

San José State University
Humanities and Arts/TV, Radio, Film, Theatre, Animation
and Illustration
TA 10: Theatre Appreciation: Section 2, Fall 2011

Instructor: Kathleen Normington

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM and 1:30 -2:30
Wednesday 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM and by appointment

Class Days/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Classroom: HGH 103

GE/SJSU Studies Category: C1 Humanities and Arts

Course Fees: Text: \$92.35 (new) \$69.30 (used) \$33.20 (rental)
Tickets to performances: approximately \$30.00 total

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Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

This is a web supplemented course and will use Desire 2 Learn as part of the course's learning management system. Please go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/> and create a password as soon as possible. Additionally copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. will be available on My SJSU faculty web page is: <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/kathleen.normington/>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU.

Course Description

Theatre Appreciation is the study of the historical and cultural contexts of theatre around the world. Seeing and critical writing about plays. Hands-on experiences in the arts and crafts of live theatre. (3 Units) No Prerequisites.

This course gives students the opportunity to study and experience live performance theoretically, historically, and practically, in order to better appreciate and therefore, enjoy this unique art form. Students will discover through a variety of experiences and activities that live performance is a collaborative artistic process that sets in motion, an opportunity for both performers and audience to undergo an aesthetic experience.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO), if applicable

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- LO1 Students will recognize aesthetic qualities and processes that characterize works of the human intellect and imagination.
- LO2 Students will respond to works of art both analytically (in writing) and affectively (in other forms of personal and artistic expression).
- LO3 Students will write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity and conciseness.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- LO4 Understand the function and obligations of being a member of a live theatre audience.
- LO5 Recognize that the theatre is a collaboration of many artists coming together to create an experience that is defined by a human perspective and the unique contributions of all the artists involved.
- LO6 Understand and critically respond to a performance and the individual skills and contributions of the playwright, director, actors, and designers.
- LO7 Succeed in understanding the variety of historical, cultural and political contexts that have influenced and continue to inform the live performance experience.
- LO8 Collaborate to create an original vision of a dramatic text that includes practical experience in costuming, set design, make-up design, directing or acting.
- LO9 Identify the connections and distinctions between live performance and filmed performance.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Theatre in Your Life by Robert Barton and Annie McGregor (1st Edition, Wadsworth, ISBN 978-0-534-64069-9). You may purchase or rent the text or e-text at the Student Union book store and there is a copy available for check-out at the Martin Luther King Library.

Other equipment / material requirements

Access to and some basic knowledge of Power Point will be necessary.

Library Liaison

Paul Kauppila, Reference/Instruction Librarian, TV, Radio, Film, Theatre
Contact Information: 408-808-2042 paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu

Classroom Protocol

Cell phones and laptops. Usually should be off and out of sight during class. However, there will be times that we will need to access the internet or need to use phones for a class activity and in those cases I will encourage you to have a smart phone or computer in order to participate in these activities.

Class Commitment. This group has a collective responsibility to treat each other and the instructor with respect and kindness. Respect includes being on time, prepared, and committed to working with your peers both in and out of class. We are a diverse group and therefore, will have various points of view. It is important to listen and consider every opinion whether you agree or disagree. All views will be considered but negativity and disrespect undermines the ability of each student to perform to his/her best ability.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignments and Activities (see descriptions below)	Percentage of Grade	Number of Points	Student's Score
PARTICIPATION	10%	20	
Reading Quizzes	17.5%	35	
Response Essay	5%	10	

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS/CRITIQUES (3)	25%	40	
Library Research	7.5%	15	
Creative Project 1: Playwriting/Directing/Acting	7.5%	15	
Midterm Exam	12.5%	25	
Final: Creative Project 2: Guerrilla Theatre	17.5%	40	
TOTAL	100%	200	

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following:

<i>Percentage Grade</i>	<i>POINTS</i>	<i>Letter grade</i>	<i>Percentage Grade</i>	<i>POINTS</i>	<i>Letter grade</i>
97 - 100	200 -194	A+	76 – 79	159 - 153	C+
93 - 96	193 -187	A	73 – 76	152 - 146	C
90 - 93	186 -180	A-	70 – 72	145 - 140	C-
86 – 89	179 -173	B+	66 – 69	139 - 132	D+
83 - 86	172 - 166	B	63 – 65	131- 126	D
80 - 83	165 - 160	B-	60 – 62	125 - 120	D-

A – Excellent. Always prepared; extensive outside preparation. Actively pursues improvement and highly self motivated. Student makes significant growth in skill and knowledge during semester. Active, positive contributor to class.

