

Module 0.4 - Your Syllabus

Syllabus-

This is usually a place where students tend to skip and/or tune out. **SUCCESS FOR THIS COURSE REQUIRES THAT YOU READ ALL OF THIS AND OTHER CONTENT PAGES.** As a speed reader, I know how difficult this can be. **DON'T** skip around. I want you to succeed. Take the time to read it all. Refresh your memory from time to time here. **Yes. It is that important.**

Above: UCF acting students performing a scene in class.

Instructor Contact

Instructor	John Shafer
Office	PAC T217
Office Hours	TBA
Phone	407-823-0871
E-mail	john.shafer2@ucf.edu

Course Information

Course Name	Theatre Survey
Course ID & Section	THE 2000-OW63
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2018
Location	On Line

Course Description

It can be argued that most live entertainments developed from theatre. This course is an introductory overview of the arts and crafts of live theatrical venues. We will begin with what is theatre and how did it begin? What kinds of shows and styles of theatrical live entertainment can I see and how have they evolved? What kind of theatre space is this? Who are the people in my program? What are their roles? Who decides if a show is good or bad? How do I assess the quality of a show? How do they pull it all together? What goes on in behind and in front of the curtain? Whose voices do American playwrights represent and what are their backgrounds? The class will examine the major elements of theatre and answer each of the previous questions.

NOTE: All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. This is done automatically by a recorded attendance or any grade assigned in the first week of class whether online or in a physical classroom.

Course Objectives

- Objective One – Upon completion of this course the student will be able to identify and discuss the basic elements of the origin of traditional theatre and the basic elements of the of the top live entertainment venues in the US and how they began and how some have evolved.
- Objective Two – Upon completion of this course the student should be able to: define the major players and their roles in each entertainment venue
- Objective Three – Upon completion of this class the student should be able to: evaluate the quality and describe some differences in the styles of each entertainment venue

Required Text

No Text Required

Supplemental Texts

None

Course Requirements

Attendance at one professional live approved performance venue or approved professional training venue for the semester is required. The student will write a review paper about the performance. To fully experience live theatre, attendance is required. Attendance is designed to aid the development of an understanding of the elements of theatre and to foster an appreciation for the art. (However, like film, you may not enjoy every play. Keep looking. The magic when you find it is worth the search.)

You will also be required to write **A Three TO Four PAGE PAPER**. Please be aware that each venue is likely to have a ticket cost that you will be required to pay in order to attend. The shows you will see are presented at UCF Theatre and tickets may be obtained via the box office at 407-823-1500.

Alternate Venues will be considered **only** for those **students living in cities other than Orlando**. An **Alternate Venue** is any theatrical event not on the pre-approved list featured below. **For students outside of Orlando** wishing to have an **Alternate Venue**, seek instructor approval before purchasing tickets. Many companies do not refund unused tickets. Contact the instructor for **Alternate Venue** approval in advance of ticket purchase.

Two available Pre-Approved shows are at UCF this semester. The first is...

[PENTECOST](#)

By David Edgar Main Stage: January 25 - February 4

This powerful play by the Tony Award winning adaptor of Nicholas Nickleby and author of numerous plays won the Evening Standard Award for Best Play of 1995.

A fresco that could revolutionize Western Art is unearthed in an abandoned church in Eastern Europe. The discovery causes a dramatic struggle as representatives from the worlds of art history, religion, and politics stake their claims for the ultimate prize. The unexpected arrival of twelve refugees sets events spiraling toward an explosive climax.

Presented by special arrangement with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Pentecost was first presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company at The-Other-Place, Stratford-Upon-Avon, directed by Michael Attenborough on 12th October, 1994.

The following is the UCF Box Office Web Site. <http://theatre.cah.ucf.edu/tickets.php>

Cost: \$20 standard, \$10 UCF ID

The second UCF approved show is *Boy Gets Girl* by Rebecca Gilman

BOY GETS GIRL

By Rebecca Gilman **Black Box: February 22 - March 4**

A blind date turns into an obsession, transforming a woman's annoyance into terror as the man begins to threaten her.

