

TA100

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE SYLLABUS

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to the elements of the play production, from page to stage, and to encourage an appreciation of all aspects of theatre, including: acting, directing, playwriting, criticism, and design (including set, costume, lighting, make-up, and sound).

Student Learning Outcome

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Articulate ways in which plays and performances reflect society and pose questions that illuminate the human condition.

Requirements and Responsibilities

To successfully complete this course, the student is charged with the responsibility for knowing and completing the projects, tests, and writing assignments outlined herein:

- Respectful, Active, and **Prepared** Participation at **All** Classes and in **All** Course Discussions. This includes attendance, discussion, and completed research and answer sheets. (30%)
- Written Critique of the two (2) Theatre Arts productions, *Our Town* [due Oct 20], and *Facing Our Truth* [due Dec 15]. Each essay, 800-1000 words long, should adhere to MLA format. (10% each)
- Group Project, requiring full and active participation of each group member in a leadership role. Due December 6, 8, and 13. (20%)
- One MID-TERM EXAM [on Oct 13] and one comprehensive FINAL EXAM [on Dec 15]. Each will be composed of short answer, matching, fill-in, true/false, and define questions. (15% each)

ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETE. *You cannot earn an "A" grade without completing the required writing assignments or attending the Theatre productions.*

Required Text and Fees

Halpern, Daniel. *Plays in One Act*, 2nd Ed. New York: Harper Collins, 2005.

2 Theatre Arts tickets (Required!)

- Free Tickets available to those who sign up to Usher,
 - <http://www.palomarperforms.com/ushering/>

NOTES

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Students requiring special assistance or consideration due to a documented disability may contact the Disability Resource Center at (760) 744-1150 ext. 2375, to make advance arrangements. Students desiring assistance with writing papers may contact the Writing Center / Tutorial Center at (760) 744-1150 ext. 2778, or visit them in person at H-102.

Fall 2016

TTh 9:35-11am, D-6

Instructor: Assoc. Professor Chris Sinnott

E-Mail: csinnott@palomar.edu

Phone: (760) 744-1150 x2432

Office: PAC-205

Office Hours: WF 11am-1:30pm

Daily Class Materials

Please bring the following to every class session:

- *Plays in One Act*, ed. by D. Halpern
- Other reading material, handouts, or projects, as instructed
- Notebook and pen/pencil
 - Notes may be taken via laptop or tablets, by permission only.
 - Cell phones **are not** permitted; *please* put them away **before class**.

Milestones

October 7-16

TA performances: *Our Town*

October 13, 9:35 – 11am, D-4

Mid-Term Exam

October 20

Written Critique – Our Town
-Submit in person, or via email

November 21 – 26

THANKSGIVING BREAK (ENJOY!!!)

December 2-11

TA performances: *Facing Our Truth*

December 6, 8, and 13

Group Project Presentations

December 15, 9:35 – 11am, D-4

Written Critique – Facing Our Truth
-Submit in person, or via email
& Final Exam

Questions? Ask!

If you have questions, or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me immediately via email at: csinnott@palomar.edu

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Class Participation, Research, and Homework Assignments

Commitment to attend class is imperative. To get the most out of this course, students must regularly attend class, and come prepared [i.e. having fully completed any prior assignment] in order to fully participate in the classroom discussions. Reading assignments will be paired with Research (per the calendar below), given over most weekends of the course.

Written Critiques: Theatre Arts Productions

Attendance and a written critique of two live theatrical productions, each due on Oct. 20th and Dec 15th. These critiques must be typed, double-spaced, approx. 800 words, and conform to MLA standards. Specific topics for these critiques will be given at least one week prior to the opening of each play.

MID-TERM and FINAL EXAMS [Oct 13 and Dec 15]

The Mid-Term and Final will be full-period Exams, composed of short answer, matching, fill-in, true/false, and define questions. The Mid-Term Exam will be given only on Thursday, October 13th, from 9:35-11am, and the Final Exam will be given only on Thursday, December 15th, from 9:35-11am.

Group Project [Dec 6, 8, and 13]

Each small group (4-6 students) will choose, and discuss a specific one-act play. You will evaluate elements involved in producing that particular play and will give a 20 minute [minimum] oral and visual presentation, during which time you will present no less than three designed elements from the list below, and an acting demonstration of one scene [only]. You are required to be creative, collaborate equally, and have fun! Disputes will be settled by the Instructor.

