

TH 131 01: Introduction to Theater

MWF 1:00-1:50pm
University Theatre
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Office Hours: MWF – 2-3pm, TR – 3:15-4:45pm

Purpose: The purpose of this class is to strengthen your understanding of the art of theater. Aesthetic concerns of the audience, playwright, performers, director, and designers are examined.

Outcome: At the end of the semester students will have increased aesthetic appreciation for the art of theater. The students written and oral communication and critical thinking skills will be addressed while analyzing the intent of different plays and writing critiques of theatrical work. They will also have increased understanding of the impact theater has on society and increased understanding of the roles undertaken in mounting a theater production as we address diversity and social responsibility in theater.

Assignments: *Whether you are in class or not, you are still responsible for knowing what the assignments are and when they're due. All written assignments must be submitted in MLA format.*

Tests. There will be three written exams throughout the semester based on in-class lectures, student presentations and discussions.

Group Presentations. With an assigned group you will prepare a short presentation on a selected theater genre. Your presentation should, at minimum, define the genre and provide a memorable experience for the class that will aid in the retention of the material presented. As a group you will decide what aspects of the genre are most important to present to the class.

With a different group you will prepare a short presentation on an assigned theater movement.

The same criteria as listed for your genre presentation apply.

Practical Projects. Projects utilizing techniques covered in class regarding script analysis, playwriting, set design, acting and costuming will be discussed and assigned in class.

Film Analysis. In class we will be watching Finding Neverland and The Skin of Our Teeth. You will be asked to analyze both films regarding their use in furthering your understanding of theater.

Play Critiques. You are required to attend CU's fall production of *Mr. A's Amazing Maze Plays*. A paper analyzing the production must be submitted. If you accept a role in the production (or a crew position) your critique should be about the production of the play rather than the presentation.

As a class we will be attending *Into the Woods* at the Elizabethtown PAC. The school will be providing transportation to the performance and back and covering the ticket cost. You will be responsible for purchasing dinner for yourself the day of the show. The performance is on the evening of September, 19th. If you are unable to attend this performance you will be responsible for arranging to see an approved professional theater production on your own.

Class Performance. As a group project you will prepare a short play to be performed. As a group you are required to select a script for the presentation and will be graded on collaboration and effort.

Late Work. If you anticipate trouble meeting an assignment due date because of a regularly scheduled school function, you must make arrangements with me *a minimum of one week* before the scheduled assignment due date to avoid being penalized. Ten Percent of the possible score for the assignment will be deducted from the score received for *each calendar day* an assignment is late. I reserve the right to accept or reject late work at my discretion.

Academic Honesty: Do your own work. According to the Division of Humanities, plagiarism is defined as representing the words or ideas of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise. Plagiarism is not giving someone credit when explaining their idea or quoting their direct words. Therefore, all writing you do for this course must be your own and must be exclusively for this course. Pay special attention to the accuracy of the quotations, paraphrases, summaries, and documentation practices you use in your assignments. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please ask. When discovered, at first offense

plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment, second offense will result in failure of the course. Your case may also be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences. For additional information concerning plagiarism, you may consult the Writing Center in SUB 4.

Class Attendance: You are expected to attend every class and to be on time each day. Class participation is expected and will be factored into the grading, especially when considering marginal grades. All EXCUSED absences will require a written doctor's excuse. After twelve absences, excused or unexcused, you will be removed from the class. If you enter the classroom late, it is your responsibility to see that the attendance record is properly adjusted at the end of the affected class period.

Disability Services: Campbellsville University is committed to reasonable accommodations for students who have documented physical and learning disabilities, as well as medical and emotional conditions. If you have a documented disability or condition of this nature, you may be eligible for disability services. Documentation must be from a licensed professional and current in terms of assessment. Please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at 270-789-5192 to inquire about services:

Campus Security: Office - 270-789-5555 Cell - 270-403-3611

Grading:

Practical Projects:	200
Theater Design, Set Design, Sound Design and Costuming	
Practical Projects:	100
Script Analysis, Playwriting	
Film Analysis (2)	200
<i>Mr. A's Amazing Maze Plays</i> Analysis	50
<i>Into the Woods</i> Analysis	50
Genre Presentation	50
Movement Presentation	50
Class Performance	100
Exams (3)	150
Participation	25
Total possible points	975

A: 877<	(90%<)
B: 780-876	(80-89%)
C: 682-779	(70-79%)
D: 585-681	(60-69%)
F: >584	(>59%)

Library Resource List

History of the English Drama 1600-1900
 Kabuki Theatre
 Theatrical Design and Production by Gillette

PR625 .N52 1959
 PN2924.5.K3 E76 1974
 PN2085.G5 1997

Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1 August 24-28

- M: Class Introduction/Review Syllabus
- W: Pre-Class Test
- F: Theater Genres Assigned/Theater Spaces

Week 2 August 31-September 4

- M: Theater History
- W: Theater History
- F: **Theater Design Project Due**

Week 3 September 7 - 11

- M: Sept. 7th, No Classes – Labor Day
- W: **Group Genre Presentations**
- F: **Group Genre Presentations**

- Week 4** September 14 - 18
 M: Exam Review
 W: Exam One
 F: Attend *Into the Woods*
- Week 5** September 21-25
 M: Discuss *Into the Woods*, Analysis Due.
 W: The Playwright
 F: The Director and The Producer
- Week 6** September 28 – October 2
 M/W/F: The Skin of Our Teeth
- Week 7** October 5 - 9
 M: The Skin of Our Teeth Analysis Due
 W: Acting
 F: Attend *Mr. A's Amazing Maze Play* (8th at 7pm, 9th at 3:30 and 8pm, 10th at 7pm, 11th at 3pm)
 Playwriting Assignment Due
- Week 8** October 12 – 16
 M: Discuss *Mr. A's Amazing Maze Plays*, Critique Due
 W: Script/Group Selections for class performance Due
 F: Oct. 15th-16th, No Classes - Fall Break
- Week 9** October 19 - 23 (Midterm Week)
 M: Acting
 W: Set Design
 F: Script Analysis
 Exam Two
- Week 10** October 26 - 30
 M: Acting
 W: Set Design Due, Exam Review
 F: Theater Movements Assigned.
- Week 11** November 2 - 6
 M: Theater Movement Presentations
 W: Theater Movement Presentations
 F: Discuss Costume Design
- Week 12** November 9 - 13
 M/W/F: Rehearse group play, Off book
- Week 13** November 16 - 20
 M: Costume Assignment Due. Discuss Lighting and Sound Design.
 W: Sound Design Assignment Due
 F: Rehearse group play – Group 1
- Week 14** November 23 – 27
 M/W/F: Finding Neverland, Script Analysis Due Monday.
- Week 15** November 30 – December 4
 M: Rehearse group play – Group 2
 W/F: Nov. 25th – 27th, No Classes – Thanksgiving Break
- Week 16** December 7 - 11
 M: Finding Neverland Analysis Due. End of Semester Course Evaluation Test.
 W: Rehearse group play – Group 3
 F: Exam Three
- Week 17** December 14-18
 Monday 2pm. Final Exam. You'll be presenting your group play. Invite your friends!