Theresa Bedell is a successful reporter in New York who loves her work and the life she has made for herself. A relationship with a man would complete the picture and so she agrees to go on a blind date with a friend of a friend. Tony is attractive and funny, but Theresa isn't sure, and after a second date she's convinced they have nothing in common and sees no point in continuing the relationship. Tony, though, thinks otherwise. What at first seems like persistence on his part grows into obsession, and Theresa's annoyance with Tony turns to terror as he begins to threaten her and those around her. Ultimately, Theresa must fight to save herself from being erased by Tony's actions—actions which call into question the assumptions at the very heart of romantic pursuit.

"A disturbing chiller ... the play works powerfully at its most basic level as a suspenseful tale about the unraveling of a strong woman's sense of security in the urban jungle." –Variety

NOTE: The following image/poster is from another production of *Boy Gets Girl* and is a 'place holder.' This show was a late selection and graphic art is still being generated.

The above poster is NOT from the UCF production and its dates are not UCF production dates. Don't be confused. The art is a visual 'place holder' to give you an idea of the play.

The following is the UCF Box Office Web Site. <http://theatre.cah.ucf.edu/tickets.php>

Cost: \$20 standard, \$10 UCF ID

NOTE: Get your Show Paper play seen as soon as you can schedule it.

Investigate the schedule and secure tickets from the box office. Do this **Now** (or after approval). You are required to locate, secure tickets and pay for the theatrical venue you choose to attend and review. **By or before the end of the first week of class** you should try to book your ticket reservation.

Any alternate professional venue must be approved by Instructor before **January, 18, 2018**.

PLEASE DO NOT SECURE TICKETS UNTIL YOUR VENUE IS APPROVED. (Obviously, if an approved UCF production, go ahead!) **The company or venue might not be able to refund your payment.** If your venue does not meet the requirements, you will need to choose a different venue right away. If you have questions about locating a

venue or questions about your choice- please let the instructor know right away. **For people who live in or near Orlando Florida, you must attend UCF's productions.**

Missed Assignments/ Make-Ups/ Extra Credit - There will be no late assignments, no make- ups or extra credit.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Grade Scale:

****The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus according to the needs of the class.**

**** The shows, materials, and ideas covered during this class may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language.**

***Assignments will be based on 100 point scale.**

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Performance Review (300pts) Format for review to be posted later. (Show Paper assignment)

Quizzes

It will rain Quizzes. Each quiz is composed of **Ten or more Questions** and will include the required material covered each week in Modules. The format for quizzes may include multiple choice, short answer, and true and false. **All material covered in modules is considered material for assessment for quizzes** unless otherwise noted in the Module. Create an outline of the material covered in each module as you are reading it. Have it with you when you take the quiz. The quizzes are time and may only be attempted once. They also must be taken in a timely manner as they will close after they are opened whether you take them or not. Your instructor recommends that you review the outline and material before you take each quiz.

You will have only **X minutes** (varies depending on the length of the Quiz) and **one attempt** to take **each quiz. Please make sure that you are ready to take the entire quiz once you begin. Once you click on "begin assessment" the clock begins. When the time limit is up - you will not be able to go back and finish the quiz.** Each quiz will note the time available for each quiz.

Example of the Type of Questions on Quizzes

1. This course is an introductory overview of the arts and crafts of live theatrical entertainment venues in the US. List one of the major areas we covered in this class.

- a. Broadway Musicals
- b. Theme Parks
- c. Circus Entertainment
- d. Las Vegas Showcases

OR

2. You will be required to see a professional live entertainment venue. What is NOT TRUE of the requirements of this assignment?

- a. you will have to write a performance review of the show
- b. Most students will be required to see a UCF theatre performance
- c. you will have to secure and pay for tickets for the show you choose
- d. if your choice is not approved, you are exempt from this assignment

Final Exam (300pts approx.)- 50-100 comprehensive questions worth one point/s each will be in the form of multiple choice. Questions will resemble the type of questions that appear on weekly quizzes.

Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Points
A	95 – 100 points
A-	90 – 94 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

The plays, materials, and ideas covered during this class may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to access your chances for success in the course. Topics of sex and violence are inherently political historically. Expect to have questions raised that may raise your hackles. The professor is going to engage you as 'devils' advocate in ways intended to inform your personal choices for yourselves. Some views expressed will not even be the position of the Instructor. This is NOT a high school-hand holding-standardized test kind of course.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WITH YOUR SYLLABUS IN HAND. DO NOT EXPECT CLASS SCHEDULES, TESTS, OR DUE DATES TO SHIFT. WE WILL HOLD CLASS/DROP MODULES & QUIZZES EVERY DAY WE ARE SCHEDULED- ESPECIALLY JUST BEFORE HOLIDAYS.

