

Understanding Theatre

DRAM 1310

Fall 2013

Thomas Riccio, Professor
Office #972.883.2016 (voice mail)
thomas.riccio@utdallas.edu
www.thomasriccio.com

Office hours: Tue-Thurs 11:30-1:30 and by appointment

Office location: JO 4.124

Class location: ATEC 1.305

DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES

Understanding Theatre is an introduction to Theatre and performance practice. It is designed to increase students' understanding, appreciation, and critical perceptions of the theatrical event. Readings and lectures will focus on the elements of theatrical practice; artists and innovators of theatre and performance using a variety of historical and cultural examples. The student will have a working knowledge of the terms, concepts, and conventions of theatre and performance as an art form and a social phenomenon.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

A variety of play texts and articles will be available for download or viewing via eLearning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION

This course will be based on lecture and in-class discussion. Because of the wide range of material covered by this survey, student attendance and participation will be essential. A mid-term exam and final exam will be given covering the reading and concepts presented in class—essay, T-F, multiple choice, identification. A final project will be required—playwriting, directing, presentation of a scene or monologue, puppet show, etc. Final project will be discussed in class and must be approved by the instructor. An unannounced quiz will be given (up to 4x) if the instructor deems it required.

GRADING 1000 PTS SCALE

Reading Quiz x4 (if necessary)	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Final Project	20%
Participation	10%
Attendance	10%

**Late or incomplete work will not be accepted
Incompletes will not be given in this class
Plagiarism and cheating is unacceptable and will result in a "F"**

**All dates and assignments are subject to change
Assignments will be made with ample time for completion given please
be alert to alterations or corrections in the schedule**

Attendance Policy: Two (2) unexcused absences permitted); however each subsequent unexcused absence will result in the lowering of one full letter grade per absence (50 pts per absence). Two late arrivals (20 minutes + after the hour unless lateness is pre-arranged) will count as one absence. Note: No Gum Chewing or Eating in Class. Soft Drinks, Coffee, and water permitted.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

27 August	Introductions What and Why Performance & Theatre?	Read: A Message from the Eagle Mother
3 September	RITUAL Origins, Functions & Conventions	Read: Traditional Alaska Native Theatre
10 September	Native American Performance: Origins	Read: Tanzanian Theatre From Marx to the Market Place Read: Kenya's Health Awareness Puppets
17 September	African Performance: Origins, Conventions & Influences	
24 September	*****NO CLASS*****	Read: A New World, Asian Theatre in the West Today
1 October	Asian Theatre and Performance India: Origins and Conventions	Read: Chinese Theatre Today

8 October	China and Japan: Origins & Conventions	Read: Trojan Women Mid-Term
15 October	Western Theatre Conventions & Contexts	Read: Romeo and Juliet
22 October	Playwriting	Read: Our Town
29 October	Directing	Read: Shadows in the Sun
5 November	Acting and Performing	Read: Wooster Group
12 November	Design	Read: Vomit Talk of Ghosts
19 November	Experimental Theatre	
26 November	*****WINTER BREAK NO CLASSES*****	
3 December	Experimental Theatre	
	Final Project Presentations	
10 December	Final Project Presentations	

FINAL EXAM DATE TBA