

THFM-4441-001 (3 credit hours)

THEATRE AESTHETICS

Fall 2019
Tues/Thurs 1:00 to 2:15 pm
Room 3M64

Instructor: Heidi Malazdrewich
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Office Hours: MW 1:30-4:30pm
Tuesdays 8:30-9:30am and by
appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to thinking about some fundamental aesthetic issues in theatre and the valuations associated with the art of the theatre. The course will concentrate on such issues as evaluations and critiquing, the purpose(s) of theatre, spectatorship and the relationship of aesthetics to ethics. The issues and concepts discussed in class will be applied to reflecting on current shows in Winnipeg in the form essays and creative responses.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Clements, Marie. *Burning Vision*
Fitzsimmons Frey, Heather (ed.). *Ignite: Illuminating Theatre for Young People* ed.
Ruhl, Sarah. *100 Essays I Don't Have the Time to Write*

REQUIRED READINGS

These readings are all available via the University library.

Links to each reading are provided on the class Nexus page

Boal, Augusto. *Theatre of the Oppressed* (pages 120-156)
Brubaker, Christine. "A Practitioners Attempt to Quantify the Actor's Experience"
Dolan, Jill. *Utopia in Performance* (Epilogue)
Favel, Floyd. "Theatre: Younger Brother of Tradition"
Kwan, Vanessa. "Public Art and The Mega-Event: Two Case Studies"
May, Theresa J. "Kneading Marie Clements' *Burning Vision*"

MARK DISTRIBUTION

Test (Oct. 10, 2019)	30%
Portfolio (Nov. 28, 2019) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 creative reviews and creative responses <input type="checkbox"/> Due in class	30%
Take Home Exam (Dec. 10, 2019)	30 %
Participation	10%
Total:	100%

ALL assignments must be submitted in HARD COPY and TYPED using MLA Format.

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	below50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 1% per day (weekends excluded). For example, if your essay is given a mark of 70% and it is a week late, you would receive 65%. The mark would then be converted to a mark out of twenty. Papers will **NOT** be accepted after the final deadline **December 10, 2019**.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

My hope is that everyone will come to class ready and willing to participate actively in class, group discussions. Your attendance and active participation in sessions will be reflected in your participation grade. You are invited to submit a one-page self-assessment using the following criteria at the end of the course to help me make a fair determination of your mark:

Excellent (A range – 17-20): Contribute to almost every class discussion, active participation in all class exercises, and attentive listening. Offer questions and comments that generate discussion. Know the readings very well and reflect on the issues they raise. Make connections between readings and class exercises. All assignments submitted on time.

Good to very good (B range – 14-16): Same as “excellent” but less consistently.

Average (C range – 12-13): Speak up regularly but mainly offer points from the readings without your own insights. Generally demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of concepts but don’t connect concepts to your experiences. Most assignments submitted on time.

Fair (D range – 10-11): Offer your own opinion without much connection to the readings. It's hard to tell if you have actually done the readings. Few assignments submitted on time.

Not satisfactory (F range - 0 to 9): Highly unlikely unless you don’t do the readings, don’t submit assignments on time, and don’t contribute to class discussion and exercises.

There is no penalty for shyness. While participation is valued, many people (myself included) are perfectly happy to talk when performing a teacher role but much less vocal when occupying a student role. Students who speak seldom in the large group can still earn a top participation mark by contributing actively to small group discussions and being active participants in class exercise. If you are by nature very

reserved, with the result that you rarely speak in class, you can still make valuable contributions to the course by bringing in resources and participating in small-group discussion and exercises. I will ask students to submit a self-assessment to assist with my determination of this mark.

Note: Permission to distribute this rubric was granted by Catherine Taylor from the Faculty of Education and Dept. of Rhetoric and Communications

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Fall Term

Sept.	03	Course Introduction
	05-17	Ruhl
	19-26	Boal
Oct.	01-03	Favel
	08	Review
	10	Test (in Class, handwritten)
	15-17	No class (Reading Break)
	22-29	Clements
	31	May
Nov.	05-14	Fitzsimmons Frey
	12	Final Withdrawal Date
	19	Lynn Nottage Speech (on video in class)
	21	Brubaker
	26	Kwan
	28	Dolan
		Portfolio is Due.
		Take home exam question is handed out.
Dec.	10	Take Home exam is Due by noon sharp.
		Late submissions will not be accepted.

HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (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. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (e.g. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.).

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your 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. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film presents 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**:

September 18th (Yvette Nolan, playwright/director/author/arts administrator)
 October 30th
 November 13th
 January 22nd
 February 12th
 March 4th

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-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II**. Penalties for absence may be assigned by individual instructors.

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

2019 ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term, introduce our new students to faculty and other students; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11th, 2019, 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.

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. Activities organized by TAFSA include regular **Performance Jams, Department parties** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and **24/7** (an event in which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours!).

Please join TAFSA to find out more at its organizational meeting, tentatively scheduled for Mon Sept 16th, 12:30-13:20 pm, Room OT10. 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 to 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.

All studios and labs are locked outside of building hours. Evening and weekend access can be added to your student card by visiting Melinda in the Department office, 3T03.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> 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.
- When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of

communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms. ***Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.***

- Students are strongly advised to read the sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).
- Detailed information regarding these policies can be found at the following:
 - Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
 - Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- *Misuse of Filesharing Sites.* Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.
- *Avoiding Copyright Violation.* Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor /presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.
- 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>

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATES (all courses)

The voluntary withdrawal dates for each term, without academic penalty, are:

- **FALL TERM COURSES:** November 12, 2019 for Fall courses which begin September 2019 and end December 2019
- **FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES:** February 14, 2020, for Fall/Winter courses which begin September 2019 and end April 2020
- **WINTER TERM COURSES:** March 13, 2020, for Winter courses which begin January 2020 and end April 2020

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY & COURSE CONTENT

Theatre & Film are communal art forms 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, meetings or shoots both within and outside of class times; and, in short, 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

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.