

The Theatrical Experience - Out and About in Milwaukee Theatre

FALL 2010

Theatre 305

7:00 -10pm Wed
3cr

Location – different each week

Tony Horne Office Theatre 264 901-233-7387 horne@uwm.edu Office Hours: T 1 - 3
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Please email or call for an appointment if you would like to meet outside of office hours.

Course Description

Welcome to *The Milwaukee Theatrical Experience*, otherwise known as *Out and About*. This course will introduce you to a wide range of theatre companies that call Milwaukee home. You will be an active theatre patron for the next 13 weeks, attending 10 productions and 1 theatre tour. You will also have the opportunity to speak with theatre artists of all specialties.

Course Purpose

The emphasis in this course is to broaden your understanding of all aspects of production/performance, to learn what it takes to make theatre and to explore differing genres/performance styles, and to expand your ability to analyze and discuss theatre. This course allows access to theatre artists and their work. It is a chance to examine, analyze and evaluate theatre in performance, making specific connections between theory and practice.

Required Text

A Short Guide to Writing about the Theatre by Marcia L Ferguson, Pearson Education, Inc.

Course Content

The course will typically cover the following areas:

- Theatre style and genre and the playwright's associated with each form
- Job descriptions and duties
- Style and performance
- The process of making theatre
- Differing theatre companies in Milwaukee

GER Rationale

This course meets UWM's General Education Requirement (GER) in the Arts because it:

- Focuses on your participation at specific theatre events in and around Milwaukee;
- Asks you, the student, to learn how to research, learn, and think about the techniques involved in professional production;
- Requires you, the student, to interpret and analyze theatre production as a consumer and as a theatre artist.

GER Learning Goals

- To experience a wide variety of theatrical style, performance style, and production style.
- To explore the many different theatre companies in the Milwaukee community and identify their locations and missions.
- To provide an understanding of playwrights and their work.
- To examine the process by which the script becomes a physical reality.
- To define the elements involved in creating a theatrical production.
- To develop critical thinking skills and personal criteria for evaluating performance.

Classroom Procedures

This class uses live performance as a vehicle for learning. Each week class is held on site at a different theatre company. We will frequently attend technical and dress rehearsals, as well as scheduled performances. This course requires students to use D2L to receive weekly information access and turn in assignments. (See handout for information on how to access your account.)

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check D2L for weekly updates, start times, class preparation and messages. There will be updates continually throughout the semester, as times and locations may change.

You will have to provide your own transportation to and from the theatres. Please allow for travel and parking prior to the start of class. It is highly recommended that you arrange carpools or bus buddies with your classmates. Theatre is a group activity – you will enjoy your experience more with a colleague.

There has been a 110.00 course fee added to your registration costs. This fee covers your admission at all events and tours for the semester.

Assignments

This course requires you, the student, to be an active engaged researcher. It is expected that you are “prepared” for each week’s event. It is not enough to just come and observe. Your course grade is earned in three ways: Preparation notes, reflection papers and attendance.

1. **Preparation Notes** (see handout) are short digital “information cards” submitted via D2L – they must include information on the playwright and the play itself. See the handout for more details. These will be submitted 8 times during the semester. Each submission is worth 10 points. Preparation notes are turned in each week prior to an event. *They can only be submitted and accepted prior to the event.* **Note:** Prior to turning in your first set of notes, you are required to practice submitting notes to D2L by turning in a set of “trial prep notes” worth 8 points. See handout for details.
2. **Reflection Papers** are written only *after* seeing performances. You may not submit a reflection paper after a theatre tour. There are four, 2-4 page assignments, each on a different topic. Topics are: Design Analysis, Performance Analysis, Theatre Review, and Playwrights & History. Each paper is worth 40 points. You have one week after the performance date to complete a paper. After that time you may not write on that specific event. *Only one paper per event is allowed. The last date to submit a paper is December 15, 2010.*

3. **Attendance** You will be asked to sign in at the start of each class. Each class is worth 4 points toward your final grade. Each event is a one of a kind experience and all assignments are based upon the events. No points will be given for an absence (legitimate or not). There are plenty of options to achieve extra points if you must miss a class. *If you miss more than four classes, you will not earn any attendance points at all.* Furthermore, attendance alone will not achieve a passing grade.

