

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Fall 2023

Professional Education Unit



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: THE 2000 – 001 Prerequisite(s): None	Course Title: Introduction to Theatre
Course Credit: 3	Course Hours: 3 hours
College: Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities Department: Visual Arts, Humanities and Theatre	Required Text(s): The Art of Theatre: A Concise Introduction by William Missouri Downs, Lou Anne Supplies: Internet Access, Canva, Computer Access
Faculty Name: Markeshia Hines	Term and Year: Fall 2023 Place and Time: Tucker Hall Rm 118, 9:05am- 9:55am
Office Location: Interdisciplinary Studies, Rm 006	Telephone: e-mail: markeshia.gorden@famuedu

Virtual Office Hours	Monday By appointment	Tuesday	Wednesday By appointment	Thursday	Friday By appointment
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FAMU Catalog Course Description

This course covers the basic theories and techniques of theatre from writing and interpreting scripts to planning and staging productions.

Course Purpose

To challenge students to interpret, criticize and appreciate the roles theatre plays in society. To explore the many areas of theatre with the express intent for that exploration to lead to understanding and appreciation of the collaborative nature of the art form. To prepare students to attend theatre productions as knowledgeable theatergoers.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

- A. Assess the social and cultural significance of theatre.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of theatre as a collaborative process by writing a critical production review.
- C. Conclude the purpose of theatre.
- D. Analyze a dramatic text.
- E. Develop a creative project.

Specific Behavioral Objectives

In accordance with the English section of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Academic Learning Compact (2006-2007), this course is designed to meet the following objectives for Theatre graduates and other graduates enrolled in the Introduction to Theatre course:

- A. **Collaboration:** Students should be able to understand the concept of theatre as a collaborative art and identify the various roles of the collaborative process.
- B. **Communication:** Students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in varied forms of recognized communication.
- C. **Critical Thinking:** Students should be able to utilize creative and critical thinking; read with critical comprehension; evaluate and interpret works of art orally and in writing, using appropriate terminology; and utilize critically based knowledge in practical/creative projects.
- D. **Theatre Design, Theatre Management and Technology:** Students should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the principles of design, technology and management.
- E. **Cultural Diversity:** Students should be able to describe theatre's relationship to culture and how cultural diversity manifests itself in theatre today.

Topical Outline

- A. Theatre, Art, and Entertainment
- B. Stage Versus Screen
- C. Theatre of the People
- D. Experiencing and Analyzing Plays
- E. A Day in the Life of a Theatre
- F. The Art of Playwriting
- G. The Art of Acting
- H. The Art of Directing
- I. The Art of Design
- J. A Creative Life
- K. The Musical
- L. Theatre Around the World

Course Instruction

This course will be delivered through lecture, demonstration, laboratory experiences, and the course management system Canvas. You will use your FAMNet username and password to login to the course from the FAMU Canvas login page.

In Canvas, you will access assignments, quizzes, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the semester, we will participate in a blend of self-paced and group-paced activities using class, Canvas, and alternative Internet-based technologies. Activities will consist of group presentations, creative projects, discussions, web posting, and demonstrations.

Grading Policy

Description	Points
Syllabus Quiz	10pts
Creative Smarts	10pts
Group Presentations	20pts each (x 4)
Pipeline Questionnaire	20pts
Apiece of Me	10pts
Acting Techniques that are Applicable	10pts

Formula Plot/Equation	25pts
Mid-Term – Original Script	100pts
Character Analysis	25pts
Final Exam – Production Book	175pts
Total Possible Points	465

Grading Criteria

Evaluation:

Evaluation:

1. Participation/Activities
2. Quizzes/Assignments
3. Assessments/ Projects
4. Final Exam Creative Project
5. Written Critiques

Note: Grades will be posted in the Grade Center on Canvas.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	0 - 59%

Viewing Grades in Canvas

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the FAMU Canvas Grade Book. Click on the “My Grades” link on the left navigation to view your points.

Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been completed—typically 3 days following the completion of an activity.

