

THFM-4441-001 (3 credit hours)

THEATRE AESTHETICS

Fall 2020
Tues/Thurs 4:00-5:15pm
Online Zoom

Instructor: Heidi Malazdrewich
Office: 4T08
Phone: (204)786-9489
Email: h.malazdrewich@uwinnipeg.ca
Virtual Office Hours: MWF 1:20-2:20pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This synchronous online course will introduce students to thinking about fundamental questions related to the nature of theatre. Class discussions will be supplemented with reading and watching materials related to texts that unlock questions about the making and consuming of theatre. The course will be conducted over Zoom and will concentrate on creation processes, issues of evaluation and critiquing theatre, and the purpose(s) of theatre. Students will be required to reflect upon each of the required readings/viewings in the course. The reflection process will be evaluated through written papers leading to an in-depth research project beginning with the submission of an annotated bibliography and followed by a research paper. The main teaching outcomes for the course are to assist students: 1) to gain a greater and deeper knowledge of contemporary theatre practice, process, and theory; 2) to be able to clearly summarize and synthesize critical writings related to contemporary theatre practices and practitioners, and; 3) to be able to engage in thoughtful and informed discussions related to the texts studied in class.

MARK DISTRIBUTION

Attendance (.21% per class)	5%
Annotated Bibliography Assignment Due October 27 th , 2020	25%
Research Paper Due December 3 rd , 2020	30 %
Reflection Papers x 2 First paper due by October 29 th and second paper due by November 26 th , 2020	40 %
Total:	100%

ALL assignments must be submitted in PDF form to Nexus by 6pm on the Due Date.

With the reality of on-line classes reliance on technology, there will be flexibility around attendance and participation. The goal will be to work with students to make sure their access needs are met. Professional conduct is expected at all times. The instructor will work with students if frequent absenteeism or lateness becomes disruptive and explore solutions if the challenges are due to the limitations of remote learning. However, failure to meet reasonable standards of responsible behaviour in relation to classmates and instructors will not be tolerated.

If it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, every effort will be made to inform students via UWinnipeg email.

A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

Students have the responsibility to regularly check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors.

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund. The Voluntary Withdrawal date is November 17th, 2020. I encourage students who are considering withdrawing to reach out to me prior to doing so in the case that I may be able to help in some way.

The first day of class is September 8th, 2020 . Last class will be held on December 3rd, 2020. Evaluation period is December 10th-23rd, 2020.

Recordings of on-line classes may only be made if students are absent with cause and will therefore miss an important lesson. In this case the recording would be limited to the pinning of the instructor's video and not include other students without their express permission. Class recordings may not be shared with anyone outside the class and may only be retained until the end of the academic year. Students who are concerned about recording, can also choose to turn off their camera.

No student is allowed to disseminate recordings outside of the class or post recordings publicly. Access to the recordings will be limited to the instructor and the students. Violation of this provision may be cause for expulsion from the class.

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 10% per day (weekends excluded). For example, if your essay is given a mark of 70% and it is four week-days late it will receive a mark of 30%.

Students can find answers to frequently asked questions related to remote learning here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html>

REQUIRED READINGS

These readings are all available via the class Nexus page and may change as the course progresses. Links to each of the readings are provided on the class Nexus page and additional readings and viewings will be assigned as necessary.

anitafrika, d'bi young. "r/evolution begins within", Canadian Theatre Review, Volume 150, Spring 2012, pp. 26-29.

Boal, Augusto, *Theatre of the Oppressed*, Pluto Press Limited, 1979, selected sections

Bogart, Anne. "Chapter 8: Time", *And Then, you act: Making Art in an Unpredictable World*, 2007, pp.126- 140.

Brecht, Bertolt. "The Street Scene", *Brecht on Theatre*, trans. John Willett, Methuen & Co, 1964, pp. 121-129.

