Professor: Shafer
Office: Theatre Annex-217
Phone: 407-823-0871
e-mail: john.shafer2@ucf.edu
Office Hours: TBA or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Our collective shadowed subconscious has summoned darkly fascinating dramatic characters to life in our theatres time and time again. The villains; the incestuous, the murderers, the vile, and the profane abound in our dramatic literature. But, not all sex and not all violence are painted as horrific or criminal. Many are presented as the ‘normal’ or appropriate actions for the circumstances. Our heroes indulge in sex and violence as well. Drama has therefore been dead center in the debate about sex, gender, violence, and taboo as far back as our records exist. This class shall discuss the societal need for these presentations, their communal context, common human themes, and their impact on the storytelling and entertainments of today.

Class time will consist of a mix of lecture, discussion, scene reading, student presentation of class projects, and video. Students may expect announced tests. Students are expected to have completed all assigned material in a timely fashion. Students should be prepared to participate in class discussion and activities. Reading assignments will be plentiful. MATURE THEMES will be discussed.

Recommended Text:

*Theatre Provocateur: When Drama Isn’t Sanitized, An Anthology for Today’s Consumer* by Shafer
Revised 1st Edition

**Recently released so Cognella (publisher) is the best place to get it. The UCF Bookstore will not be able to have the text in time. This is the most affordable source in any event. The text change has been made to be more affordable for students. Directions will be handed out in class. The electronic version will be permitted and is the least expensive version. Hard copies are also available for those (like me) that prefer holding a book.**

ATTENDANCE:
Attendance is mandatory. The student is responsible for any missed classes. However, there will be NO make-up tests. There will be NO make-up presentations. A request for an exception may rarely be granted in extreme circumstances, but only with compelling documentation. In addition, students that miss more than the three days of class allowed for illness and emergency may have 100 points deducted from their final grade tabulations. Some absences may be excused with compelling documentation. Under these circumstances, the student is still solely responsible for any missed material or assignments. A student with more than six days of absences may fail the course automatically. Three tardy appearances are equivalent to one full absence. Please, be punctual.

Much video and multimedia will used to support lecture & discussion. *It is vital to keep up with readings. Please, make an appointment early in the semester if you are having trouble.*

ELECTRONIC AND ANALOG DEVICES
No cell phone use is permitted. No texting devices are permitted. No digital or analog recordings are permitted. We will be covering a lot of copyright sensitive material. No audio recordings which require the use of ear jacks/buds are permitted. No computers are permitted- **unless in use for the electronic text!** Use of brains is approved. Consider yourself a Luddite during this class.
NOTE: Use of these devices during testing will automatically be considered cheating.

Note: NO late assignments, or papers will be accepted. All written assignments are to be typed unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

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 EVERY DAY WE ARE SCHEDULED - ESPECIALLY JUST BEFORE HOLIDAYS.

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 Sept. 1st. (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.

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, big foot 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.

COURSE EVALUATION:

All assignments will be worth 100 points or 200 points. Your grade will be calculated using percentage scores applied to the scale below. Absence penalties will then be applied and the result will be your final grade. Major assignment examples include papers, midterms, & finals. Daily assignment examples include 2 minute papers, class activities, participation, & homework. There are no make ups for daily projects even with excused absences.

Grade Scale will be a percentage based value. The example below assumes 1000 points of work. The ultimate total score is not important. The PERCENTAGE of the total earned will be your grade. For example, an ‘A’ means 94%.

A = 1,000-940
A- = 939-900
B+ = 899-870
B = 869-840
B- = 839-800
C+ = 799-770
C = 769-730
C- = 729-700
D+ = 699-670
D = 669-630
D- = 629-600
F = 599-0

CLASS TOPICS:

Week ONE  8/24/15
Topic: Introduction to the Semester: Definitions

Week TWO
Topic: Review of Sex and Violence on Stage in Ancient Play Writing History
   Aristophanes, Plautus, Abydoss Passion Play, Spanish Golden Age, Liturgical Drama, Shakespeare

Week THREE
Topic: Introduction to Sex and Violence on Stage in The Renaissance
   The Neoclassicists stance on portrayals of sex and violence

Week FOUR
Topic: Written Application or Rejection of Social Mores on the Stage
   Rebellion against and validation of the moral status quo on stage

Week FIVE
**Topic:** Typical Violent Acts on Stage  
Murder, Incest, Torture, Animal Cruelty, Suicide, Child Abuse, War, Rape, Prostitution, and their portrayal

**Week SIX**  
**Topic:** Musical Violence and Dancing Sexuality  
The musical’s relationship to our appetites

**Week SEVEN**  
**Topic:** Review

**Week EIGHT**  
**Topic:** Midterm

**WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE! November 2, 2015**  
Eject by now if you KNOW you need to...

**Week NINE**  
**Topic:** Exceptions to Evil  
When extreme behaviors are considered moral?

**Week TEN**  
**Topic:** Social Change and Taboo  
When and why have plays changed social perspectives?

**Week ELEVEN**  
**Topic:** The Benefits of Evil on Stage

**Week TWELVE**  
**Topic:** Student Presentations

**Week THIRTEEN**  
**Topic:** Student Presentations

**Week FOURTEEN**  
**Topic:** Student Presentations

**Week FIFTEEN**  
**Topic:** Review

**Schedule**

**August 24- Class begins**

**NO CLASS ON THESE DAYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>Mon. Nov. 11, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Nov. 26 - 28, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Confirmation of Academic Activity  
August 24-28

Withdrawal Deadline  
November 2
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 breach of standards shall be considered equally culpable.

**Academic Action**- Taken by Instructor, Chair, or Dean of College
1. Counseling
2. Loss of credit for specific assignment, examination, or project
3. Removal from 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

*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.*

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.

It is the policy of the University to reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays. However, the student will be held responsible for any material covered during the absence and must inform the instructor two weeks prior to the holiday.
Since the theatre requires the use of mind, voice, body, there might be situations that will require a certain amount of physical contact between you and the instructor and other students. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to access your chances for success in this class.