

TH 110 - SYLLABUS
FALL 2015
INSTRUCTOR: Elise Forier Edie
ONLINE CLASS
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys theater from its prehistoric beginnings to contemporary drama. It emphasizes the reflection of the culture in the drama of each historical period and follows throughout the threads of subject matter, dramatic structure, playwrights, acting techniques and approaches, playing space, and visual elements.

TEXTBOOK

We will read the following plays and texts over the course of the semester. All of them are available through the Etudes site.

“The Poetics,” by Aristotle (available on line)

“The Evolution of Art” from What Is Art For? by Ellen Dissanayake (available on line)

“Oedipus at Colonus” by Sophocles (available on line)

“Richard III” by Shakespeare (available on line)

Assorted “Lazzi” from traditional Commedia (available on line)

“Master Harold and the Boys” by Athol Fugard (**students must purchase**)

Plays From El Teatro de Campesino by Luis Valdez and others (available on line)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

- Understand and articulate the origins of human art-making behavior

- Recognize and correctly identify traits of different world theater traditions including Oral Storytelling, African Ritual Dance, Japanese Noh, Kathakali Dance Drama, El Teatro Campesino, Theater of the Oppressed and others

- Understand and identify key works, traits and historical eras in the Western Theatre tradition, such as Ancient Greek, Early Church, Elizabethan, Realistic, Melodrama, Forum and Experimental Forms

- Understand and articulate the modalities and traditions of the Western Theater art form, and explain how they are present in modern works of art

- Practice artistic process and communication skills in writing, designing and performing for the theatre

- Use critical thinking skills to respond to the artistic process

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Critical Thinking: Compare and contrast world drama traditions throughout history, and analyze their effect on Western audiences. Identify and analyze Western storytelling traditions in modern works.

- Communication: Create effective, compelling theatre arts projects and papers that are shared, reviewed and analyzed.

Self-awareness/Interpersonal Skills: Apply self-awareness strategies as students review and critique their work and the work of others. Prepare creative projects and participate in exercises and improvisations with a variety of students from diverse backgrounds.

Technical Competence: Become fluent in the language, history and terms of world theatre. Become familiar with hands-on practice of collaborative process in theatre arts.

Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them in the collaborative art form of watching, acting, directing, playwriting and designing.

Ethics: Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.

Aesthetics: Use multiple approaches to produce creative, artistically satisfying performances and projects.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Students are expected to complete all assignments and projects in a timely manner. The success of online classes is determined by regular attention and keeping up with your work. Plan accordingly and do your work on time or early.

Contacting Instructor

E-mail is the best and quickest way to contact me. If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact me immediately. Students are expected to ask questions and obtain help from instructor via email and/or during office hours.

Late Assignments

NO late assignments will be accepted without prior approval from the instructor. You MUST turn in assignments on time or early, in order to receive credit. Pay attention to deadlines.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

In accordance with code 9803.28, academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in this class. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. Academic dishonesty of any type, such as cheating or knowingly furnishing false information, by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material

may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation.

Student Conduct

According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes for more information.

Recording Devices

State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (WLAC College Catalog)

CAMPUS RESOURCES

As stated earlier in this syllabus, if you are having problems, don't let them snowball. Come and talk with me and check out some of the campus resources available to you.

Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119 | (310) 287-4450.

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4486

Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling, math fundamentals and chemistry knowledge with convenient, self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center. Increase your knowledge and learning success: sign up for tutoring in various college subjects (WLAC College Catalog).

Library Services

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4269 & (310) 287-4486

The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the Library. Web access is available in LIRL as well as meeting

rooms. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study (WLAC College Catalog).

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Creative Projects (20%):

Personal Story

Mitchiyuki

Kathkali Character and Make up Design

Theater of the Oppressed/Political Theater Sketch

Discussion and Personal Reflections (20%)

Storytelling Films

Gospel at Colonus Response

Commedia Response

Master Harold Response

Written Work & Question Sheets (20%)

What Is Art For?

Artistotle's Poetics

Richard III

Master Harold

El Teatro Campesino

Quizzes, Midterm Exam & Final Exam (30%)

Research Project and Power Point or Film (10%)

Grades:

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 =C, 60-69=D. Anything below 60 is a FAIL.

You will NOT receive credit for late work unless you have made arrangements with the instructor ahead of time.

MODULES

STORYTELLING and the origins of art and art making: Sept 14-Sept 21

ANCIENT GREEK THEATER, Oedipus and Colonus and Aristotle's "Poetics":
Sept 28-Oct 12

ENGLAND' S ELIZABETHAN THEATER, Shakespeare, "Richard III": Oct 12-Oct
23

JAPAN, NOH THEATER: Oct 26 – Oct 30

INDIA, KATHEKALI DANCE, DRAMA: Nov 2- Nov 6

ITALY, COMMEDIA: Nov 9-Nov 16

REALISM MOVEMENT, “Master Harold and the Boys”: Nov 23-Dec 4

THEATER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, El Teatro de Campesino: Dec 7-11