

Module 0.4 - Your Syllabus

Syllabus-

This is usually a place where students tend to skip and/or tune out. Don't.

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.

NOTE: New, required University COVID Syllabus addition appears at the end of this Syllabus.

**(Picture removed for data density upload economy)

UCF acting students performing a scene in class.

Instructor Contact

Instructor John Shafer

Office PAC T217- I may not be able to be there for you this Summer due to Pandemic, but I am available online. My office is smaller than the square footage permitted for meeting students.

Physical Office Hours **Office Hours: TBD - (Pandemic)**

Phone 407-823-0871

E-mail john.shafer2@ucf.edu

TA	TBD
Phone	
E-Mail	

Course Information

Course Name Theatre Survey

Course ID & Section THE 2000-OW-64

Credit Hours 3

Semester/Year Fall 2020

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 theatre 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. YOU have a special 'free points Quiz' that will do this for you if you complete it)

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
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Required Text

No Text Required

Supplemental Texts

None

Course Requirements:

1. Show Paper & Approved Venue Production:

Attendance at one professional live approved performance venue or approved professional training venue for the semester is USUALLY required. This term, a digital alternative will be provided due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The student will write a review paper about the performance.

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This Assignment is no problem for most students. HOWEVER, this project can EAT a procrastinator- YOU. NO. There are no other options. Don't feed the evil Procrastinator Demon.

To fully experience live theatre, physical attendance is required. Attendance is usually required for this course. This is designed to aid understanding of the elements of

theatre and to foster an appreciation for the art. (Like film, you may not enjoy every play. Keep looking. The magic- when you find it- is worth the search.)

It is important to know that no matter how good a 'canned' and non-real time project might be? It is not theatre if it ain't live and in person. However, we will do our best this semester and I am confident you will understand the difference intellectually.

You will also be required to write **A Four PAGE PAPER**. Please, be aware that there may be a cost that you could be required to pay in order to access a Pre-Approved online production. (We may need to use a service.) I intend to give you two choices as things stand now. **SUBSTITUTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE**. Please, do not ask.

Alternate Venues will be NOT be considered for this Fall session.

The Show Paper Assignment is a state requirement for all Theatre Survey courses.

Your Pre-Approved Play Venues

One Pre-Approved show venue is currently a very specific production of *RENT*. This may be found at the link below... until it isn't. **THIS IS THE FREE OPTION**.

Due to copyright issues, seeing full length, current, Broadway productions most often requires payment to a service. Currently, as of this writing, the 2008 Broadway production of *RENT* is available on line for free.

[RENT: Broadway Production \(Full Live Performance, 2008\)](#)

The availability status of online productions may change overnight.

If so, there is a second option; a 2nd Pre-Approved Venue. But, this may require a fee from you for a content provider service if you do not already have the service. This is the Broadway production of *Hamilton* available on Disney+

NOTE: As we get deeper into the semester you will have more and more information about the Show Paper format and additional course content that will assist you.

Fortunately, there is no cost for a text book in this class. (It is here in your Webcourse.) So, even if you end up paying a fee for a service, you will still be saving money over some other classes. Normally, you would purchase tickets and attend a live production for this Assignment. So, this is not an increase in cost.

Please, do not wait too long after **Section 3.0** drops to view *RENT* or *Hamilton*. Putting this off will be tempting fate.

Don't Get On the Wrong Side of the Bull (This is not a play title! It's a warning.)

** (Picture removed for data density upload economy)

Do you know what these people got wrong during the Running of the Bulls?

No, it was not wearing sandals. It was bad timing. **Don't get on the wrong end of the bull** this semester with the **Show Paper Assignment**.

All Show Papers must be done on specific Pre-Approved Venues. No substitutes are permitted.

October 29th (a Thursday) IS THE DATE YOU MUST TURN IN YOUR SHOW PAPERS. MORE ON THIS PROCESS WILL BE POSTED. You will be required to have a selfie of yourself in front of a screen with *RENT* or *Hamilton* on in the background. A JPEG pic of this is to be included in your WORD digital submission. Please, try to include popcorn in your stage selfie. (Nobody said not to have fun!) More on this will be coming.

