

THFM-1002-001 (6 credit hours)

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE: GENERAL

Fall/Winter, 2013-2014
Mondays/Wednesdays 4:00- 5:15pm
Room 2L17

Instructor: Heidi Malazdrewich
Office: 4T06
Phone: 258-3811
Email: h.malazdrewich@uwinnipeg.ca
Office Hours: M/W 3:15pm-4pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to theatre as an art form, and to provide a basis for further courses in all areas of theatre. Course-work will explore various components of theatrical production and performance, survey key aspects of history and development of theatre (primarily in Western contexts) and focus on series of representative modern and contemporary plays. The goal of the course is to enable the student to think in theatrical terms, analyze performances critically, and read plays with a full awareness of their theatrical context. A major emphasis will be placed on the development of informed spectatorship.

All students are required to see five plays produced by professional theatre companies in Winnipeg (as chosen by the Instructor), as well as the two productions presented by the University of Winnipeg 4th-Year Honours acting classes. Attendance at these productions is mandatory, and students should budget for those necessary course expenses (departmental shows are free of charge).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Brocket, Oscar G. *The Essential Theatre* (10th edition).
Molière. *The Miser*
Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll House*
Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*
Brecht, Bertolt. *Mother Courage and Her Children*
Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*
MacDonald, Anne-Marie. *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*
Hansberry, Lorraine. *Raisin in the Sun*
Ross, Ian. *FareWel*

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th Edition)

MARK DISTRIBUTION

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Group Project Group 1: Sept 30 th , 2013 Group 2: Oct 21 st , 2013 Group 3: Oct 28 th , 2013 Group 4: Jan 15 th , 2014 Group 5: Jan 22 nd , 2014 Group 6: Feb 26 th , 2014 Group 7: Mar 17 th , 2014 | 10% |
| Theatre Journal | 10% (5% per term) |
| First Test (November 6th, 2013) | 10% |
| Second Test (March 26th, 2014) | 10% |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Critiques (see due dates as indicated in outline) | 25% (5% per critique) |
| Research Essay First Draft (February 24th, 2014) | 10% |
| Research Essay Final Draft (April 14th, 2014) | 15% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Note **ALL assignments must be submitted in **HARD COPY**. Email Submissions will **NOT** be accepted.

GROUP PRESENTATION

Groups of 4-5 students will each prepare a 25-minute presentation on one of the plays on the required reading list for this course. Only **one** Presentation will be required of each student. Groups and subject matter will be decided during the first week of classes. A detailed description of the project requirements will be given in class. Students failing to contribute adequately to the organization of the group project will be required to write an essay on the play. Peer evaluation will determine this need.

THEATRE JOURNAL

Students are required to submit a theatre Journal at the end of each term. This journal should include thoughts about the plays that have been read and watched throughout the term. Students may include press clippings from reviews of the productions, sketches of imagined set designs, costume designs ideas, potential ground plans, sound design concepts inspired by individual texts and productions. Guidelines will be discussed and distributed in class prior to the deadline.

CRITIQUES

There is a written critique (2-3 pages) due on the day of each discussion of a play. Guidelines will be discussed and distributed in class prior to the deadline. Ticket stubs to the play must be included with the critique as proof of attendance. This is part of the final grade.

FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH ESSAY

Guidelines will be discussed and distributed in class prior to the deadline.

FINAL RESEARCH ESSAY

Guidelines will be discussed and distributed in class prior to the deadline.

Assignments will **NOT** be accepted after the due date. Extensions **MAY** be granted but only **BEFORE** the due date and with a valid reason, at the professor's discretion. Assignments are accepted in class. **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Work submitted for evaluation must be either typed or text processed. The referencing style to be followed for all written assignments is that of the MLA (Modern Language Association of America). This includes citation of Internet sites. Please note that the Internet is not a reliable source and cannot form the majority of works cited for a written assignment.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation includes:

- attendance (**including** attendance at required performances)
- punctuality
- preparation
- participation in discussion, etc

PROTOCOL

Frequent absenteeism, lateness, or failure to meet standards of responsible behaviour in relation to classmates and instructor may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the course. Attendance will be taken so that the percentage of the grade allowed for participation may be fairly assigned. Class participation in discussion is also considered part of the final grade.

Food is **NOT** allowed in the classroom. Beverages are permitted. Students are required to keep the room clean. Disrespect of university property will be dealt with accordingly.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------------|-----|------|----|------------|-----|-----|
| A+ | 90 – 100% | GPA | 4.5 | C+ | 65 – 69.9% | GPA | 2.5 |
| A | 85 – 89.9% | GPA | 4.25 | C | 60 – 64.9% | GPA | 2.0 |
| A- | 80 – 84.9% | GPA | 4.0 | D | 50 – 59.9% | GPA | 1.0 |
| B+ | 75 – 79.9% | GPA | 3.5 | F | below 50% | GPA | 0 |
| B | 70 – 74.9% | GPA | 3.0 | | | | |

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Students must read the material **PRIOR** to the class on the date indicated. Chapter numbers refer to *The Essential Theatre (10th edition)*. This text acts as the basis for the course, but in-class lectures will include additional material. **ALL reading material is subject to testing.**

