THET 110  
INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE  
Fall 2013

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Korey Rothman  
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OFFICE: 1733 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment  
CANVAS: www.elms.umd.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Your Teaching Assistant (TA) will lead your discussion section. Additionally, please contact your TA for any questions regarding course content or policies, assignments, grades, attendance, or administrative questions. Your TA will be the primary grader of your work, so if you have questions or concerns while working on an assignment, visit him or her during office hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: This course teaches students how to become knowledgeable audience members and to appreciate the meanings that theatre can hold in a given cultural context. Among other topics, students will learn:

- How to read plays effectively
- How to think and write critically about performance
- The jobs of different types of theatre professionals
- An overview of theatre history
- The role that theatre plays in contemporary culture
- The ways theatre addresses issues of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class
- Theatre's relevance to widespread audiences

The readings for this course will introduce students to the dramatic canon, provide students with fundamental knowledge of dramatic principles and theatrical styles, and address a range of contemporary social issues. This course is intended as an introduction to theatre and does not require prior theatrical experience.

REQUIRED TEXTS FOR PURCHASE: *The Seagull Reader: Plays*, second edition, edited by Joseph Kelly. This book will also be on reserve at the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Any required readings not in the textbook will be available under the “Modules” tab on Canvas.

REQUIRED VIDEO VIEWINGS ON RESERVE THROUGH HORNBAKE LIBRARY: *Show Business: The Road to Broadway* and *Rent*

REQUIRED PLAY ATTENDANCE: You are required to see two plays produced by the University of Maryland School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. You can purchase tickets at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center box office or at [http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/](http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/). Tickets for the two productions you are required to see will cost $20 total.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MANY OF THE REQUIRED READINGS, VIDEOS, AND PLAYS CONTAIN MATURE CONTENT, EXPLICIT LANGUAGE, DIFFICULT THEMES, AND/OR NUDITY. THEY MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME PEOPLE.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Participation:** Regular attendance is expected in both lecture and discussion sections, and you should come to both prepared to offer thoughtful comments and questions about the material. Your participation grade will be out of 100 points. In each discussion class you can earn up to five participation points for a total of 75 possible points. Additionally, you can earn up to 25 points for your regular attendance, engagement in, and contributions to lecture. Remember, if you are not present, you cannot participate and you will receive 0 points on days you are absent from discussion, but attendance does not equal participation. **CELL PHONES, TEXTING AND DOING THINGS NOT RELATED TO CLASS ON YOUR COMPUTER ARE PROHIBITED. EACH TIME YOU ARE CAUGHT USING YOUR CELL PHONE OR THE COMPUTER FOR ACTIVITIES NOT RELATED TO CLASS IN LECTURE OR IN DISCUSSION YOU WILL LOSE FIVE POINTS FROM YOUR TOTAL PARTICIPATION GRADE.**

**Excused Absences:** Excused absences from class include religious holidays, a death in the family (an obituary or funeral program must be submitted), or court dates (an official notice from the court must be submitted). If you miss a quiz, exam, or paper deadline due to illness you must provide written documentation from the Health
Center or an outside health care provider, verifying dates of treatment and the time period during which you were unable to meet academic responsibilities. In accordance with the new university policy on medical absences, we will accept a self-signed note for a SINGLE missed lecture or discussion that includes a statement about the illness and a statement acknowledging the information is true and correct under the Code of Student Conduct. In accordance with university policy, this self-signed note is not accepted on days with Major Scheduled Grading Events, which are days when you have scheduled quizzes or exams. The self-signed note also does not exempt a student from turning in a paper on time. In order to make up missed participation points for your excused absence or one self-signed note your TA will give you a topic for a response paper due one week from the date of the discussion class missed.

**Quizzes:** Throughout the semester you will have 11 quizzes. Nine quizzes will be scheduled quizzes given in discussion section and two will be unannounced quizzes given in lecture. Quizzes will cover assigned readings, videos, and play viewings, as well as material from lectures (including guest lectures). Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes are considered Major Scheduled Grading Events and cannot be made up, except in the case of an excused absence (see above), but if you miss a quiz because of an absence you may count it as your dropped quiz. If you do have an excused absence that allows you to take a make up, you must contact your TA immediately and arrange to take the make up no later than one week after the date the quiz was given in class.