We need time to grade your papers so we can't push back the Due Date beyond what it is! The Withdrawal Date is October 30th.

Missed Assignments/ Make-Ups/ Extra Credit -

1. There will be no late assignments, no make- ups or extra credit.
2. There will be no late assignments, no make- ups or extra credit.
3. There will be no late assignments, no make- ups or extra credit.

*I have said it thrice: **What I tell you three times is true.***” — Lewis Carroll, *The Hunting of the Snark*

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

Show Paper (300pts) Format for review to be posted later. (Show Paper Assignment)

2. Quizzes

**** (Picture removed for data density upload economy)**

Most students do not have trouble with these Quizzes. But, many DO feed the Procrastinator Demon's babies. The student gets busy, distracted, delayed, etcetera, and CHOMP! The bite of ONE Baby Procrastinator Demon is negligible. Two? Hardly annoying. But, the zeroes they leave in their wake will quickly fester and destroy your grade to become...

***(Picture removed for data density upload economy)*

GODZILLA PROCRASTINATOR DEMON

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 timed 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 entertainment venue. What is NOT TRUE of the requirements of this assignment?

- a. You will have to write a performance review of a Broadway production
- b. Students will be required to see an ONLINE Broadway production

c. Students should take a selfie while watching their Pre-Approved Show Paper option. Popcorn is optional.

d. If your choice for an Alternative Pre-Approved Production is not approved, you are exempt from this assignment

3. 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 GradePoints

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 course is already so generous, rounding up would not be appropriate. Grades do not round up. Please, do not ask. (This usually happens late in a semester. I will simply cut and paste this in your reply. It will likely feel rude. It is not meant to be. It is meant to be efficient.)

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. Historically, topics of sex and violence are inherently political. 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.

NO CLASS ON THESE DAYS

Labor Day

[no-classes](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Monday, September 7th

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 11th

November 26-28th

Thanksgiving

(There is rumor about Thanksgiving that I will confirm and report back when appropriate)

CLASS TOPICS:

Week ONE 8/24/2020

Topic: Introduction to the Semester

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE! October 30

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

Schedule

August 24th - Class begins

**Faculty Confirmation of Academic Activity
August 24th-August 30th**

NO CLASS ON THESE DAYS

Labor Day

Monday, September 7

Veteran's Day

Wed. November 11

Thanksgiving

November 26-28

**Withdrawal Deadline
August 30th**

**Last Day of Class
December 4th**

**Final Exam
December 7-12**

(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 on-line Quiz. You will be given a span of two Finals days to execute your Final Exam. More about this will be posted much later. You are responsible for staying in/available for class through the entire Finals Period for this course and all courses.)

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, Voldemorte, and Donald Trump. (wink)

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

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with [Student Accessibility Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

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.

NEW SYLLABUS CONTENT:

Advice:

Professor Shafer's Syllabi have only recently included a safety section. However, schools can no longer be considered Safe Zones. It is up to all of us to stay alert before things happen and to think through a strategy for when things do happen. I encourage you to look up UCF emergency procedures and campus safety advice. Simply be aware of your surroundings and familiar with actions to take in various types of emergencies. This will help keep you safe.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html (Links to an external site.).
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.

- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html> (Links to an external site.) (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu (Links to an external site.) and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert," fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video. [You CAN Survive an Active Shooter](#) (Links to an external site.)

UCF COVID information and policy website

<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/Links to an external site.>

Hey, these are really dangerous times for you and everyone you know- especially older or those with pre-existing conditions. Remember, you can't always see when someone has a health condition that makes them especially vulnerable. You must behave accordingly for your sake and for everyone you encounter.

COVID-19 may well continue to wreak havoc on university schedules and our communities. But, an online class designed for online consumption is largely immune from these disruptions. Assignments, Quizzes, & Exams are all available for multiple days- sometimes weeks.