Course Policies

Attendance/Participation

This is a 3-hour course. By University directives (see your University Catalog) you are allowed three unexcused hours in this course. If you accumulate 3 hours of absence, your final grade will not be affected. No questions asked. For 4 UNEXCUSED absences, your final grade will be dropped one step (example: from a B+ to a B). For each additional UNEXCUSED absence, your final grade will be lowered another step.

Excused Absences: This type of absence MUST be presented on the official excused absence form available from the Office of the Dean or Dean’s Designee of your college. Informing your instructor of your absences as soon as possible is appreciated, but the only way an absence is excused is through the Dean’s Office. **OFFICIAL EXCUSES MUST BE PRESENTED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF ABSENCE.**

Attendance Holds

In order for an attendance hold to be removed, you are required to take the syllabus quiz. It must be completed the first week of school with a 95 or above.

Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, be sure to inform the instructor as Approved/Revised 6/16/21 early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments, quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and the instructor's approval.

Participation- If the student is not in class, the student cannot participate. See attendance policies.

Dropping This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider dropping a course. Refer to the FAMU Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to retroactively withdraw from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

"Incomplete" Grade

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if supporting documentation is submitted. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within the first five weeks of the next semester.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy. All assignments must be original work, clear and error-free. All ideas/material that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources. Read more about FAMU's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures.

Diversity and Inclusion

Each voice in the classroom is important and brings with it a wealth of diverse backgrounds, experiences, values, and beliefs. Please honor the human differences of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Respect the perspectives and identities of others and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind. Please let me know if there is something said or done in the classroom, by either myself or other students, that is particularly troubling or causes discomfort or offense; or if there is any way that I might improve the class atmosphere.

The Millennial FAMUan:

Dress Standards The dress standards are based on the theory that learning to use socially acceptable manners and selecting attire appropriate to specific occasions and activities are critical factors in the total educational process. Understanding and employing these behaviors not only improves the quality of one's life, but also contributes to optimum morale, as well as embellishes the overall campus image. They also play a major role in instilling a sense of integrity and an appreciation for values and ethics.

Students will be denied admission to various functions if their manner of dress is inappropriate. Inappropriate shall be defined as anything that may cause a disturbance to the learning environment. On this premise students at the University are expected to dress neatly at all times. Examples of inappropriate dress and/or appearance include but are not limited to:

- Pajamas, midriffs or halters, mesh, netted shirts, tube tops, cutoff tee shirts, scarves, caps, pants below waistline revealing undergarments, do-rags and/or hoods in classrooms, dining halls, snack bar, library, student center, and offices. This policy does not apply to headgear considered as a part of religious or cultural dress.

- Bare feet anywhere on campus except inside a residence hall. • Clothing with derogatory, offensive and/or lewd messages either in words or pictures.
- All of the aforementioned items, including shorts and jeans of any color at major programs such as Musical Arts, Convocations, Commencements, Career Fair, or other programs dictating professional, dressy, or formal attire.

Course Expectations

Course Communication

Course communication will be done on Canvas and email. It is highly recommended that you check Canvas daily for course updates.

The best way to contact me is by email, markeshia.gorden@famuedu.edu. For urgent matters, I can be reached by phone (323) 547-1890 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. I will respond to all emails within three (3) hours between the hours of 8:00am and 11:00 am, Monday-Thursday.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Practices

This course calls for you to work with others, engage in meaningful dialogue, and think critically about the art process, thereby requiring your undivided attention. Therefore, the use of cell phones is strictly prohibited. All devices must be silenced and packed away before the start of class so as not to disrupt others. iPad, tablets, and computers may be used for notetaking.

Academic Support

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CEDAR) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to CEDAR and meet with a CEDAR counselor to request special accommodation before classes start. CEDAR is located at 667 Ardelia Court, Tallahassee, FL 32307 and can be contacted by phone at 850.599-3180.

Writing Resource Center

The Writing Resource Center is a writing lab that will help you further develop the foundational writing skills needed to successfully and effectively communicate in writing.

Library Support

To access quality information and resources, please visit FAMU Library. Computers are also available for use.

Office of Instructional Technology

For assistance with Canvas operational and/or technical issues, please visit the Office of Instructional Technology.

Office of Information Technology Services

For email, password (iRattler, Canvas, etc), and computer/laptop issues, please visit the Office of Information Technology Services.