Dolan, Jill. "Introduction", *Utopia in Performance*, University of Michigan Press, 2005, pp. 1-12.

Lauzon, Jani. "The Search for Spiritual Transformation in Contemporary Theatre Practice", *Performing Indigeneity*, eds. Yvette Nolan and Ric Knowles, Playwrights Canada Press, 2016, pp. 87-97

Lendra, I Wayan. "Bali and Grotowski: Some Parallels in the Training Process", *Acting (Re) Considered* Ed. Phillip B. Zarrilli, Routledge, 2005, pp. 148-162

Nolan, Yvette. *Katharsis*, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Streamed Performance, Oct.5th - 11th 2020.

Mojica, Monique. "Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way", *Indigenous North American Drama: A Multivocal History*, ed. Brigit Dawes, State University of New York Press, 2013, pp. 123-139

Nottage, Lynn. "A Conversation with Lynn Nottage at Westport County Playhouse", Oct. 3rd, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnBj-1VUrcg>

Nottage, Lynn. "Putting Women Center Stage", *Well-read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves*, as told to Glory Edim, ed. Maya Millet, Ballentine Books, 2018, pp. 136- 148.

Tannahill, Jordan. "The Well Made Play", *Theatre of the Unimpressed*, Coach House Books, 2015, pp. 35-44.

Stanley, Sarah Garton. "Failure Points", Canadian Theatre Review, Volume 150, Spring 2012, pp. 100-102

Suzuki, Tadashi, "Culture is the Body", *Acting (Re) Considered*, Ed. Phillip B. Zarrilli, Routledge, 2005, pp. 163-167.

Watson, Bahia. "Spotlight: Weyni Mengesha", *Intermission Magazine*, accessed July 28th, 2020.

<https://www.intermissionmagazine.ca/spotlight/spotlight-weyni-mengesha/>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

***Note: all topics listed below may not be covered.**

Week 1 (September 8th and 10th)

Course Introduction

Reading : Handout

Week 2 (September 15th and 17th)

Reading: Jani Lauzon
Sarah Ruhl

Week 3 (September 22nd and 24th)

Reading: Bertolt Brecht
Augusto Boal

Week 4 (September 29th and October 1st)

Reading: Lynn Nottage
Sarah Garton Stanley

Week 5 (October 6th and 8th)*Katharsis Opens on Oct. 5th and runs until Oct. 11th*

Reading: Jill Dolan
Bahia Watson

Week 6 (October 13th and 15th)*Reading Break No Classes***Week 7 (October 20th and 22nd)**

Reading: Yvette Nolan

Week 8 (October 27th and 29th)*Annotated Bibliography Due

Reading: D'bi Young Anitafrika
Monique Mojica

Week 9 (November 3rd and 5th)

Annotated Bibliography Sharing/Research Paper Workshop

Week 10 (November 10th and 12th)

Reading: Jordan Tannahill
I Weyan Lendra

Week 11 (November 17th and 19th) *Voluntary Withdrawal Date Nov. 17th

Reading: Tadashi Suzuki
Anne Bogart

Week 12 (November 24th and 26th)

Guest Theatre Makers and Readings (TBD)

Week 13 (December 1st and 3rd)*Research Paper Due

Course Wrap up

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY & COURSE CONTENT (non-perf)

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.

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 on-campus lectures and labs. 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

During the FW terms, the Department of Theatre and Film presents a series of six lectures held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20); in 20-21, these will be presented online (by Zoom or other platform). 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."

The first Lecture will take place at 12:30 pm Wednesday, September 23rd, and features Yolanda Bonnell, a performer and playwright of Ojibwe and South Asian descent, from Fort William First Nation Indian Reserve in Thunder Bay, ON. Now based in Toronto, Yolanda graduated from Humber College's theatre performance program and was named one of NOW Magazine's artists to watch in Summerworks in 2016.

Further guests and dates will be confirmed in September.