- **Playbill;** including design information, synopsis of the play and cover artwork
- **Poster;** including artwork, title, author, director, contact info, dates, location
- **Set;** clear vision that allows us to understand choices and how scenes change
- **Lights;** 3 specific lighting “moments” including visuals and descriptions, and cue sheets
- **Sound;** 3 specific sound “moments” including music and effects, and cue sheets
- **Costumes;** 3 specific costumes, including footwear, headwear, jewelry, etc.
- **Make-up;** 3 specific character make-up designs, including hair, scars, etc.
- **Acting;** between 2 and 5 minutes of memorized, blocked scene work
- **Directing;** clear vision of character relationships and movement in scene work

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Final Grade Rubric

- Class Participation
 - 30% of course grade
- MID-TERM EXAM
 - 15% of course grade
- Written Critique – *Our Town*
 - 10% of course grade
- Group Project
 - 20% of course grade
- Written Critique – *Facing Our Truth*
 - 10% of course grade
- FINAL EXAM
 - 15% of course grade

Production Milestones

August 26-27, Studio Theatre

Our Town Auditions (Fri @ 6:30pm)

Our Town Callbacks (Sat @ Noon)

September 30, 6pm, Studio Theatre

Our Town Tech Rehearsals begin

October 1-2, Noon-10pm, Studio Theatre

Our Town Cue-2-Cues

October 3-6, 6-11pm, Studio Theatre

Our Town Tech/Dress Rehearsals

October 7-16, Studio Theatre

Our Town Performances

October 10-11, 6:30pm, Studio Theatre

Facing Our Truth Aud. & Callbacks

November 25, 6pm, Studio Theatre

Facing Our Truth Tech Reh's begin

Nov 26-27, Noon-10pm, Studio Theatre

Facing Our Truth Cue-2-Cues

Nov 28-Dec 1, 6-11pm, Studio Theatre

Facing Our Truth Tech/Dress Reh's

Dec 2-11, Studio Theatre

Facing Our Truth Performances

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SCHEDULE

8/23	Intros, cover syllabus, email	
8/25	What is theatre? dramatic conventions	
8/30	Aristotle's Poetics: Objects (plot, character, thought), Medium (diction, song), and Mode (spectacle)	
9/1	Tragedy, comedy, Greeks, Oedipus, playwright	
9/6	Reading a play, tragedy/comedy	
9/8	Script Detective: Breaking down a script into its parts	READ <u>Trifles</u> by Susan Glaspell
9/13	<u>Trifles</u> Script Analysis: Finding the 'Beats'	
9/15	<u>Testimonies</u> Script Analysis: Playing to the Beats, Monologues	READ <u>Testimonies</u> by August Wilson
9/20	<u>Tone Clusters</u> Script Analysis: Playing to the Beats, Full Scenes	READ <u>Tone Clusters</u> by Joyce Carol Oates
9/22	<u>Tone Clusters</u> Getting Technical: Atmosphere, Theme, 'c'oncept and 'C'oncept	
9/27	Design Concepts: Scene Design and Scenic Art	READ <u>Helpless Doorknobs</u> by Edward Gorey
9/29	Design Concepts: Lighting the Stage	
10/4	Design Concepts: Costumes & Stage Makeup	
10/6	Design Concepts: Sound & Special Effects	* <u>Our Town</u> opens Friday: SEE IT!
10/11	Let's Recap: What do we know so far?	
10/13	MID-TERM EXAM	
10/18	The Actor: beginning exercises	READ <u>The Boundary</u> by Tom Stoppard and Clive Exton
10/20	The Actor: beginning exercises	Written Critique #1: <u>Our Town</u> DUE by 11am
10/25	The Director: beginning exercises	READ <u>Teeth</u> by Tina Howe
10/27	The Director: beginning exercises	
11/1	Style, Genre, Period, and Aesthetics	READ <u>The Man Who Turned Into a Stick (death)</u> by Kobo Abe
11/3	Promos and Advertising: Without an audience it's just a rehearsal!	
11/8	Choose groups, Discuss projects	
11/10	Group work (Meet in class each day)	READ <u>Your Group's play</u>
11/15	Group work (Meet in class each day)	WRITE paragraph synopsis of <u>Your Group's play</u>
11/17	Group work (Meet in class each day)	*Nov 22, 24 NO CLASS MEETING
11/29	Group work (Meet in class each day)	Bring DESIGN materials to class to work on <u>Your Group's play</u>
12/01	Group work (Meet in class each day)	Bring DESIGN materials to class to work on <u>Your Group's play</u>
12/06	GROUP PRESENTATIONS (All students must attend all presentations)	* <u>Facing Our Truth</u> opens Friday! SEE IT!
12/08	GROUP PRESENTATIONS (All students must attend all presentations)	
12/13	GROUP PRESENTATIONS (All students must attend all presentations)	
12/15	FINAL EXAM	Written Critique #2: <u>Facing Our Truth</u> DUE by 11am