B – Good to excellent. Always prepared; notable outside preparation. Pursues improvement and self motivated. Notable growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Positive contributor to class.

C – Acceptable to good. Generally prepared; acceptable outside preparation. Interested in improvement and often self motivated. Shows some growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Contributes to class.

D – (Failing for majors) Often unacceptable. Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation. Shows little interest in improvement and is rarely self motivated. Very little skill and knowledge growth during semester. Seldom contributes to class and has negative attitude. Sometimes late.

F – Largely unacceptable. Rarely prepared and lacks adequate outside preparation. little interest in self improvement and not motivated. Virtually no growth in skills and knowledge. Does not contribute to class; negative attitude.

To request an “incomplete” a student must have completed 2/3 of the semester work and be passing the class.

Participation. Participation points can be earned in the following ways: Significant contribution to class discussions, including leading class discussions, and active participation in class activities and exercises. Many of these points will require you to check in with D2L to receive the information needed for the activities/discussions. In order to receive participation points *you must be present* in class. *Just showing up for class does not guarantee participation points.* I realize that emergencies do arise, (if medical, you must have a doctor’s approval for an excused absence), so please give your project partners and your instructor the courtesy of a phone call or email immediately to report an absence in

class or meeting. Documentation may be required to receive an excused absence. It is ***your responsibility*** to get any information or work missed from fellow students.

Response Essay. Personal Response essays are 500- word essays with a focus on topics from the text, theatre and film performances, or guest speakers. Guidelines and grading will be reviewed in class.

Library Research. All students are required to attend the library tutorial on the assigned date in the course schedule. You will select a research topic of your choice and learn how to find information using the library sources and present your findings to your group.

Performance Critiques. You are required to attend three theater performances. A written performance critique is required for each performance. These reviews are to be 500 word critiques (approximately 1 ½ pages) and guidelines will be posted on D2L. One of the critiques will be an online review for Artsopolis, (<http://www.artsopolis.com/event/cat/theatre>). All papers are to be turned in to the appropriate D2L drop box. No late assignments accepted.

The following are the required productions:

Spring Awakening **September 1 – 25 (Sept 1 is Pay What You Will)**
Directed by Rick Lombardo Choreographed by Sonya Tayeh
San Jose Repertory Theatre
San Jose Rep, 101 Paseo de San Antonio (between 2nd and 3rd)
San Jose, CA 95113, Box office phone: 408-367-7255 (Monday – Friday 10am–5pm)
<http://www.sjrep.com/contact/boxoffice.php>. Ticket prices vary.

Dead Man’s Cell Phone by Sarah Ruhl
Directed by Laura Long
October 7, 8, 11,12,13,14,15, 16 at 7 p.m. University Theatre
Tickets: \$10.00 Students (may be purchased on the day of performance 30 minutes before curtain time or in advance at the Event Center or online:
www.tvradiofilmtheatre.com)

For the last required performance everyone must write and post an online mini-review of the following production on the Artsopolis web site. Instructions for this will be posted on D2L and will be reviewed in class.

9 Circles by Bill Cain
Directed by Kathleen Normington
November 4 -26
Tickets: \$10.00 (students with ID)
Renegade Theatre Experiment
Historic Hoover Theatre
1635 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126
www.renegadetheatre.com

Extra Credit Performance: Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Directed by Buddy Butler

November 11,12,16,17,18,19 at 7 p.m. University Theatre

See above for ticket information.

You are responsible for reserving and purchasing your own tickets for all performances.

Creative Projects. Students will participate in **two** hands-on collaborative projects in which they have a choice of directing, acting, designing, or writing. Guidelines and Grade Rubric for these projects will be posted on D2L and reviewed in class.

Exams. A midterm exam will cover material in the first half of the semester. We will review and discuss how to prepare for this more traditional type of exam. The final will be the presentation of your group projects and will take place on our scheduled exam date: December 15 at 9:45 – 12:00 noon. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUP EXAMS.**

Extra Credit. Opportunities will be offered during the semester but cannot exceed 20% of total grade points. You must do satisfactory work with a grade of “C” or higher to be eligible for extra credit.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. [The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/).

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. [The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/).

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. [Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) .