FALL TERM:

| Date: | Activity: | Requirements: |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Sept. 4 | Introduction to the Course | |
| Sept 9 | The Nature of Theatre/The Audience and Criticism | Chapters 1 and 2 |
| Sept 11 | The Play | Chapter 3 |
| Sept 16 | The Birth of Western Theatre | Chapter 4 and Handout |
| Sept 18 | <i>The Miser</i> (Molière) | <i>The Miser</i> (Molière) |
| Sept 23 | <i>The Miser</i> (Molière) | Chapter 6: From Romanticism to Realism |
| Sept 25 | The Play | Chapter 3/Guest Lecturer |
| Sept 30 | <i>A Doll House</i> (Ibsen) | Group Presentation |

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | <i>A Doll House</i> (Ibsen) |
| Oct 2 | <i>A Doll House</i> (Ibsen) | |
| Oct 7 | Tour of U of W Theatre and Production Facilities | |
| Oct 9 | Theatrical Space and Production Design | Chapter 11 |
| Oct 14 | THANKSGIVING DAY | NO CLASS. Make-Up class Wed, Nov 27 |
| Oct 16 | Discuss Zone 41 and Theatre Projects Manitoba production of <i>The Miser of Middle Gate</i> | The Miser of Middle Gate Critique Due |
| Oct 21 | <i>Angels in America: Millennium Approaches</i> (Kushner) | Group Presentation <i>Angels in America: Millennium Approaches</i> (Kushner) |
| Oct 23 | <i>Angels in America: Millennium Approaches</i> (Kushner) | |
| Oct 28 | <i>Mother Courage</i> (Brecht) | Group Presentation <i>Mother Courage</i> (Brecht) |
| Oct 30 | <i>Mother Courage</i> (Brecht) | |
| Nov 4 | Overview and Text Analysis | |
| Nov 6 | TEST #1 | |
| Nov 11 | REMEMBRANCE DAY | NO CLASS. Make-Up class Thurs, Nov 28 |
| Nov 13 | Acting | Chapter 12/Guest Lecturer |
| Nov 18 | Discuss PTE production of <i>The Best Brothers</i> | Best Brothers Critique Due |
| Nov 20 | Scene Design | Chapter 15 |
| Nov 25 | Lighting and Sound Design/ Costume Design and Make up Design | Chapters 16 and 17 |
| Wed, Nov 27 | Research Topics and Methods | Handout |
| Thurs, Nov 28 | How to engage with Theatre Class Discussion | First Term Journal Due |

WINTER TERM:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jan 6 | Discuss Manitoba Theatre Centre production of <i>Hirsch</i> | Hirsch Critique Due |
| Jan 8 | Creating a Professional Theatre (Elizabethan England, Commedia dell'Arte and Seventeenth-Century France) | Chapter 5 |
| Jan 13 | Shakespeare Alive | Handout |
| Jan 20 | <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (Shakespeare) | |
| Tues, Jan 21 | FINAL WITHDRAWAL DATE | |

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 22 | <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i> (MacDonald) | Group Presentation |
| Jan 27 | <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i> (MacDonald) | |
| Jan 29 | <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i> (MacDonald) | |
| Feb 3 | Research Essay Check in and Discussion | |
| Feb 5 | Modernism | Chapter 7 |
| Feb 10 | Contemporary Theatre | Chapter 9 |
| Feb 12 | Discussion of WJT production of <i>Ivanov</i> | <i>Ivanov</i> Critique Due |
| Feb 17 | NO CLASS – Reading Week | |
| Feb 19 | NO CLASS – Reading Week | |
| Feb 24 | Mid-Century American Theatre | First Draft of Research Paper Due |
| Feb 26 | <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> (Hansberry) | Group Presentation <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> |
| Mar 3 | <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> (Hansberry) | |
| Mar 5 | <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> (Hansberry) | |
| Mar 10 | Discuss MTC Production of <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> (Williams) | <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> Critique Due |
| Mar 12 | Contemporary Canadian Theatre | Handout |
| Mar 17 | <i>FareWel</i> (Ross) | Group Presentation |
| Mar 19 | <i>FareWel</i> (Ross) | Theatre Journal Due |
| Mar 24 | <i>FareWel</i> (Ross) | |
| Mar 26 | TEST #2 | |
| Mar 30 | Elements of Contemporary Theatrical Practice and Presentation | |
| April 2 | Course Overview | |

Final Research Paper is Due: **April 14th, 2014** and must be handed in **between 4:00 and 5:15 pm** to **Room 4T06**

Show Schedule

| THEATRE | SHOW TITLE | PERFORMANCE DATES | CRITIQUE DUE DATE |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Zone 41 and Theatre Projects Manitoba www.zone41.ca | <i>The Miser of Middle Gate</i> | Oct 3-13th | Oct 16 th , 2013 |
| Prairie Theatre Exchange | <i>The Best Brothers</i> | Oct. 16th- Nov. 3rd | Nov 18 th , 2013 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| http://pte.mb.ca | | | |
| Manitoba Theatre Centre – Warehouse www.mtc.mb.ca | <i>Hirsch</i> | Nov. 28th-Dec. 14th | Jan 6 th , 2014 |
| Winnipeg Jewish Theatre www.wjt.ca | <i>Ivanov</i> | Jan. 29 th -Feb. 9th | Feb 12 th , 2014 |
| Manitoba Theatre Centre – www.mtc.mb.ca | <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> | Feb.13th- Mar. 8th | Mar 10 th , 2014 |

UW Department of Theatre and Film Show Schedule: TBA.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept 18, Oct 23, Nov 13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to introduce our new students to faculty and other students; to provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and to provide news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE**: outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Access Card/Building Use Policy AND Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-files/system-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2013 and end in April 2014 (2013/14 Fall/Winter Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE**All Theatre and Film Classes**

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.