

This is a sample syllabus for THE2000. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.

**THE 2000 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE FOR NON-MAJORS  
TRADITIONAL DELIVERY**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Historical development, basic elements for appreciation and evaluation of performances (*FSU Undergraduate Bulletin*). THE 2000 satisfies the standardized general education requirement for **Humanities and Cultural Practice** and FSU's **Multiculturalism Y (Diversity in Western Experience)**.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** In this course, you will:

1. Critically assess and analyze theatrical plays and productions by placing them within the larger context of western and non-western theatre.
2. Engage with a variety of theatre beyond Broadway—backstage and onstage—particularly forms that speak to specific groups within American society.
3. Experience and discuss different types of and approaches to theatrical literature and production.
4. Learn how and where to find live theatre wherever you may be and how best to become a part of the world of theatre.
5. Delve deeply into the outreach experience of a single play, engaging in research, analysis, synthesis, and critical thinking to explore how your play is relevant to a contemporary audience.
6. Analyze some aspect of human experience within a culture, focusing on at least one source of diversity (e.g., age, disability, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, social class, or other).
7. Explore one's own cultural norms or values in relation to those of a different cultural group.
8. Interpret intellectual or artistic works within a cultural context.
9. Use a cultural or artistic approach to analyze some aspect of human experience.

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:**

This course is intended to provide a glimpse inside the wonderful world of theatre. An introductory course, it is geared toward undergraduate non-majors who are interested in learning more about the inner workings of theatre, the history of theatre, the many different roles that theatre professionals play as they create theatre, and the continuing relevance of theatre in our contemporary world. In this course, you will have the opportunity to see, read, and learn about theatre. We will investigate the fundamental elements of theatre and explore the history and function of theatre through a combination of discussions, exercises, and written assignments designed to work in concert with readings, lectures and viewings. We will also investigate that most pivotal concern of the theatre—the audience—and seek out opportunities to connect with theatre in your area. Whether you have a lot of experience with theatre or very little, this class aims to change the way you think about theatre and why it matters in the world today.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Unless otherwise noted, all materials below are required for the course. Books are available in the FSU Bookstores.

- *Explore Theatre*, edited by Michael O'Hara and Judith Sebesta (digital book; ISBN: 0205028721)—purchase access online at [http://wps.ablongman.com/wps/media/access/Pearson\\_Default/5586/5720711/login.html](http://wps.ablongman.com/wps/media/access/Pearson_Default/5586/5720711/login.html)

direct from Pearson. Do NOT purchase a second edition access card for the book. If you're in this situation, contact me and I'll help you get a refund.

- *Gem of the Ocean*, August Wilson (ISBN: 9781559362801)
- *How I Learned to Drive*, Paula Vogel (ISBN: 9780822216230)
- *M. Butterfly*, David Henry Hwang (ISBN: 9780822207122)
- *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, Tony Kushner (ISBN: 9781559360616)
- *Lysistrata*, Aristophanes (ISBN: 9780486282251) – OPTIONAL (for Extra Credit)
- You will also be required to attend one live theatre production over the course of the semester, which will be used on the Design Discussion Board. Students in Tallahassee can see any of the FSU School of Theatre's productions (*Eurydice*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *A New Brain*, and the Act II productions). Performances run on select days; see the School of Theatre's website (<http://theatre.fsu.edu/our-season/performance-season/>) for details. Student tickets to FSU productions cost \$10 and will go on sale September 12th. FSU shows often sell out—especially the musicals—so get your ticket early! You will be required to document your presence at the show you attend; **keep your ticket stub/program and make sure you attend a show BEFORE the Design DB deadline (November 2)**.
- Most texts and viewings are also on reserve in Strozier Library on campus. Check the "Course Library" section of our Canvas site for more information. The exception to the library reserves is *Explore Theatre*, which can only be viewed online via a purchased copy.

