THFM-3401-001 / HIST-3190-001 (3 credit hours)

THEATRE HISTORY III: Ibsen to the Present

Winter 2017                          Professor Per Brask
Room 3M62       Office: 3T09
MWF 9:30-10:20 am      E-mail: p.brask@uwinnipeg.ca
                          Phone:  204-786-9285
                          Office hours:  WF 10:30-11:20
                          and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on contributions by Henrik Ibsen (a playwright), the Berliner Ensemble (a theatre company), and Ruth Maleczech (a performer and director) to the history of modern theatre. Of special interest will be the various forms of political engagement and intervention these three examples provide. In addition the course will point to some of the fundamental historiographical difficulties in a live art form. It is the hoped for outcome of the course that students will arrive at some understanding of the ways theatre engages with political issues, directly and/or indirectly.

TEXTS

David Barnett, A History of the Berliner Ensemble
Jessica Silsby Brater, Ruth Maleczech at Mabou Mines: Woman’s Work
Henrik Ibsen, A Doll’s House and Other Plays (The New Penguin Ibsen)

GRADING

Reflective essay* 1(due in class February 17) ................................................... 33 1/3%
Reflective essay 2 (due in class April 3) ................................................... 33 1/3%
Reflective essay 3 (due noon (sharp) April 21) ................................................... 33 1/3%
TOTAL ............................................. 100%

* For the purposes of this course, a reflective essay is a record of important discussions and conclusions in class (including group discussions), as well as an engagement with and evaluation of those discussions and conclusions.

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%.

DEFINITIONS OF GRADING DESCRIPTIONS

A+ Exceptional. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill AND great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.
A Superior. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill OR great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A Excellent. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B+ Very Good. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B Good. Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C+ Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C Fairly Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

D Barely Passing. Minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

F Failing.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

January 4: Introduction
January 6-February 3: Ibsen
February 6-February 17: Berliner Ensemble
February 17: Reflective essay on Ibsen is due in class
February 20-24: Louis Riel Day and Reading Week
February 27 - March 10: Berliner Ensemble continued
March 13-31: Ruth Maleczech
April 3: Reflective essay on Berliner Ensemble is due in class.
April 21: Reflective essay on Ruth Maleczech is due by noon (sharp) in Room 3T09.

"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: Wed Sept 21 (clowns Morro and Jasp), Mon Oct 17, Wed Nov 9, Wed Jan 18, Mon Feb 27, Mon Mar 13. 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 at ALL lectures is MANDATORY for ALL Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), as well as students in: THFM-3101 Acting III: General, THFM-3110 Screen Acting; THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II. Two percent (2%) of the student’s final grade in the core course (above) will be deducted for each lecture missed to a maximum of ten percent (10%). Please arrange your schedule NOW so that you are available for these lectures; attendance will be taken. If you absolutely cannot attend, you must discuss this with your professor PRIOR to the event (don’t call Patty).

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

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students’ Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. We are looking forward to regular Performance Jams, Socials, and the very popular 24/7 Event during which students move into our building and five plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented—all in a period of 24 hours! And this year, for the first-time, TAFSA is planning a Play Festival (Jan 11-14). Please join TAFSA to find out more at its organizational meeting: Mon Sept 19, 12:30-1:20, Room 0T10. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm 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 Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film, 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.

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 with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student’s disability or medical condition remains confidential http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility
Students are strongly advised to read the section of the Academic Calendar (found on-line at http://uwinnipeg.ca/new-faculty-handbook/appeals-and-academic-misconduct.html) for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in January 2017 and end in April 2017 of the 2017 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.