Course Objectives

• The course involves the experiencing of professional productions, then critiquing them from the standpoints of performance & design. Instruction will be bolstered by professional actors, directors, designers, stage managers, & technicians invited to class to discuss their efforts &/or conduct workshops. The course will include trips to British theatre museums, studios & collections.

• In this course you will...
  • master theatrical vocabulary & terminology
  • develop techniques of production analysis
  • acquire a basic understanding of English theatrical history
  • experience the varieties of London theatre offerings
  • explore contemporary theatre techniques via practical & scholarly experiences

Texts & Materials

• Course Text (provided)
• Binder & hole punch
• Time Out, and daily newspapers
• Paper & writing instruments

Course Requirements

• Participation - As this is primarily an experience-based endeavor, your participation is essential to successful completion of this course and an enjoyable experience in London. Attendance at all scheduled events is mandatory. Events may include:
  • Artist Workshops - Guests will include British theatre professionals & scholars of distinction. Guest workshops may include lectures, question-and-answer sessions, &/or practical theatre workshops.
  • Live Performances - Students will attend several productions as a group. Tickets for these performances will be included in the course tuition. Performances will cover a wide range of genres, producing organizations, & theatrical styles. Students will also see several additional productions of their own choosing and at their own expense. Each will see a minimum of 10, while some will see 20 or more.

• Research Paper – Students will choose one approved topic, activity, or event of the London experience, about which they will draft a significant paper (think 10 – 12 pages), well researched, documented, and written, due to be read aloud and turned in at the time of the final examination.

• Review Reports – Each student will be assigned one of the plays the class, as a group, will see, and will collect reviews of the production from national newspapers. Each individual will report to class on the range of responses the production provoked as prelude to the class discussion. Obviously this must be done well in advance.

• Notebook – Students will prepare their written production critiques along with notes from subsequent discussions, notes on each activity, museum, or other event they’ve attended during this London visit. They will include their review reports, and their research paper, collected in a notebook, and submitted as a final cumulative project within three days of our return to the US.

• Exam - There will be one comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the students’ stay in London. The exam may include multiple choice, matching, short answer, identification, & essay questions. Essay questions & a study guide will be provided in advance.
• **Production critiques** - Students will demonstrate an acquired knowledge of theatre terminology, history, & critical technique via analyses of ten live events in a series of written critiques. Responses will be used as the basis for in-class discussions. Generally we see an evening show, and before about 10:00am the following morning, we’ll each have written an incisive review to bring to class.

**Disclaimers**

• This syllabus constitutes an agreement between the student & the instructor. Your continued enrollment in this course constitutes your decision to abide by the terms of this syllabus. If changes must be made to any aspect of the syllabus, all students will be notified as soon as possible. Any changes will apply to all students, & such changes will be announced in class.

• Courses in theatre deal with works of dramatic literature on the page & on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions & language of these works can be challenging & explicit.

**Evaluation**

• There will be a total of 100 points possible in the course.

- Production Critiques - 5 points each . . . . . 50 pts.
- Research Paper . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 15 pts.
- Review Report . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10 pts.
- Final Examination . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10 pts.
- Notebook . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5 pts.
- Quizes over the course text . . . . . . . . . . . 10 pts.

**Course Policies**

• Absences – Each absence will reduce the final grade by one letter. No one gets sick.

• Late work - Assignments are due in class (no email submissions) & lose 5% each week day they are late–regardless of the excuse. Assignments submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. If you know you will be absent, you are responsible for completing/submitting assignments by their due date.

• Grade Challenges - Concerns must be submitted in writing no later than one week after the assignment has been returned. Concerns must be clearly stated, with justifications as to the source of the concern.

• Academic Misconduct - All parties involved in the submission of plagiarized or copied work may be found equally guilty of academic misconduct under all circumstances, be they intended or unintended. Penalties for cheating include failing the assignment, failing the class, &/or expulsion from the university.

**Strategies for Success**

• What will your professor do to help you achieve an optimal outcome in THEA 4393/4493?
  - start & end classes on time
  - offer substantial & well organized material in all class sessions
  - ensure that opportunities to participate are enjoyed equally by all students
  - treat all students with courtesy & respect

• What do I need to do to achieve the optimal outcome in THEA 4393/4493?
  - attend class on time, well prepared, and with an open, inquisitive mind
  - take notes attentively & keep distractions to a minimum
  - take time and thought with your production critiques.
  - respond productively in discussions
  - treat yourself, your classmates, our guests, your professor, the artists you’ll see, & your host country with respect - use courteous, respectful language & behavior in all interactions