In order to qualify for Excused Absence policy in a keyboard class like ours, an illness must be so consuming that emails to the Instructor requesting advance aid can't be managed. If a person is this weak, they are generally hospitalized. The standard here is pretty high and not really impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Do not be tempted to miss deadlines. They are firm. **Compelling Documentation will be required for the entire period of Assignment availability in order to qualify for an Excused Absence. (Of course, if you are hospitalized, you will be able to document this and you will be able to qualify for Excused Absences.)**

** (Picture removed for data density upload economy)

I cycled 14 miles the day this picture was taken. Masks are expected and required on campus.

Masks:

It is highly unlikely for you to meet with another student for this class. If you do, I strongly request that you wear a mask. No student is required to meet any other student in this course for any reason if another student is not wearing a mask.

It is unlikely, though possible, that you will meet with me this term. If you do need to see me for assistance, be advised that I will require that both of us be- at the minimum- properly wearing a mask. If you meet with me, I will be wearing a mask and a face shield.

I should note that I know that many of my faculty and staff colleagues have invisible health issues that could be gravely complicated by exposure to COVID19. People are dying. I ask that you wear a mask when you are on campus for their sakes. **The university has, in fact, mandated that masks are to be worn on campus.**

Note: I will not see/meet with a student who does not wear a mask in a Pandemic this semester. I will not risk my life- or yours- so frivolously to do so. Thank you for being courteous of everyone's health concerns. But, note: I intend to out live you all.

ARMOR UP, KNIGHTS.

- Wear a mask.
- Wash your hands.
- Practice physical distancing.

More New Content:

Statement on the Use of GroupMe and other Contract Cheating Sites

Very bluntly—DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE post discussion board links to the following:

GroupMe

WhatsApp

Furthermore, students are NOT allowed to use GroupMe, WhatsApp, or any other form of technology to exchange course material associated with a graded assignment, quiz, test, etc. when opened on Webcourses. The completion of graded work in an online course should be considered a formal process.

If you were in a classroom setting taking a quiz, would you ask the student sitting next to you for an answer to a quiz or test question? The answer is NO. Same goes for graded homework, quizzes, tests, etc. Just because you are not in a formal classroom setting being proctored while taking a quiz or test does not mean that the completion of graded work in an online course should not be treated with integrity.

The following is not all inclusive of what is considered academic misconduct. These examples are regarding how the use of technology can be considered academic misconduct:

- Taking a screen shot of an online quiz or test question, posting it to GroupMe or WhatsApp, and asking for assistance is considered academic misconduct
- Answering an online quiz or test question posted to GroupMe or WhatsApp is considered academic misconduct. Giving advice, assistance, or suggestions on how to complete a question associated with an online assignment, quiz, or test is considered academic misconduct
- The use of outside assistance from another student or by searching the internet, Googling for answers, use of websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, Chegg Study, etc. is considered academic misconduct
- Gathering to take an online quiz or test with others and sharing answers in the process is considered academic misconduct

If a student or group of students are found to be exchanging material associated with a graded assignment, quiz, or test through any form of technology (GroupMe, WhatsApp, etc.) or use outside assistance (Googling answers, use of websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, Chegg Study, etc.), they could receive anywhere from a zero grade on the exercise to an “F” in the course depending on the egregiousness of the act.

It just is not worth it. You really do not need to cheat in this course to succeed. Seriously. Just be consistent and punctual with your work.

ATTENTION:

The university has just released an addition to ALL university Syllabi. I do not believe there to be any conflicts with the rest of our syllabus, but in the event of conflict, we will follow the university dictates. THIS CONTAINS FAR MORE COVID PROCEDURAL DETAIL AND POLICIES.

Required Statement Regarding COVID-19 University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (<https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf>Links to an external site.). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the [Golden RuleLinks to an external site.](#) for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel

class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> (Links to an external site.))

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.