\*In this course—and as a key part of the multicultural experience—I will challenge you to experience life from perspectives other than your own. Because of this, some course material will likely take you outside of your comfort zone. If you are unwilling to engage with material that asks you to think about other perspectives in this way, I encourage you to take another course to satisfy this General Education requirement. If you have any concerns about this issue, contact me during the add/drop period.

**FSU LIBERAL STUDIES STATEMENT:** The *Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program* at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies thus offers a transformative experience. This course has been approved as meeting the requirements for the Humanities and Cultural Practice requirement and thus is designed to help you become a thoughtful patron of and participant in cultural practice.

**DIVERSITY IN WESTERN EXPERIENCE (Y):** This course has also been approved as meeting the **Diversity in Western Experience (Y)** requirement and thus is designed to help you become a culturally conscious participant in a global community. In order to satisfy this requirement, students must earn a final grade of C- or above.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance will be checked periodically with pop quizzes, short in-class writing assignments, sign-in sheets, and exercises. If you are tardy and miss the exercise, it is your responsibility to find your TA and show them that you are present for half credit. You are

allowed **2 unexcused absences**. Beginning with the third unexcused absence, your participation and attendance grade will be lowered 25 points for each unexcused absence. Excused absences (including documented illness, religious holy days, official University activities, crisis in the immediate family, call to active military or jury duty, and other documented crises) must be documented. Keep track of your absences on Blackboard; if you have any questions about where you stand, email your TA sooner rather than later.

**PARTICIPATION:** In this class your participation points are earned, not assumed. I will often ask for volunteers who wish to see their work created by themselves or members of the class, or who wish to present something from their group. I understand that you may be more willing to share some assignments than others. At the same time, each of you must participate at least one time during the semester, either in class exercises, presentations, or other forms.

**QUIZZES:** There will be 11 quizzes during this course. Content may be based on assigned readings, lectures, viewings, or course activities. At the end of the term I will drop the lowest quiz score. Students who miss a quiz due to an excused absence must arrange to make up the quiz within two weeks of the date it was administered; those who do not make this deadline forfeit the opportunity to take a makeup quiz. For all quizzes completed online, I strongly suggest you print the final, graded page which shows your responses and score. In the case of any problems or computer errors, this is the only way in which you will be able to receive credit for your answers. These are also great sources for midterm and final exam preparation. Pop quizzes will take place in class at my discretion, and can be based on readings, lectures, or attendance.

**EXAMS:** This course will have two exams, a midterm and a final. Questions may be in the format of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and essay. In accordance with University Guidelines, make-up exams will be provided only if extraordinary circumstances prevent class attendance on the scheduled exam date. Students must present a signed note from a medical professional, legal professional, or dean on professional letterhead no later than the Thursday following the exam. Make up exams will take place the Friday after the exam at 8 am, location TBA; exams will not be graded until I approve the absence.

**PAPERS:** Students will write two major papers in this course, including a 4-5 page paper based on the performance of an approved production and a 3-4 page response paper. Detailed guidelines for these assignments will be provided later in the session. Students will also participate in online discussion boards and complete several written assignments over the course of the semester. See the attached Course Schedule for detailed information on due dates for readings and written assignments.

### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

You can earn a maximum of 50 extra credit points through any combination of the options listed below. Extra credit will be added to the total cumulative grade. You can turn in the extra credit any time in the semester, but **all extra credit is due in hard copy by the beginning of class on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – late extra credit will not be accepted.** More information on specific productions, opportunities, and assignments will be updated throughout the semester on the Blackboard site.