Normally, attendance at **EVERY** lecture is mandatory for all Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), as well as students in THFM-3110-001 Screen Acting, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II, and any other appropriate 3000-level course being taught in the term.

For the unusual circumstances of 2020-21, attendance is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for all Honours students, 3000-level THFM majors, potential Theatre Honours/Majors and for Film Majors.

Dates and delivery method will be confirmed in September. Please see our department website in the Fall for information.

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. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This September, the Assembly will likely happen via Zoom. Date and delivery method will be confirmed in in early September. Please see our department website for information.

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 their meetings, every second Monday from 12:30-13:20 pm (by Zoom or other platform in 2020-21). 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

To safeguard the health of the UWinnipeg community — and support public health efforts — during the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the UW campus is closed until further notice. All academic instruction and evaluation will continue through alternate delivery.

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is **CLOSED** as per Campus policy. Access for students attending in-person labs in our building will be arranged as necessary. All studios and labs are locked 24/7.

NOTE: It is **MANDATORY** that anyone attending labs or rehearsals in the building carry an ID card/student card to verify they are allowed to be on campus. If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you will be evicted.**

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

RECORDING ON-LINE CLASSES

The instructor may choose to record a zoom or video class if there are online connectivity issues, absences, or to post to Nexus for later review.

If a lecture is recorded, students will be given notice (via the course outline or on a case-by-case basis) that their personal information may be captured; informed of how long the recording will be retained; and whether the recording will be used for evaluation of any kind. Students will also be given the option to turn off their cameras/microphones and use pseudonyms to remain anonymous (except where class participation is required).

Students with concerns or who wish to seek alternate arrangements may discuss the matter with the instructor.

Access to recordings will be limited to the academic staff, students, and others with a legitimate need. Recordings containing student personal information will not be posted publicly, but only on UW-approved servers.

No student is allowed to disseminate recordings outside of the class or post recordings publicly. Access to the recordings will be limited to the instructor and the students.

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* and *Access Card/Building Use Policy*.

Room bookings at the ACTF are suspended until at least December 31, 2020 and possibly longer. However, when we are able to allow students to book rooms again, links to *Room Booking Instructions* and electronic *Online Room Booking Form* can also be found on our department website. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

- Students can find answers to frequently ask questions related to remote learning here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html>.
- Students should check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses daily as this is the most direct way instructors and the University will contact students, particularly during the current remote learning environment.
- 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, they should withdraw from this course immediately.

- Unless necessary for accessing class, cellular phones should 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. ***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.***
- **Regulations, Policies, and Academic Integrity:** Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the "Regulations and Policies" found in the University Academic Calendar at: <https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections **8 ("Student Discipline")**, **9 ("Senate Appeals")**, and **10 ("Grade Appeals")**.

Please note the importance of maintaining academic integrity, and the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even "unintentional" plagiarism, as described in the UW Library video tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>) is a form of academic misconduct.

Similarly, 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) is a form of misconduct, as it involves "aiding and abetting" plagiarism. More detailed information can be found here: 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>.

- **Copyright and Intellectual Property.** Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, notes on whiteboards, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. 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, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor's intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non-Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright Policy (https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/docs/copyright_policy_2017.pdf).

- **Research Ethics.** Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research

ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html>.

- **Privacy.** Students should be familiar with their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>)
- **Respectful Learning Environment.** All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used.

Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies (e.g., *Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy* at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>; *Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy* at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>) could be considered “non-academic” misconduct.

More detailed information can be found here:

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> .

- 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

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

- **FALL TERM COURSES:** November 17, 2020 for Fall courses which begin in September 2020 and end in December 2020;
- **FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES:** February 23, 2021 for Fall/Winter courses which begin in September 2020 and end in April 2021;
- **WINTER TERM COURSES:** March 16, 2021 for Winter courses which begin in January 2021 and end in April 2021.

Students are encouraged to speak to the Instructor before withdrawing to explore other options.

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