**Theatre 101-003**

**Fall 2016**

Instructor: Teresa Focarile

Office: ILC 314

Office Hours by appointment

Email: teresafocarile@boisestate.edu

### Phone: 860-459-5704

*Theatre is an art that grew out of ritual and a need to tell the history of a people. From these origins, theatre continues to act as a place for a community to share an experience and learn about the human condition/ideas of the day. We will look at how people have approached this art form over the centuries, and how our theater of today is influenced by all that has come before.*

**Text:**

Worthen, W.B. *The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*. Brief 6th ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011.

**Assigned Plays:**

*Oedipus the King,* Sophocles

*Hamlet*, William Shakespeare

*Tartuffe*, Moliere

*Mother Courage,* Bertolt Brecht

*Trifles*, Susan Glaspell

*Fires in the Mirror,* Anna Deveare Smith

**Course Objectives:**

Boise State’s Foundational Studies Program provides undergraduates with a broad-based education that spans the entire university experience. THEA 101: Introduction to Theatre satisfies three units of the Disciplinary Lens-Visual and Performing Arts (DL-VPA) requirement. It supports the following University Learning Outcomes, along with a variety of other course-specific goals.

* Apply knowledge and methods characteristic of the visual and performing arts to explain and appreciate the significance of aesthetic products and creative activities.

**THEA 101:** Introduction to Theatre is designed to create discerning and appreciative audience members through experiencing live theatre, practicing performance criticism and studying theatre production processes, theatre history, and dramatic literature**.** After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

* Identify basic components of theatrical production and dramatic structure.
* Distinguish both the collaborative and individual efforts needed to create a theatrical performance.
* Recognize similarities, differences, and interrelationships between theatre and other art forms.
* Evaluate the effectiveness of live theatrical performances
* Associate plays with the social and historical contexts in which they were written and performed.
* Interpret components of theatrical productions and dramatic literature to identify main ideas.
* Apply subjective experience to understanding theatrical performances and dramatic literature.
* Investigate diverse cultural perspectives through a variety of dramatic literature and theatrical productions.

**Course Requirements:**

Quizzes

During the course of the semester, you will be evaluated three times on both the readings and the work that we do in class. These quizzes will be multiple choice and given at the end of class on:

*Quiz #1: September 26*

*Quiz #2: October 24*

*Quiz #3: November 30*

You must be in class on the day the quiz is given in order to earn those points. If you know ahead of time that you will miss that class, it is your responsibility to contact me to schedule a make-up time.

Production Analysis and Review

By selecting this course you have chosen to investigate a *performing* art, which necessitates that you attend the theatre. You are required to attend two Boise State Theatre Arts Department performances and to produce written work about each. Further information about how to complete these assignments can be found at the end of this syllabus and posted on the class Blackboard site. These assignments are due:

*Production Analysis due: October 12*

*Production Review due: November 28*

Production Concept

This assignment will allow you to apply the knowledge of theatre practice you have gained in this course. You will create a “director’s concept” presentation describing your original idea for a production of one of the plays we read this semester. Further information about this assignment can be found at the end of this syllabus and posted on the class Blackboard site. Due date for this assignment is our scheduled final exam day, December 12*.*

Play Responses

For each play we read, I will ask you to bring in an image related to the play; the specific type of image will be announced in class prior to the due date and posted on Blackboard. These will be turned in at the beginning of class, and we will use them to prompt discussion in class about the plays.

In Class Activities

Throughout the semester, we will do a variety of in class activities to build on/reinforce the material covered in the readings and lectures. Some of these activities I will collect and give participation points for. The only way to receive points for these activities is to be in class the day they are assigned. There may/may not be any notice of a class that will include a graded activity, so please attend class regularly.

