TPA 5885C – PUPPETRY - Fall 2015

Instructor: Vandy Wood
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Course Objectives:
- To become acquainted with the various uses of and trends in puppetry.
- To survey puppetry as a cultural art.
- To study and practice manipulation and performance of various puppet forms.
- To participate in engineering and construction of mock-ups and final puppets for use in productions.

Required Text:

Some Books of Interest:
Bernier, Mathew and Judith O’Hare, eds. Puppetry in Education and Therapy: Unlocking Doors to the Mind and Heart

Attendance:
Attendance is mandatory. After one absence, each additional absence will lower your final grade.

Assignments and Exams:
Students will complete four major projects and several smaller assignments. There will be no written exams in this course.

Grading:
Participation: 15 %
Project 1: 20 %
Project 2: 20 %
Project 3: 20 %
Final Project: 25 %

Class Requirements:
This class requires written work, evaluation of your own and other’s work, presentation of puppets, group work and discussions, purchasing/bringing supplies, as well as reading/assignments and puppet construction outside of allotted class time. In addition, this class may include fieldtrips/labs outside of regularly scheduled class times.
Assignments:

Project 1: TBD

Project 2:

- **Cultural Puppetry Presentation**: Research and present to the class a style of cultural puppetry of today or the past. Research the following questions and creatively present your findings to the class:

  - *How are the puppets constructed (materials used, process, who makes them)?*
  - *How are they manipulated? Who manipulates them? Training involved?*
  - *What events, stories, rituals, or celebrations are associated with these puppets? Describe them.*
  - *Where and how did the puppets originate? Who is the intended audience for these puppets? What did you find most interesting?*

  **10 Min Presentation** to the class should include easily seen visuals and should address above questions. Please provide each member of the class with a creative **fact sheet about your chosen topic**, including a list of sources for more information on your topic in MLA format. Be creative and the presentations will be more enjoyable for everyone.

  All creative fact sheets (including copies for the class) are due on the day you present to the class.

  **Topic Ideas**: Japanese Bunraku puppets, Indonesian and Turkish shadow puppets, Vietnamese water puppets, Native American or African masks (specify which country and tribe you are researching), Punch and Judy, Bil Baird's and Tony Sarg's puppets, Jim Henson's puppets, Bread and Puppet Theatre, Taymore’s puppets, Sherry Lewis' puppets, Claymation.

Project 3: TBD

Final Project: TBD

- **Written Evaluations**: Although oral evaluations will be a part of this class, I will ask you to provide a written self-evaluation after each project. Self-evaluations should include but are not limited to a written description of your strengths and weaknesses on the project, as well as what worked and what you might do differently next time. **Written evaluations are due following each project.**

  **General Puppetry Supplies for this Class**
  You may need to purchase/bring materials needed for elements of project 3. Materials for projects 2 and 4 will be provided for you.
**SCHEDULE:**  (Subject to Change)

Tues. 8-25: Introduction – Project 1 intro  
Thurs. 8-27: Project 2 intro (you may want to work on Projects 1 and 2 simultaneously).

Tues. 9-1: Work on Project 1  
Thurs. 9-3: Work on Project 1

Tues. 9-8: Areas/elements of Puppetry – 
Thurs. 9-10: Areas/elements of Puppetry –

Tues. 9-15: Construction and manipulation  
Thurs. 9-17: Construction and manipulation

Tues. 9-22: Construction and manipulation  
Thurs. 9-24: Construction and manipulation

Tues. 9-29: Character and story  
Thurs. 10-1: Project 1 Complete

Tues. 10-6: Character and story  
Thurs. 10-8: Project 2 Presentations

Tues. 10-13: Project 3 Intro  
Thurs. 10-15: Scenography and Performance elements

Tues. 10-20: Scenography and Performance elements  
Thurs. 10-22: Scenography and Performance elements

Tues. 10-27: Work on projects  
Thurs. 10-29: Work on projects

Tues. 11-3: Final Project Intro  
Thurs. 11-5: Work on projects

Tues. 11-10: Work on projects  
Thurs. 11-12: Project 3 Presentations

Tues. 11-17: Work on projects  
Thurs. 11-19: Work on projects

Tues. 11-24: Work on projects  
Thurs. 11-26: Thanksgiving – No Class

Tues. 12-1: Work on projects  
Thurs. 12-3: Last Class
Tues. 12-15 -1pm - Final Exam: Final Projects Presented

**Places/Organizations of interest:**
UNIMA
Puppeteers of America
Jim Henson Foundation
Center for Puppetry Arts – Atlanta
Northwest Puppetry Center – Seattle
Puppetry Center of the Palm Beaches – Delray Beach
Pinocchio’s Marionette Theatre, Altamont Springs
Michelee Puppets, Orlando

**DISCLAIMER** – THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

**GOLDEN RULE**
VIOLATIONS OF STUDENT ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR STANDARDS ARE OUTLINED IN THE GOLDEN RULE, THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA’S STUDENT HANDBOOK. SEE HTTP://WWW.UDF.EDU/GOLDENRULE/ FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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 FASCILITATE 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 YOU MUST INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR TWO WEEKS PRIOR.

SINCE THEATRE REQUIRES THE USE OF MIND, VOICE, AND BODY, THERE MAY BE SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONTACT BETWEEN YOU AND THE INSTRUCTOR OR OTHER STUDENTS. IF THIS PRESENTS A PROBLEM FOR YOU, PLEASE SEE THE INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY TO ASSESS YOUR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE.

THERE ARE PLAYS AND MATERIALS THAT MAY EXPRESS ADULT OR CONTROVERSIAL THEMES AS WELL AS STRONG LANGUAGE. IF THIS PRESENTS A PROBLEM FOR YOU, PLEASE SEE THE INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY TO ASSESS YOUR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE.