THRART 100-01; Introduction to Theatre, Spring 2015

Instructor: Anthony R. Phelps  
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Location: McCormack Theatre, M02-0008  
Class Meeting: M/W/F 12:00-12:50 pm  
Office Hours: M/W/F 11am -12pm, Location M02-613

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will expose students to the collaborative art form that is theatre. Unlike any other art form theatre uses words, actions, movement, design, sound, and light to create a story for an audience. This class will focus on the artists and artisans who create this spectacle for audiences. Through lectures, readings, exploration, and demonstration students will come to understand how theatre works from the page to the stage.

Topics Covered:
Script Analysis  Sound Design  Acting  Scenic Design
Lighting Design  Costume Design  Directing  History

TEXT
ISBN: 978-0-7425-3913-6

Download the play *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell at:
http://anthony-r-phelps.wikispaces.umb.edu/THRART+100+Intro+to+Theatre

GRADING
Attendance:
Students are expected to attend all class meetings. If a student has a valid excuse for missing a class such as: death, religious holidays, or jury duty, they must contact the instructor immediately to arrange a makeup session. Students are allowed 3 absences. Be one time for class! Tardiness over ten minutes may be considered an absence at the instructor’s discretion. Information and demonstrations often happen at the beginning of class and cannot easily be repeated. A student’s grade will be adversely affected by unexcused absences or tardiness. To keep track of attendance, students will be provided a notecard which they will print their name on and turn in at the end of class. Students can use this notecard to write a comment or question about the class material that was covered or will be covered.

Expectations:
This is the part where I really tell you how to do well in the class. Students are expected to not only show up for class on time, but to show up ready to participate positively in class. This means answering questions, writing notes, listening to the instructor and other classmates (students often learn as much from each other as from faculty). To do this you have to do the reading assignments and other homework in preparation. Do not disrupt the rest of class by getting up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom or talk on your phone. Laptops and other devices may be used in class if you are using them to take notes. If you are using these devices for any other activities you will be asked to put it away. The information in this class builds from class to class. If you skip a portion of your work you will be lost quickly. Keep this syllabus it will always tell you when things are due.

Class Participation:
Students are expected to participate fully in class. Class participation is graded largely on attitude, knowledge of the process, and cooperation while working with others. Attending class late, not being prepared for class, and being disruptive effects this grade.
Grading Continued:

Exams:
There is a Mid-Term and a Final Exam. Both exams are comprehensive of reading materials and lectures for the class from the beginning of the semester to that point in the semester.

Quizzes:
Students will be given 8 quizzes based on the reading material. Quizzes generally will cover terms for the chapters. Quizzes will be given before the material is discussed.

Attendance at Departmental Theatre Production:
Students in this class are required to see NEW VOICES, NEW STORIES: A Celebration of Student Playwrights the theatre production that the department is producing this semester. We will discuss this production in class.

NEW VOICES, NEW STORIES: A Celebration of Student Playwrights,
directed by Courtney O’Connor
$10 Student Tickets.
April 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 at 7:30pm
Saturday Matinee, April 18 at 2:00pm

Play Review:
After attending the production of NEW VOICES, NEW STORIES. Students will write a short response paper describing the production and all its aspects including but not limited to: acting, directing, design, technology, and the script itself.

Grades:
Class Participation: 10%  
Mid-Term Exam: 25%  
Final Exam: 25%  
Quizzes (8): 20%  
Play Attendance: 10%  
Play Review: 10%  

Maximum grade possible for:
1 unexcused absence = A-
2 unexcused absences = B-
3 unexcused absences = C-
4 or more = F

ACADEMIC HONESTY
This class follows the academic honesty policies laid out in the University Of Massachusetts Boston Code Of Conduct to be found online at: http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/policies/code/ in section VI. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresenting your work of any kind will not be tolerated. Any suspected violations will be investigated following the guidelines written in the Code of Conduct. If necessary, any sanctions imposed will use the Code of Conduct as a guide.

ACCOMMODATIONS
The University of Massachusetts Boston is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations for all students with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate format upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the instructor to discuss needed accommodations. Accommodations will be provided after the student has met with the instructor to request accommodations. Students must be registered with the Ross Center for Disability Services, UL 211, www.ross.center@umb.edu, 617.287.7430 before requesting accommodations from the instructor.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE - subject to change by the instructor

1/26  Introduction
1/28  What is Theatre?
1/30  The Nature of Art  
      Reading: Chapter 1
2/ 2  The Nature of Art
2/ 4  Examples of Art
2/ 6  Theatre as a Fine Art  
      Reading: Chapter 2, Quiz 1
2/ 9  Theatre as a Fine Art
2/11  Types of Theatres
2/13  Audience and Critic  
      Reading: Chapter 3, Quiz 2
2/16  Presidents Day: No Class
2/18  Audience and Critic
2/20  Writing a Review
2/23  Playwrights  
      Reading: Chapter 4, Quiz 3
2/25  Playwrights
2/27  Creating a Play
3/ 2  Types of Plays
3/ 4  The Director  
      Reading: Chapter 5, Quiz 4
3/ 6  Directing
3/ 9  Script Analysis
3/11  Script Analysis
3/13  Discuss Trifles  
      Read the Play Trifles by Susan Glaspell
3/16  Spring Break: No Class
3/18  Spring Break: No Class
3/20  Spring Break: No Class
3/23  Review for Mid-Term Exam
3/25  Mid-Term Exam
3/27  Theatrical Process Discussion
3/30  The Actor  
      Reading: Chapter 6, Quiz 5
4/ 1  Character Analysis
4/ 3  Acting
4/ 6  Theatre Architecture
4/ 8  Theatre Architecture
Weekly Schedule Continued

4/10  Scenic Design  
      Reading: Chapter 7, Quiz 6

4/13  Scenic Design

4/15  Props

4/17  Costume Design

4/20  Patriots Day: No Class

4/22  Costume Design

4/24  Lighting Design  
      Reading: Chapter 8, Quiz 7

4/27  Lighting Design

4/29  Sound Design

5/1   NEW VOICES, NEW STORIES in Class Discussion  Play Review Due

5/4   Historian, Theorist, and Dramaturg  
      Reading: Chapter 9, Quiz 8

5/6   Theatre History- Greeks to Medieval

5/8   Theatre History- Renaissance Theatre to Restoration Theatre

5/11  Theatre History- Modern Theatre

5/13  Review for Final Exam

Final Exam:  Wednesday, May 20  Time: 11:30 am