**Performance Analysis:** For each of the two performances you will write a performance analysis that is 2-3 pages in length. More detailed guidelines for the performance analyses will be provided on Canvas.

**Performance Project:** Students will work in small groups and, incorporating ideas presented in the readings and lectures, present a 10-15 minute fully-developed, memorized performance and discussion in front of their discussion section. In addition to participating in the performance, students will submit a project proposal, a five source annotated bibliography, and a 2-3 page process paper. No previous experience with theatre is expected or required for this assignment. A detailed description of this assignment will be provided on Canvas.

**Exams:** You will have a midterm and a non-cumulative final exam. Exams may include true/false, multiple-choice, matching, diagrams, short answer, and essay questions.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You can earn a maximum of 30 extra credit points through any combination of the options listed below. Extra credit will be added to the total cumulative grade

**Play review:** You can earn up to 15 points of extra credit by attending a university or professional theatre production (no high school or community theatre) and writing a review of the production that is two full pages in length in which you discuss how the production you saw fits in with issues addressed in class. Unless the play you see was suggested on Canvas or by Dr. Rothman in class, you will need to get prior approval for the play from your TA. You must include the ticket stub with your review.

**Play analysis:** You can earn up to 15 points by reading one of the pre-approved plays available on Canvas and writing a two-page response paper that considers how the play fits in with the topics we have addressed in class.

**Practical experience:** There are other possible options for extra credit, including performing in directing scenes, getting cast in a theatre performance on campus, running crew, and working in the theatre shops. Extra Credit for practical experience is allocated on a case-by-case basis. If you are interested in pursing one of these options please discuss this with your TA.

**Discretionary:** Extra credit points may also be distributed at the discretion of the instructor or TA for extraordinary contributions to class.

**Other:** We are open to other extra credit options; if you have any ideas, please check with your TA.

**GRADING:**

Your grade is out of 800 points and will be determined as follows:

- **Midterm Exam** 150 pts.
- **Final Exam** 150 pts.
- **Performance Analyses** 150 pts. (75 pts. each)
- **Performance Project** 150 pts.
- **Quizzes** 100 pts. (10 pts. each)
- **Participation** 100 pts.

Grading:

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We are open to other extra credit options; if you have any ideas, please check with your TA.
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:
Submission: All papers must be submitted to your TA in hard copy at the beginning of class. Emailed papers will not be accepted.

Format: All assignments must be typewritten in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and free of errors. You will be graded on both the content of your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your writing, so we strongly suggest that you visit the Writing Center on campus (http://www.english.umd.edu/writingcenter) before turning in your papers.

Late Papers: Papers must be submitted as soon as class begins on the day that they are due. For every hour that a paper is late, we will deduct 5% of the total possible paper grade. Unless you make specific arrangements, papers are due in hard copy only. If you turn a paper in to your TAs mailbox in 2810 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, please have office personnel time/date stamp it. Otherwise, we will consider the time we pick it up to be the time you turned it in.

Citations: All information used in your papers must be fully and accurately cited; failure to cite your sources correctly may result in disciplinary action by the university. You may use the citation style of your choice, as long as the citations are consistent and correct. For suggested citation guidelines, please refer to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers by Joseph Gibaldi (MLA style), or A Manual for Writers by Kate Turabian (Chicago style). If you have concerns about your understanding of proper citations, please see your TA or Dr. Rothman or visit the Writing Center.

Academic Integrity: The University has a Code of Academic Integrity, which prohibits, among other things, cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers or portions of papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, forging signatures, and using unauthorized study aids (including old quizzes and exams). This class abides by that code.

Challenges: If you have a concern about a grade on an assignment you must present the graded assignment and one paragraph explaining your comments on the grade (including any supporting evidence) to your TA no later than one week after the grade is posted. *After one week, questions about grades will not be considered. This policy applies to ALL grades – including quiz grades and missing grades.* Please note that in our reconsideration your grade may go up, but it may also go down.

Copyright: Class lectures and other materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced for anything other than personal use without written permission from the instructor.

Please consult Canvas for a handout on University and School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies policies regarding Plus Minus Grading, Religious Observances, Academic Accommodations, Honor Code, Sexual Harassment, and Attendance.