CLASS TOPICS:

Week ONE 1/8/2018

Topic: Introduction to the Semester

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE! MARCH 21

Eject by now if you KNOW you need to...

Schedule

JANUARY 8 - Class begins

Faculty Confirmation of Academic Activity

JANUARY 8-12

NO CLASS ON THESE DAYS

Martin Luther King Day

[no-classes](#)

Spring Break

[no-classes](#)

<http://calendar.ucf.edu/2017/fall/no-classes>

Friday, JANUARY 15

Monday, MARCH 12 through

Saturday, MARCH 17

Withdrawal Deadline

MARCH 21

Last Day of Class

APRIL 23

Study Day

APRIL 24

Final Week

APRIL 25- MAY 1

(NOTE: The Finals Day for this class will be announced multiple times. As this is an on-line course, it will be delivered much like a giant, honking Quiz. You will be given a span of three Finals days to execute your Final Exam. More about this will be posted much later.)

The following will be counted as excused absences with compelling documentation;

*University functions, including participation in sporting events, teams clubs academic functions, scholarly conferences)

*Illness that is documented by a doctor's note.

*Death (do not try to convince me that you are dead- I probably won't buy it) or serious illness in the immediate family.

*The observance of religious holy days - you must notate in writing the dates and names of any religious holy days that you must observe during the course of the semester and hand it into the instructor no later than two weeks in advance. (Note- if you can prove you are a robot, I will also honor Robonica.

US Service personnel and their families may receive release on a case by case basis. The Professor is very supportive of our servicemen and women and their families.

A Poem for a Day That Follows or Proceeds a Holiday or Exam day
(with respects and apologies to Dr. Seuss)

INTENTION:

I will not change or cancel class
I could not, would not, for a house.
I would not, could not, for a spouse.
I would not change them for a pox.
I would not change them for some lox.
I would not move them here or there.
I would not move them anywhere.
I would not change a scheduled class
I do not like to, so don't be crass!

Please, do not ask. Please, do not book travel. Please, inform your families they may not schedule you on trips during these times. Please, inform your employers they may not schedule you. Please, feed your family vitamins so they may be healthy on these days. Experience has shown these dates are perilous for your loved ones. Please, have no religious conversions, magic spells, alien abductions, exorcisms, bigfoot attacks, or out of body experiences on these days. Due dates, class, exams, and projects will go on without you.

Advice for care and feeding of professors- Never say the following to any instructor. Biting may occur.

1. Did we do anything important last class?
2. Will we do anything important next class?

The following are powerful incantations that can drive a professor to the dark side.

1. Do not lobby a professor for higher grades that are unearned
2. Do not ask for answers to questions that may be found in a syllabus, UCF academic calendar, or have been answered in class more than three times.
3. These dark acts have been known to transform professors into various evil creatures like banshees, ghouls, Shaun Hannity, and Donald Trump.

Attendance Policy

It is the policy of the University to reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays. The student must provide proof of observation and the student will be held responsible for any material covered during the absence. If you know of any dates you will miss due to religious observance you must inform the instructor through email during the first week of classes.

Academic Honesty

Violations of student academic behavior standards are outlined in The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's student handbook. See [HTTP://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/](http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/) for further details. Plagiarism- whereby another's work is deliberately used or appropriated without any indication of the source thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another source has plagiarized. Cheating- whereby non-permissible written, visual, or oral assistance including that obtained from another student is utilized on exams, course assignments, or projects. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material shall also constitute cheating. A student who has assisted another in any of the aforementioned breaches of standards shall be considered equally culpable. Academic Action- Taken by Instructor, Chair, or Dean of College 1.Counseling 2.Loss of credit for the specific assignment, examination, or project 3.Removal from the course with a grade of 'F' Conduct Review Action- Taken by the Office of Student Conduct 1.Warning 2.Probation 3.Suspension 4.Expulsion 5.Permanent conduct record with UCF accessible by other institutions by request

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with [Student Disability Services](#), Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunity.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course, you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you

need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.