**Evaluation:**

Three Quizzes (10% each) 30%

Production Analysis 10%

Production Review 15%

Production Concept 20%

Play Responses 10%

In Class Activities 15%

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Total 100%

**Notes:**

1. All assignments must be turned in by the due date. If a situation arises and you are unable to complete an assignment on time it is **your responsibility to contact me to request an extension before the material is due.** Any work not turned in will be assigned zero points. Make-up quizzes/exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, i.e. an act of nature, serious illness, or family emergency. If you are unable to attend class on a quiz/exam day it is **your responsibility to contact me to request an extension.**
2. The Boise State Student Conduct Code (SCC) defines plagiarism as the misrepresentation of someone else’s work as one’s own. That includes using the words or ideas of a writer without proper acknowledgement or using the academic work of another student while presenting it as original. The Boise State SCC defines cheating as including any action where an individual or group either carries out or attempts to carry out dishonest work and/or where an individual or group either assists or attempts to assist an individual or group to carry out dishonest work. The consequence of plagiarism and/or cheating is failure of the assignment.
3. To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Disability Resource Center by phone, (208) 426-1583, or e-mail, drcinfo@boisestate.edu. Students are required meet with a Disability Specialist prior to receiving accommodations and may be required to provide documentation to clarify accommodation requests. Information about a disability is confidential. More information on the accommodation process can be found at http://drc@boisestate.edu
4. All posted pdf materials will be checked for readability by a screen reader. Because many video clips used in this course have been compiled over several years and from a variety of sources, closed captioning may not be available for all materials. The department strongly recommends that all deaf or hearing-impaired students have interpreters for class. The department makes every effort to arrange signers for one public performance of each production. Video clips can be made available to students outside of class. Because successful completion of the class is dependent on students actually seeing two live theater productions and interpreting the many visual components within these performances, the course is not appropriate for blind or severely vision-impaired students.
5. Course schedule is subject to change.

**Grading:** Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ 100 – 98.5

A 98.4 – 93.5

1. 93.4 – 89.5

B+ 89.4 – 87.5

B 87.4 – 83.5

1. 83.4 – 79.5

C+ 79.4 – 77.5

C 77.4 – 73.5

1. 73.4 – 69.5

D+ 69.4 – 65.5

D 65.4 – 59.5

F Below 59.5

**Course Schedule: Please complete the assigned reading by the class day on which it is listed. An \* indicates a Play Response is due.**

**Date Topic Reading**

August 22 Class Introduction

August 24 What is Theatre? *Wadsworth* 1-3

“What is Theatre” on Bbd

August 29 What is a Play/Job of the Playwright

August 31 Playwriting continued

Sep. 5 No Class, Memorial Day

Sep. 7 The Designers’ Process (Scenery, Lighting)

Sep. 12 The Designers’ Process (Costume, Make-up)

Sep. 14 Morrison Center tour

Sep. 19 The Actor’s Process

Sep. 21 The Director’s Process

Sep. 26 The Director Continued

Sep. 28 Theatre Management

Oct. 3 The Critic

Oct. 5 The Origins of Western Drama *Wadsworth* 13-20

*Oedipus the King\**

Oct. 10 *Oedipus* continued

Oct. 12 Eastern Theatre

Oct. 17 Medieval Theatre and Renaissance England *Wadsworth* 159-173

Oct. 19 *Hamlet* *Hamlet\**

Oct. 24 *Hamlet* continued

Oct. 26 Early Modern Europe *Wadsworth* 269-273

*Tartuffe\**

Oct. 31 *Tartuffe* continued

Nov. 2 Naturalism and Realism *Wadsworth* 395-398

*Trifles\**

Nov. 7 Modern Europe *Wadsworth* 398-404

Nov. 9 Modern Europe (Online work, no class) Online content

Nov. 14 *Mother Courage* *Mother Courage\**

Nov. 16 *Mother Courage* continued

Nov. 21-25 No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 28 *Fires in the Mirror Fires in the Mirror\**

Nov. 30 *Fires in the Mirror* continued

Dec. 5 How does theatre apply to us?

Dec. 7 The theatre of the future – what will it be?

**Dec. 12 FINAL MEETING TIME from 12:30-2:30**