THE111 – Introduction to Theatre Online
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The content of this course is derived in large part from the textbook, "The Essential Theatre" and the companion text "Plays for the Theatre" by Oscar Brockett with Robert J. Ball, copyright 2003 by Harcourt Brace College Publishers. All photographs used in this course are from the textbook and are protected by copyright. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. These materials are made available at this site for the educational purposes of students enrolled in my class at The University of Maine. They are not for further reproduction or transmission.

Specific Cautions About This Online Class

• You must have a FirstClass Account and use it for ALL COMMUNICATIONS! Otherwise, you may experience severe difficulties in submitting assignments and accessing the Chat area, or receiving information about assignments.
• You must become familiar with WebCT: open an account and go through the lessons at your own pace and whenever you want.
• It is your responsibility to be able to use the technology, i.e.... sending your assignments to the dropbox, accessing the exams, etc.... There are no acceptable excuses for failing to complete the course work on time. Get help from the online HELP technicians. They are there to assist you. Only in extreme, provable cases do we grant leniency.
• There are firm deadlines for papers and the exams! We mean FIRM! Miss them/you fail the assignment or exam.
• There are specific dates and times for the Midterm and Final Exams. These times are FIRM and you must be available during one of the two times each is offered, or don’t take the course.
• This is not an open-ended course, it ends after the Final Exam. There are NO “Incompletes,” unless it is a documented medical or other emergency.
• YOU MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND all of the material in this first Introductory section. It serves as the syllabus and the rules of the course. IT IS YOUR CONTRACT.
• Nevertheless, most people have fun with the freedom of this online experience, and they have enjoyed learning about theatre and performance!
• If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact either Professor Tom Mikotowicz, 581-1965, or Ann Smith, Director of Disability Services at their new location in East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

How to Use this Course

Keep on Schedule
• Read the Book
• Contact Me
• Make the Assignment
Deadlines
   –All Assignments Are Due Now, and not after the deadline!

NO ATTACHMENTS!

Use only FirstClass (not AOL or other ISP’s) to send your assignments.
• Using This Web Page
Approach

Course Objectives
This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of theatre, which will lead to a deeper appreciation of this performing art.

- Students will learn the names of major playwrights, their plays, and the people who acted in them throughout history.
- Students will learn how historical structures of performance have shaped and are visible in our contemporary performances.
- Students will learn how plays are produced and who puts them together, leading to a greater understanding of live productions.
- This course encourages students to attend live performances.
- Finally, and most importantly, this course attempts to show the connections between performance and present-day culture to help students better understand human development and ultimately themselves.

Course Syllabus

- This course is designed to be taken in its entirety during the Spring Term 2012. Therefore, the work is broken down into three segments that generally coincide with the months of January, February, and March/April. All work for this course must be completed by April 30th, which is the day of the final exam.
- Of course, you may choose to organize the work according to your own schedule, but use the following schedule as a guide to successfully complete the class. Falling behind can be detrimental to your progress in the class.

January, 2012

- Spend the first day familiarizing yourself with this opening syllabus chapter, learning the rules, deadlines, and policies of the course!!!
- Lesson 1 – What is Theatre and Performance? Read Essential Theatre pp. 1-34
- Lesson 2 – Types of Theatre. *
- Lesson 3 – How to Read a Play. Read Essential Theatre pp. 35-54
- Lesson 4 – Types of Theatre Stages. Read Essential Theatre pp. 283-298
- Lesson 5 – The Roles of Theatre Artists.*
- Lesson 6 – Six Periods of Theatre History.*
- Lesson 7 – The Festival Theatre. Read Essential Theatre pp. 57-98
  –Read Oedipus Rex in Brockett/Ball’s Plays for the Theatre pp. 1-36
- Submit Essay #1 by January 27th. FirstClass: the111_dropbox  (NOTE: All Assignments should be turned in early so you don’t miss the deadline! We want you to submit earlier than the deadline! NO ATTACHMENTS!)
- Lesson 8 – Cultural Connections for Festival Theatre.**
- *some lessons do not have specific correlative readings, but are throughout several chapters of the book.
February 2012