Academic Coaching

Academic coaches can help you develop positive learning behaviors thus developing improved academic performance. To learn more about academic coaches, please visit the Undergraduate Student Success Center.

Student Counseling Center

If you are in need of counseling services, please visit the Office of Counseling Services. This office is a confidential space for you to express concerns about your personal and academic life.

Career Center

Are you unsure of your major, seeking an internship, or need assistance with professional branding, please visit the Career Center.

Tentative Course Calendar. Subject to change.

**THE 2000 Introduction to Theatre, Section 001
DAILY SCHEDULE – FALL 2023
MWF 9:05am – 9:55am, Tucker Hall 118
PROFESSOR HINES**

AUGUST

28 Monday Class Orientation/ **Syllabus quiz opens** / Semester Presentation Groups
30 Wednesday **Assignment 1: A Piece of Me**/ Chapter 10

SEPTEMBER

1 **Friday** Chapter 1 / **LAST DAY DROP/ADD**

4 Monday **HAPPY LABOR DAY!**
6 Wednesday **Presentation #1 – Chapter 2/ Chapter Quizzes 10, 1, & 2 opens/ Syllabus Quiz Due**
8 Friday Chapter 3/ Play Study (Pipeline)

11 Monday **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**
13 Wednesday Chapter 4
15 Friday Chapter 5 / **Chapter Quizzes 10, 1, & 2 Closes/ Chapter Quizzes 3-5 opens**

18 Monday **Presentation #2**
20 Wednesday Independent Reading (Chapters 6-8)
22 Friday Chapter 6/ Mid-Term Assignment-Formula Plot

25 Monday Chapter 7/ Midterm Group Work/ Play Reading / **Chapter Quizzes 3-5 closes**
27 Wednesday Exam Review Ch. 7-8/ **Presentation #3** - Midterm Presentations - Play Reading / **Chapter Quizzes 7-8 opens**
29 Friday **Presentation #3** - Midterm Presentations - Play Reading

OCTOBER

2 Monday Chapter 9 / Play Discussion
4 Wednesday Chapter 11 / **Chapter Quizzes 9, 11, & 12 opens**
6 Friday **Presentation #4/ Chapter Quizzes 7-8 closes**

9 Monday Final Exam Guidelines
11 Wednesday Working Session/ **Chapter Quizzes 9, 11, & 12 closes**
13 Friday Working Session

16 Monday Working Session
18 Wednesday Working Session
20 Friday Working Session

23 Monday Individual Meetings
25 Wednesday Individual Meetings
27 Friday Individual Meetings

30 Monday Group Working Session

NOVEMBER

1 Wednesday Group Working Session
3 Friday Working Session
6 Monday **Final Exam Draft Due!**

8	Wednesday	Working Session
10	Friday	HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY (OBSERVANCE)!
13	Monday	Working Session
15	Wednesday	Working Session
17	Friday	Working Session
20	Monday	Working Session
22	Wednesday	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
24	Friday	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
27	Monday	Group Working Session
29	Wednesday	Group Working Session

DECEMBER

1	Friday	Group Working Session
4	Monday	Group Working Session
6	Wednesday	Group Working Session
8	Friday	Final Working Session/ / Extra Credit due!
11	Monday	FINAL EXAM PRESENTATIONS
13	Wednesday	FINAL EXAM PRESENTATIONS
15	Friday	FINAL EXAM PRESENTATIONS

FINAL EXAMINATION: The final exam is a Group creative project on Chapters 1-11.

Note: Pop Quizzes may apply---Be sure to read the chapters prior to class.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS:

All outside FAMU productions are eligible for extra credit. You may attend productions at FSU, TCC theatres, Theatre Tallahassee or any other in town or out of town theatrical production. FAMU'S Black Archives, Foster Tanner Art Museum, and all FAMU certified Dance Ensemble performances are included. **You must research these opportunities on your own.** Written Critiques are due along with the program and ticket from the viewed show. The guidelines for the written critiques are accessible on Canvas in "Modules". All extra credit papers are due by the last Monday of class—no exceptions. **One** extra credit option per student is worth 15pts will be allowed, although not guaranteed.