- **PLAY REVIEW** (up to 25 points): Attend an approved university or professional theatre production (no high school theatre) and write a two-page review of the production. Include your ticket stub with your review.
- **PLAY ANALYSIS** (up to 25 points): Read a play in the anthology or blackboard list (not assigned for the course) and write a two-page response paper that considers how the play fits in with the topics we have addressed in class. You may also request approval for other plays or topics as long as they are new to you and are not assigned reading for another course; if you have something in mind, please do not hesitate to ask.
- **DESIGN** (up to 25 points): Choose a play from the anthology or blackboard list (or request approval for another play) that we have not read in class. Then complete a costume or set design for each scene of the play. Include a paragraph description for each scene that explains your choices and reasoning behind them.
- Extra credit points will also be distributed at my discretion for extraordinary contributions to class.
- Additional opportunities will be available on blackboard as time permits. I am open to other extra credit options; if you have any ideas, please ask.

**COURTESY:** Be considerate of your classmates and your teacher by following normal rules of classroom decorum (turn off cell phones, pagers, etc.; be prepared to participate; listen and respond to classmates; arrive on time...). Those who make disrespectful choices may be asked to leave and will lose all participation and attendance points for that class period, as well as points for any classwork accomplished in section that day. Assignments, quizzes, and other class activities missed when a student is asked to leave under these circumstances cannot be made up.

**BLACKBOARD:** I use blackboard for announcements, assignments, quizzes, and many other things. Students must obtain garnet accounts and have access to the internet. Students must check their official university email accounts daily, and this course blackboard site at least 3 times per week. I strongly encourage you to check this site the night before class sessions for important announcements and reminders.

**QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, & EMAILS:** To get in touch with me or your TA, locate us after class, call during office hours, or send an email. For all emails, include your name (first and last) and section number in the message (even if you think it is redundant). We will get back to you within 1-2 business days. Please check the blackboard announcements, calendar, FAQs, and assignments for the answer to your question before sending an email – many times, other students have had the same question and an answer is already available for you.

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students must earn a C- or higher to get the Gordon Rule credit in this class. Gordon Rule requirements will be fulfilled with one analytical paper, one shorter argumentative paper, online discussions, and several additional assignments. Students who fail to submit any of the three major papers for this class cannot earn a grade higher than a D+.

All assignments must be typewritten in 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced with 1 inch margins, and free of errors; work that does not meet these requirements will be penalized. You will be graded on both the content of your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your

writing. You will not be allowed to rewrite assignments for higher grades, but both I and your TA will comment on drafts submitted at least one week before the assignment is due (Drafts submitted later than this will be commented on only as time permits.).

**CITATIONS:** All information used in your papers must be fully and accurately cited. Failure to cite your sources correctly may result in disciplinary action by the university. For citation guidelines, refer to *A Writer's Reference* by Diana Hacker, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* by Joseph Gibaldi (these both use MLA style), *A Manual for Writers* by Kate Turabian or *The Chicago Manual of Style* (these both use Chicago style). If you have concerns about your understanding of proper citations, please see me or your TA.

**PROCESS FOR TURNING IN PAPERS:** All written assignments, unless otherwise stated, must be submitted online through the course turnitin link for plagiarism detection. Papers should be formatted in MS Word or as a Rich Text File (file extensions of .doc or .rtf). DO NOT EMAIL WORK TO ME OR YOUR TA – YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT UNTIL IT IS SUBMITTED THROUGH BLACKBOARD. Late papers and assignments are subject to a penalty of 10% per day. (Note that a paper worth 150 points would lose 15 points per day.) Computer problems are not an acceptable reason for turning work in late.

**GRADING CONCERNS:** You are responsible for keeping track of your grade on blackboard (under Student Tools). If you have questions, problems, or concerns with a grade you have earned in this class, you must present the graded assignment and 1 typed paragraph detailing relevant evidence (from the textbook, course lecture, assigned viewing, etc.) to the person who graded your work no later than 1 week following the return or posting of your assignment. After one week, appeals will not be considered. Remember that grade challenges may result in a higher or lower grade, as we may choose to regrade the entire paper or exam at our discretion. Grade discussions will occur **ONLY** during regularly scheduled office hours or an appointment scheduled in advance. Similarly, if an assignment is missing students must notify their TA within one week of the assignment grade posting; those who miss this window forfeit their rights. It is the student's responsibility to keep copies of all written work for this course.

