please arrive sufficiently early to use the restroom before class begins.*
3. Each student shall participate in class activities so that the criteria listed below shall be met:
 - a. Arrival at lecture or rehearsal: on time and ready to work.
 - b. Preparation: fully prepared for each meeting, including wearing the proper attire.
 - c. Good manners: behave politely at all rehearsals, work sessions, and performances.
 - d. Interpersonal relationships: willing and cheerful support of others and their research.
 - e. Treatment of theatre spaces and equipment: use the theatre spaces and equipment safely and with care, obeying all policies and procedures, rules, and

regulations governing their use.

XI. FITNESS

This course is designed to accommodate all levels of physical ability and fitness. As with any physical training, there may be some soreness and muscular fatigue as a result of a new use of the body. This is normal and healthy.

However, *you are responsible for your own health*. If you are in doubt as to whether you can perform some aspect of the exercises, please refrain from doing so until you can consult a physician. If you need to refrain from doing significant portions of the class work, alternative assignments will be assigned.

XII. STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

XIII. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE

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](tel:940.565.4323).

The UNT Department of Dance and Theatre does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment or admission of students. The content of this class requires each student to (a) actively participate in a safe manner and (b) spontaneously process visual and verbal cues. The student has the responsibility of informing the instructor of any disabling condition which will require modifications in assignments or exercises. If you have a disability and feel you are unable to meet the requirements of this class without reasonable accommodation, please contact the instructor to discuss your particular needs.

