THEATER 10 – Introduction to Theater (5 units)
Professor David Gorshein
UCLA Department of Theater
Summer 2019

This syllabus is subject to change. The course website has the definitive information.

Course Description

This course explores the principles and major components of live theatrical performance, including the collaborative dynamics between actors, directors, playwrights, and audiences. The course covers major theatrical works from around the globe, exploring how performance reflects cultural and historical contexts.

The course consists of prerecorded lectures, readings, online screenings, and written assignments.

This class is fully asynchronous. Students do not need to be online at a specific time or report to a physical location for any portion of the class.

Course Objectives

- To expand the appreciation of “live” theater and performances
- To learn how to carefully read plays and critical works about theater
- To practice writing about performance
- To evaluate various methods within the disciplines of theater and performance studies

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for keeping up with lecture presentations, reading assignments, and required screenings. The following are also required:

1 – Weekly quizzes
2 – Paper 1: choice of three prompts
3 – Final paper
Grading

Your grade will be based on the following distribution:

- **Quizzes (9 total quizzes, lowest score is dropped)**: 60%
- **Paper 1**: 15%
- **Final paper**: 25%

The lowest quiz score will be dropped: this drop is meant to cover any medical/personal/technical issues that a student may encounter during the quarter, plus any particularly bad performance on an assignment. You do not need to contact us separately about any of these eventualities, as extensions and make-ups will not be granted. If you do not submit a quiz by the deadline, there is no way to make it up, since the feedback becomes available immediately.

There will be an extra credit opportunity to share a video of you performing for our class. The video must be uploaded by the end of Week 5. The extra credit will count for up to 2% additional points on your final grade. See the course website for instructions.

Late Policy: Please note that each assignment is due not only on a particular day but by a particular time. Late papers will be marked down half a letter grade (5 points). Papers submitted more than 24 hours late will be docked 10 points, and papers submitted more than 48 hours late will NOT be accepted, except in case of documented illness or emergency.

Quizzes may not be completed late. They will close at the deadline.

Required Reading

You are required to purchase a course reader. In order to get the online course reader, you will have to go directly to https://ucla.redshelf.com/ and register. After registering, you should search for the course you are taking – in this case, Theater 10. Please follow the additional steps on the site to purchase and download the course reader. Paper copies of the course reader are available in the Luvalle bookstore on campus.

Academic Integrity

Any written assignment must be solely the work of the student who turns it in. Compiling a written assignment by pasting together extracts from websites is unacceptable and is a form of plagiarism. EVERY PAPER MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH TURNITIN. The course website will explain how to do this.

UCLA’s policies on academic integrity and student conduct may be found at: [http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Student-Conduct-Code](http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Student-Conduct-Code)
Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu. Disability accommodations needs should be communicated to the instructor and/or Teaching Assistant before assignments are due unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Undergraduate Writing Center

The Undergraduate Writing Center offers UCLA undergraduates free, one-on-one feedback and support on their writing. The UWC is staffed by Peer Learning Facilitators (PLFs), fellow students who understand the challenges of writing at UCLA. PLFs are trained to help at any stage in the writing process, with writing assignments from any class, as well as research projects and application materials. They tailor meetings to the concerns of each writer. Book an appointment or learn more: uwc.ucla.edu.
SCHEDULE

Week One

Lesson 1
Lecture: Theater
Reading: Wilson & Goldfarb, Chapters 1-2, Theatre: The Lively Art

Quiz 1: Due Wednesday of Week 2 at 11:59 pm. For Week 1, please try to complete the quizzes by Sunday night to keep yourself on track. However, we realize there are many students who enroll late, so the quiz deadlines the first week are extended until Wednesday of Week 2. For subsequent weeks, quizzes are due Sunday nights.

Lesson 2
Lecture: Play analysis
Reading: - Reza, Art
          - Dixon, “How to Read a Play”
Audio: LA Theatre Works, Art

Quiz 2: Due Wednesday of Week 2 at 11:59 pm.

Week Two

Lesson 3
Lecture: Acting
Reading: - Bloom & Goldstein, “The Mind on Stage”
          - Stanislavski, ”Direction and Acting”
Screening: Stagedoor (2006)

Quiz 3: Due Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Lesson 4
Lecture: Directing and producing
Reading: - Ibsen, A Doll’s House
          - Green, “Nora’s Journey Through a Century of Feminisms”
Screening: Looking for a Miracle: Reflections on Ibsen’s A Doll’s House by Mabou Mines (2008)

Quiz 4: Due Sunday at 11:59 pm.
**Week Three**

Lesson 5

Lecture: **Design**

Reading: Campbell, *Technical Theater for Nontechnical People* (2016), Chapters 3, 5, 7

Quiz 5: Due Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Lesson 6

Lecture: **Musicals**

Reading: - Wolf, “In Defense of Pleasure”
- Preston, “American Musical Theatre Before the Twentieth Century”

Screening: *Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened…* (2016) (recommended)

Quiz 6: Due Sunday at 11:59 pm.

**Week Four**

Lesson 7

Lecture: **Greek tragedy**

Reading: Euripides, *Medea*, transl. Kitzinger

Quiz 7: Due Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Lesson 8

Lecture: **Shakespeare**


Screening: *Stage Beauty*

Paper 1 due Sunday of Week Four at 11:59 pm.
**Week Five**

**Lesson 9**

**Lecture:** Medieval theater

**Reading:** Hrotsvit, *Dulcitius* (ca. 975), transl. Wilson

**Lesson 10**

**Lecture:** Angels in America

**Reading:** Kushner, *Angels in America: Part I (Millennium Approaches)*

**Screening:** *Angels in America, Part 1*

(Note: Part 2 is also available but is optional.)

**Quiz 8:** This quiz covers Lessons 9 and 10. Due Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Extra credit student performance videos must be posted by Sunday at 11:59 pm.

**Week Six**

**Lesson 11**

**Lecture:** Topdog/Underdog: From off-Broadway to Broadway

**Reading:** Parks, *Topdog/Underdog*

**Screening:** Stage on Screen: The Topdog Diaries (2002)

**Lesson 12**

**Lecture:** Brecht and alienation

**Reading:** Min Tian, “‘Alienation-Effect’ for Whom? Brecht's (Mis)interpretation of the Classical Chinese Theatre,” *Asian Theatre Journal*, (Autumn 1997) (pp. 200-222)

**Screening:** Theater of War (2008)

**Quiz 9:** Due Sunday at 11:59 pm. Even though Friday is the last day of class, we have given you an extension until Sunday, in case that is helpful.

Final paper due Friday of Week Six at 11:59 pm PDT. Note Friday deadline—the last day of class.