

Introduction to Theatre
Dan Stone, MFA

Performing Arts Department

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Theatre takes place all the time -- wherever one is-- and art simply facilitates persuading one this is the case. ~ John Cage, 1961

I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being. ~ Oscar Wilde

Course Description

This course is a comprehensive introduction to the art, history, and workings of the theatre. Students will be given a broad and general background in theatre including production elements (lights, sound, sets, costumes, make-up, etc) acting, theatre history and criticism. Students will attend live performances, view videos of plays and write reviews of live and filmed theatre. *This syllabus is subject to change.*

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Appreciate, understand, and evaluate live theater.
2. Describe the major components of the theatrical event.
3. Describe the functions of the various theatre personnel.
4. Define specific terms relating to the study of theatre.
5. List and describe the parts of a play and describe the different forms of drama.
6. Distinguish characteristics of theatre that differentiate it from other art for

Course Requirements

All assignments are located online on our Moodle course site. All assignments will be turned in through this site.

Graded Assignments:

Written Responses 25%:

Supplemental Handouts will be distributed in class, a one page written response to the material due as assigned. Guidelines provided at a later date.

Quizzes 25%:

Quizzes on assigned reading and class discussions.

Written Review *The Woodsman* 20%:

This review will include short essay questions concerning aspects of this production. This one act play will be viewed during class time. You will be given the viewing date at a later time.

Final Exam: 30%

Your final exam will be a written review of a play we will watch together in class. Attendance is mandatory for these viewings. **There will be no way to pass the final exam without attending the class periods to view the play.** From the viewings you will answer short essay questions regarding the production including scenic design, lighting, costumes and acting.

Extra Credit

Students may volunteer to usher one of LBCC Theatre performance. If a student should decide to usher he/she will receive extra credit. Contact Michael Winder of the theater's Box Office should you want to usher - prior arrangements must be made. 541-917-4561

You may also write a brief review of an LBCC play happening this quarter. Information will be given upon request of this type of extra credit.

Assessment Procedures

Written and oral assignments- including tests, quizzes, presentations, and projects- will receive a number score based on your success of fulfilling the criteria. Guidelines detailing the assessment process used to grade each assignment will be provided for each assignment, this will assist in clarifying the objectives and to ensure the highest possible success for each student.

Assignments:

Written Responses:

Students are required to write a one page response to films and/or performances viewed together in class. Details for each response will be given at the time of the assignment.

Oedipus Rex(Guthrie, RSC, Julie Taymor)

Samuel Beckett

Julie Taymor- The Tempest

Shakespeare

Quizzes:

Take home quizzes will given to students at the conclusion to specific areas of study

What is Theatre

The Greeks

Alternative Theatre

Commedia dell' Arte

Technical Theatre

Shakespeare

Participation & Attendance

Attendance is taken every day before the start of class. If you arrive late, please see me after class so that can be marked present. I will assess your participation and understanding in part through individual assignments as well as contributions made within a group. Participation grades also reflect your respect of the theatre process as we discuss the material and questions that come up in class, the respect you show others in the group- including the teacher- and your active presence in class. Students are given 2 excused absences.

IF YOU DECIDE TO DROP THE CLASS YOU MUST DROP IT ON YOUR OWN. You will receive an “F” if the class has not been officially dropped within the first two weeks of the quarter.

Absences can seriously affect your grade. For each absence, beyond the 2 excused, you will lose 10% of your grade.

Grading scale:

Percentages and correlating letter grades are as follows:

A= 90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59 or below

Students who have emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who might need special arrangements in the event of an evacuation, or students with documented disabilities who have special needs, should make an appointment with the instructor no later than the first week of the term. If additional assistance is required, contact LBCC’s Office of Disability Services at 917-4789.

LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. (For further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>)

Student Decorum Statement: Because college coursework and professional correspondence require focused study and open exchange of ideas, the Department expects the classroom to be a place of courteous interaction, a forum for demonstrating mutual respect between teachers and students. Professional communication requires all of us to listen carefully to each other (whether we agree or not) and to state our positions with clarity and our disagreements with tact. Standards for academic courtesy apply to group work, on-line interaction, and student-teacher conferences as well.

Course Policies

▪ **Email:** I am available to you via email and during office hours. Send all correspondence to dan.stone@linnbenton.edu. When you email, it is very important that you include your name, **Intro to Theatre** and the assignment name or topic of the message in the subject line. *If you leave the subject line blank, your message may be recognized as spam and deleted!* This information will also help me identify the nature of your request and reply more quickly. *I will work to respond to emails within one to two BUSINESS days (business days excludes the weekends), so plan accordingly.*

▪ **Assignment Submission:** Please type all submissions and proofread carefully.

▪ **Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted.

▪ **Plagiarism:** Do your own work. Using someone else’s work as your own or using information or ideas without proper citations can lead to your failing the assignment or the class.

Resources:

- **The Writing Center:** While enrolled in Writing 214, you are encouraged to seek extra help at the Writing Center (917-4684), located on the second floor of Willamette Hall in the Learning Center (above the library) on main campus. If needed, they will also be able to direct you to the ESOL lab for additional support. Visit their website at <http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/learning-center/writing-help> for the term hours. No appointment is necessary. You are encouraged to seek help early in the term. This is a free service to all LB students.
- **Computer Lab Resources:** You may use either LRC 213 or Forum 204 as a drop-in computer lab whenever classes are not scheduled and space is available.