**GRADES:** In general, grades for written work are administered according to the following criteria:

- A = excellent in all areas. The assignment presents a strong thesis statement, is argued coherently, and offers clear evidence to support ideas. Documentation follows correct citation format.
- B = good. The assignment presents a good thesis statement; the argument and evidence are okay, but could be stronger. Documentation mostly follows correct citation format.
- C = meets minimum requirements of assignment. The assignment presents a passable thesis statement; argument and evidence exist, but are either not convincing or not well articulated. Citations often weak.
- D = falls short of minimum requirement, but effort in completing the assignment clearly made. Thesis, evidence, and argument either very weak or missing. Citations often ignored.

F = does not meet minimum requirement in any way.

Grading rubrics for discussion boards and other written assignments are available on the MAIN Canvas site with the assignments themselves. The Module Discussion Board rubric is available in Module One.

**GRADE SCALE:** (FSU doesn't allow A+'s.)

A = 93-100	A- = 90-92	B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76	C- = 70-72	D+ = 67-69	D = 63-66	D- = 60-62	F = < 59

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

<b>PAPER ON PERFORMANCE (LIVE) – 1250 WORDS</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>RESPONSE PAPER – 1000 WORDS</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>ONLINE DISCUSSION BOARDS – 500 WORDS</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>QUIZZES</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>ASSIGNMENTS – 250 WORDS</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>150</b>
<b><u>TOTAL COURSE POINTS</u></b>	<b>1000</b>

**UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL OF THEATRE POLICIES:**

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY:** The University's policy on religious holidays provides that students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed because of individual participation in religious observances. Students have the responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances by the end of the second week of class, and must complete assignments by their deadline.

**UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY:** The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>.) Unless specifically stated otherwise, all work completed in this class must be done individually and should be entirely original. Any words or ideas derived

from outside materials (including books, journals, websites, and any other published material) – no matter how much or how little material is used – must use proper citations. All work submitted in this course, including papers, assignments, projects, and extra credit, is subject to this policy.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Student Disability Resource Center, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, (850) 644-9566 (voice), (850) 644-8504 (TDD), [sdr@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:sdr@admin.fsu.edu), <http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>.

**FREE TUTORING FROM FSU:** On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options at <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact [tutor@fsu.edu](mailto:tutor@fsu.edu). High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

**SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:** Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

**INSTRUCTIONAL RECORDING TECHNOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION POLICY (SCHOOL OF THEATRE):** Recording technology is often used to further students' education in theatre courses. Faculty have relied upon these methods to further the students' educational experience and by extension to enhance their classroom effectiveness. This policy is not intended to interfere with that practice.

The purpose of this policy is to protect both student and faculty privacy. The use of recording devices, including those brought by students in any School of Theatre classroom or performances space/location, is at the discretion of the classroom instructor. Items in this category include, but are not limited to, camcorders, cameras, cellular phones, and audio recorders. Any device that stores video, audio, or still images is subject to this policy. Beyond permission of the instructor to utilize recording technology for any course content or activities, written permission must be obtained from all individuals to be recorded by filling out SOT Record/Tech form. The School of Theatre at Florida State University policy mandates that no recorded image (still, moving, or audio) may be distributed in any way without express written permission of all individuals presented on an image or sound to be distributed. This applies to all formats of distribution including, but not limited to, print, digital, and analog. All violations will be reported to the Director of Academic and Student Services in the School of Theatre, who will retain records of all violations. Students found to be in violation of the policy a second time will be subject to sanctions beyond those associated with the class, and will be referred to the Office of Student



Rights and Responsibilities and subject to further University sanctions.

This policy does not supersede any Federal, State, Local, or Institutional policy regarding recording or distribution of materials. It applies solely to instructors and students in School of Theatre courses. Furthermore, it should not be implied that permission to record and/or distribute material from classes extends to the content presented.

SAMPLE