- Lesson 9 – The Playwright and Dramaturg. Read Essential Theatre pp. 299-314
- Lesson 11 – Cultural Connections for Professional.**
  - Read Hamlet in Brockett/Ball’s Plays for the Theatre, pp. 51-148
- Lesson 12 – The Director and Producer. Read Essential Theatre pp. 315-342
- Submit Play Analysis by February 16th.
- Lesson 13 – From Romanticism to Realism. Read Essential Theatre pp. 139-152
  - Read A Doll’s House in Brockett/Ball’s Plays for the Theatre pp. 250-294
- Lesson 14 – Cultural Connections for Romanticism/Realism.**
- Midterm Exam – February 22nd. Either at 11AM or 8PM, your choice!
- Lesson 15 – The Performer. Read Essential Theatre pp. 343-360
- Lesson 17 – Cultural Connections for The Modernist Temperament**
  *some lessons do not have specific readings, but cross several chapters of the book.
**some lessons do not have correlative readings at all.

March/April, 2012

- Lesson 18 – The Scenic Designer. Read Essential Theatre pp. 361-382
- Lesson 19 – Reevaluation, Decentralization, and Subsidization. Read Essential Theatre pp. 1
- Submit Essay #3 by April 9th. FirstClass: the111_dropbox
- Submit Essay #2 by March 16th
- Lesson 20 – Cultural Connections for Decentralization and Subsidization.**
  - Read Cat On A Hot Tin Roof in Brockett/Ball’s Plays for Theatre, pp. 373-426
- Lesson 21 – The Costume Designer and Makeup Artist. Read Essential Theatre pp. 383-404
  - Submit Essay #3 by April 13th
- Lesson 22 – Contemporary Diversity. Read Essential Theatre pp. 227-262
  - Read How I Learned to Drive in Brockett/Ball’s Plays for the Theatre pp. 515-548
- Lesson 23 – Cultural Connections for Cultural Diversity.**
  - Submit Live Performance Paper by April 23rd. FirstClass: the111_dropbox
- Lesson 24 – The Lighting, Props, and Sound Designers. pp. 405-427
- Lesson 25 – Career Opportunities and Theatre Appreciation.**
- Final Exam, April 30th – Either at 11AM or 8PM, your choice!
Lessons
• 1. What is Theatre and Performance
• 2. Types of Theatre
• 3. How to Read A Play
• 4. Types of Theatre Stages
• 5. The Roles of Theatre Artists
• 6. Six Periods of Theatre History
• 7. The Festival Theatre
• 8. Cultural Connections for Festival
• 9. The Playwright and Dramaturg
• 10. The Professional Theatre
• 11. Cultural Connections for Professional Theatre
• 12. The Director and Producer
• 13. From Romanticism to Realism
• 14. Cultural Connections for Romanticism/Realism
• 15. The Performer
• 16. The Modernist Temperament
• 17. Cultural Connections for the Modernist Temperament
• 18. The Scenic Designer
• 19. Reevaluation, Decentralization and Subsidization
• 20. Cultural Connections for Reevaluation, Decentralization and Subsidization
• 21. Costume and Makeup Designers
• 22. Contemporary Diversity
• 23. Cultural Connections for Diversity
• 24. The Lighting, Props, and Sound Designers
• 25. Careers & Theatre Appreciation

Assignments

* Reading

* Writing

Plagiarism – We have ZERO TOLERANCE for plagiarism or cheating. If a student is caught, it results in automatic failure of the course and referral to the Judicial Affairs unit of the University. This can result in expulsion from the university. Unfortunately, we have recently had to fail and report students who have used material from previous semesters. Don’t do it. We have the capability of searching our databases and we have
software to catch you. It is easy to cheat, but it is easier for us to catch you. Also, don’t share your assignments with future classes because this also is a violation of the policy.