Theatre Arts 10: Section 2 Course Calendar FALL 2011

(This may be altered at any moment in time. I will always give you fair notice when changes occur.)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines, Learning Outcomes
1	8/25	- Introductions and Syllabus Review - Complete questionnaire Assignment: Read Chapter 1 and write 10 key points. Due 8/30 (LO 2)
2	8/30	Introduction to Live Performance Video Screening: <i>SlamNation</i> (LO 1,2,3,5) Assignment: Read Articles on D2L “The Audience” and Quiz on 9/1 (LO 2) Response Essay due 9/6 D2L
	9/1	Film/Theatre: Discussion/Activity (LO 9) Discussion <i>SlamNation</i> (LO 4,5,6) Assignments: Read Chapters 2 and 3 Quiz 9/6 (LO 2, 4) Read article “Girls Just Want to Write Plays” by Diane Son for discussion on 9/8 (LO7) See <i>Spring Awakening</i> at San Jose Rep
3	9/6	The Playwright and the Play (pp) (LO 6) Assignments: Homework: “Think of a starter” exercise (LO 1, 2) due 9/8 Response Essay 1 Due (LO 2, 3)
	9/8	Meet in Discussion Groups The Playwright and the Play continued Assignment: Write a 20 line dialogue between two people. Due to D2L on 9/13. (LO 2) Assignment: Read p. 339- 354 (LO 2,6)
4	9/13	Musicals: <i>Spring Awakening</i>
	9/15	Meet in Discussion Groups Group Project Assigned (LO 2, 5, 8)
5	9/20	The Art and Craft of Acting (LO 6) Assignment: Read Chapter 4, p.112 – 121 – Quiz on 9/22
	9/22	Meet in Discussion Groups Acting exercises (LO 2,6) Assignment: Complete worksheet with a partner (LO 1,5,7),

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines, Learning Outcomes
		Due 9/27
6	9/27	Introduction to Directing Video Screening: Julie Taymor Staging Exercises (LO 2, 7) Assignment: Read Chapter 6, Quiz on 10/4 Complete worksheet for discussion 9/29 (LO 6)
	9/29	Meet in Discussion Groups Finish Directing Assignment: Read Chapter 5. Quiz on 10/6 (LO 2, 8)
7	10/4	Quiz Group Project 1 Presentations (Group 1,2) (LO 5, 8)
	10/6	Group Project 1 Presentations (Group 3,4) (LO 5, 8) Announcement: <i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i> opens October 7.
8	10/11	Introduction to Design: Elements of Art and Design (LO 1, 5, 6) Scenic Design Assignment: Review pages 135 – 149 and 158 – 164 Complete Floor plan exercise for 10/13 (LO 6)
	10/13	Meet in Discussion Groups: Lighting and Sound (LO 8) Exercise
9	10/18	TBA
	10/20	Discussion Groups: Review for Midterm
10	10/25	Midterm Assignment: Read Chapter 11. Select a topic of interest from this chapter. (LO 7)
	10/27	Library Research Workshop (LO 3, 7) Meet in MLK, 2nd Floor, Room 213* “War” p. 129- 138 for 11/1 (LO 7)
11	11/1	War: 9/11 – <i>9 Circles</i> The Business of Show Business: Funding Research Bring laptops to class. <i>9 Circles</i> opens 11/4
	11/3	Theatrical Design: Costume and Make-up (LO 1, 5, 6, 7)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines, Learning Outcomes
		Video Screening: Portrait of an Onnagata (LO 7) Takarazuka
12	11/8	Guerrilla Theatre (LO 7) Final Assigned (LO 2, 8) EXTRA CREDIT: Post your Artsopolis review by 11/10 and earn 5 points extra credit
	11/10	Meet in Discussion Groups Planning the Final paper or project. (LO 1,8) Announcement: <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> opens 11/11 (Extra Credit)
13	11/15	Student Presentations of Research Topics (LO 1, 2, 7, 8)
	11/17	Student Presentations of Research Topics (LO 1, 2, 7, 8) Read “Hip-Hop Visions of the Ancient World” posted on D2L for 11/22
14	11/22	Video Screening: Danny Hoch in <i>Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop</i> (LO 1) Assignment: Response paper due to D2L on 12/1 (LO 1,3,7)
	11/24	Thanksgiving Holiday
15	11/29	Guest – Indian Dance Theatre (please explore Vidhya’s website: http://www.vidhyasubramanian.com/ before her performance today) Group Project Progress Report due to your Study Group Instructor for review
	12/1	Group Project Work Day (LO 5, 8) <i>Groups meet with instructors (LO 5, 8)</i>
16	12/6	Groups meet with instructors (LO 5, 8)
	12/8	Last Day of Instruction Assessment of the Course Group Project work (LO 7, 8)
Final Exam	Thursday 12/15	9:45 – 12:00 Meet in Hal Todd Theatre Project Presentations/Papers Due (LO 2, 3, 7)