Main Menu

Reading Assignments

• Students must keep up with the regular readings in Brockett’s The Essential Theatre. The listing is included in the Syllabus and the beginning of every lesson. Some lessons DO NOT have accompanying page numbers in the book. So, there is no reading required. Cultural Connections Lessons, for example, do not have accompanying readings in the book. Other lessons may require that you read several different passages out of the book rather than just one chapter.

• In Plays for the Theatre, students must read the plays: *Oedipus Rex, Hamlet, A Doll’s House, Cat On a Hot Tin Roof, and How I Learned To Drive.*

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Writing Assignments

• **Play Analysis Paper – Due February 16th**
• **Live Performance Analysis Paper – Due April 23**
• **Essay 1 – Due January 27th**
• **Essay 2 – Due March 16th**
• **Essay 3 – Due April 13th**

All deadlines are firm. If you miss one, you fail the assignment. Use the digital dropbox (Just type “THE111_Dropbox” in FirstClass). You must send me the assignment in the dropbox so that the email is postmarked on the deadline. If you even one second late, you FAIL the assignment. Send your assignments well ahead of time so that you don’t get caught in heavy internet traffic or other problems. So, send your assignments in EARLY!!! We actually prefer it!!!

• You can only “SEND” to the digital dropbox. It won’t let you access it to confirm that it arrived. When you send it, it to yourself: if you receive the copy, and there are no error messages, then you can be assured that it arrived safely. Send a test message when you start the class to the dropbox. Make sure you are logged into FirstClass and you are not using another ISP, such as AOL, Earthlink, etc…. If you are really, really nervous, then write to me and I will let you know arrived. NO ATTACHMENTS! Cut and Paste or type your work directly into the email.

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Play Analysis and Live Performance Analysis Papers

• Students are required to write two five-page papers, a Play Analysis, and a Live Performance Analysis (1200 words each approx.). The Play Analysis is on a playscript from the text and the second is on a Live Performance that you attend during the course (not before). The Play Analysis Paper is on one of the following: Noah and His Sons, Tartuffe, Servant of Two Masters, Good Woman of Setzuan, Happy Days, Roosters, Ma Rainey's., Shrine in the Fields, and Strong Breed. See Lesson 3 for tips on analyzing performances and plays. Deadline for submitting this paper into the Digital Dropbox -- the111_dropbox -- is February 16th. The second paper is the Live Performance Analysis paper, written after seeing a stage production in your area. All productions should be approved by the professor. The deadline for this paper is April 23rd. All productions must have taken place during this semester (January 9th to April 23rd, 2012). So, start early in deciding which show you are going to see. There are many high school, college, community, and professional productions from which to choose. On your paper, you must indicate WHERE and WHEN you saw the production! See the FirstClass Chat for Paper Specifications! Summer students ONLY: you may substitute a film for a live production if there is not one playing in your area.

Three Essays on Performance

• Essay #1 is 200-400 words due on January 27th. via the Digital Dropbox: the111_dropbox.  
  – Write about a contemporary connection to the Festival or Professional Theatre period.
• Essay #2 is 200-400 words due on March 16th via the Digital Dropbox: the111_dropbox.  
  – Write about a contemporary connection to the From Romanticism to Realism or the Modernist Temperament periods.
• Essay #3 is 200-400 words due on April 13th via the Digital Dropbox: the111_dropbox  
  – Write about a contemporary connection to the Decentralization and Subsidization or Contemporary Diversity periods.
• All essays may use a specific contemporary play production, film, television show, computer game, website, or sport to show how historical theatre approaches have influenced our present-day performances. Use specific example productions and name the date viewed.
Course Materials

• Textbooks:
• Both Are Available Through The Bookstore

• or you can call Wadsworth Customer Service Department at 1-800-354-9706. You will need to give the customer service representatives the ISBN 0534153291 (8th Edition) and your credit card/mailing information.

Tests and Grading

• Tests
• Grading

Plagiarism – We have ZERO TOLERANCE for plagiarism or cheating. If a student is caught, it results in automatic failure of the course and referral to the Judicial Affairs unit of the University. This can result in expulsion from the university. Unfortunately, we have recently had to fail and report students who have used material from previous semesters. Don’t do it. We have the capability of searching our databases and we have software to catch you. It is easy to cheat, but it is easier for us to catch you. Also, don’t share your assignments with future classes because this also is a violation of the policy.

Midterm and Final Exams
Midterm Exam: There will be a fifty-minute-long midterm exam offered online on February 22nd, 2012, at EITHER 11AM OR 8PM, your choice. The test is a “multiple choice,” “true and false exam.” It covers Lessons 1 through 14 and the plays that were read. You will receive a notice regarding the exact time and how to access the exam online in the THE111 window and Chat area.

Final Exam: There will be a fifty-minute-long final exam offered online on April 30th, 2012, at EITHER 11AM OR 8PM, your choice. The test is a “multiple choice,” “true and false” exam. It covers Lessons 15 through 25 and the plays that were read. You will receive a notice regarding the exact time and how to access the exam online in the THE111 window and Chat area.

Failure to Take the Exam: If a student misses taking the online exam, he or she fails the exam. However, if there is a documented medical or legitimate personal reason, at the discretion of the professor, the student may take the exam in the next semester that the course is offered. Thus, it is better to finish now.

Grading

- Midterm Exam = Approximately 20% of Grade
- Final Exam = Approximately 20% of Grade
- Performance Paper = Approximately 20% of Grade
- Play Analysis Paper = Approximately 20% of Grade
- Summer Students: Either paper is 40% of Grade
- Three Essays = Approximately 15% of your Grade (5% Each)
- Chat Room and Links Involvement = Approximately 5% of Grade

Communications

Contact: Tom Mikotowicz
- Digital Dropbox
- Chat Room
- Feedback on the Course
• **Links to Theatre Sites**

Contact Dr. Tom Mikotowicz

*University of Maine*
*School of Performing Arts*
*Division of Theatre/Dance*
*Class of 1944 Hall, Room 208b*
**Orono, Maine 04469-5788**
**207-581-1965**

miko@maine.edu
or
tom.mikotowicz@umit.maine.edu

**Digital Dropbox**

• All assignments must be cut and pasted into an email (NO ATTACHMENTS!!! Or you fail the assignment) and sent to the Digital Dropbox.
• In FirstClass, just type "the111_dropbox" in the address area.
• Under the Subject Heading, please label each assignment with its name and with the THE 111 designator, such as: "Performance Paper: THE 111" or "Essay 1: THE 111."
• Assignments should be submitted early. However, no assignment will be accepted after the due date (FirstClass email headers note the time sent), even if you are seconds or minutes late. You must submit early enough to make sure it is received on time.
• You can only "SEND" to the digital dropbox. It won't let you access it to confirm that it arrived. When you send it, copy it to yourself: if you receive the copy, and there are no error messages, then you can be assured that it arrived safely. Send a test message at the start of the semester to the dropbox. Make sure you are logged into FirstClass and you are not using another ISP, such as AOL, Earthlink, etc. If you are really, really nervous, then write to me and I will let you know if it arrived.

**The Chat Room**

• Students are expected to take part in the regular chat room discussions.
• In FirstClass, just type “the111_chat” in the address area.
• I will regularly submit topics for discussion which each student should think about and to which he or she should respond.
• 5% of your grade will be based upon your involvement in the Chat Room.
Feedback on the Course

• I am always trying to improve my courses for students. So feel free to contribute criticisms, suggestions, and even compliments to help me continue to develop and shape this course.

• Send an email to miko@maine.edu, and also make sure you fill out the student evaluations at the end of the semester.
• In FirstClass, just type “Tom Mikotowicz” in the address area.

Links to Theatre Sites

Since Links change, it is now advised to use Google to find sites of interest.
• The links you can find through the search engine Google include geographical and interesting theatrical sites, as well as sites of current producing theatres. Thus, it is always interesting to see how many Ancient Greek, or Renaissance plays are currently being produced at the professional theatres. Also, it is very educational to see who is contempoporizing a classic text. Also, it is interesting to read the biographies of the actors, directors, and designers who are working at these theatres.
• Feel free to let me and your classmates know if you find an interesting theatre site.