Grading

Trial Prep Notes	8 points
Preparation Notes (8 x 10)	80 points
Reflection Papers	
Performance Analysis	40 points
Design Analysis	40 points
Playwrights and History	40 points
Theatre Review	40 points
Attendance (13 wks X 4)	52 points
Total	300 points

Due Dates

There are no “DUE DATES” – only “assignment rules” You are responsible for the planning and management your written work.

Assignment Rules

- All work must be submitted via the D2L dropbox. *No hard copies. No email copies.*
- **Preparation Notes** must be turned in prior to 7:00 pm on the day of event.
- **Reflection Papers** must be turned by 7:00 pm the Wednesday following the event. Once the week has elapsed, you may no longer write on that performance.
- Only one reflection paper per production is allowed.
- The class “week” is from Wednesday at 7:00 pm to Wednesday at 7:00 pm.
- At least 50% of the total points possible for each individual project must be earned – otherwise no points will be assigned.
- Final Day to turn in a reflection paper is December 15, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

Turning in Written Work

The dropboxes for **preparation notes** are labeled PN 2, PN 3, etc. The number indicates the “week” of the event. These dropboxes close at 7:00 pm on the day of the event.

The dropboxes for **reflection papers** are labeled RP 2, RP3, etc. The number indicates the week that you **attended** the event. These dropboxes close at 7:00 pm one week after the event.

Please save your work using the following format:

- Last name, type of paper, week number
- Do not use !!! - & # as these will prevent your work from uploading properly
- Save your work with a suffix of .doc or .docx only

EXAMPLE: **Tasse_design_1.doc** OR **Horne_TC10.docx**

(Be specific about which type of paper you are submitting. “Design” indicates that the paper is for your Design Analysis assignment. “TR” indicates that the paper is for your Theatre Review assignment.)

Extra Credit

This course challenges you to *manage* your own schedule and achieve the grade that you desire. Extra credit is available to all students. Here are the ways you can earn extra credit:

- There are 11 events planned for this semester. You may do a preparation note on each event which could earn you an additional 10 points per extra preparation note (up to 40 extra points)
- You may write one additional reflection paper. Choose the type of paper that you wish to write and repeat the assignment using a different production.
- IF you are working on a UWM production (as an actor or run crew), you may write a reflection paper evaluating your personal involvement with that production and your growth as a theatre artist. This project must be approved prior to the event. Please contact me directly for the handout and approval. (up to 25 extra points)

University Policies

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) is dedicated to a safe, supportive, and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with University policies. The policies can be found at this link:

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Event	Company	Location	Time
1	09/08	CLASS LECTURE		Mainstage	6:00 – 9:00 pm
2	09/15	CABARET	Milwaukee Rep	Quadracci Powerhouse	Students Meet 6:15 pm Rep in Depth 6:45 pm Curtain 7:30 pm
3	09/22	TOUR	Milwaukee Rep	Milwaukee Center Rotunda	Students Meet 6:30 pm Tour Begins 7:00 pm
4	09/29	THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE	Marquette University	Helpaer Theatre	TBA
5	10/06	FOUR PLACES	Next Act	Tenth Street Theatre	TBA
6	10/13	MAIN TRAVELLED ROADS	Milwaukee Chamber Theatre	Broadway Theatre Center: Cabot Theatre	TBA
7	10/20	THE ART OF MURDER	In Tandem Theatre	Tenth Street Theatre	TBA
8	10/27	BY THE BOG OF CATS	UW-Milwaukee	Mainstage	Students Meet 6:20 pm Pre-Show Talk 6:45 pm Curtain 7:30 pm
9	11/03	FREAKSHOW	Youngblood	The Lincoln Warehouse (on the Southside)	TBA
10	11/10	CLASS LECTURE		TBA	6:00 – 9:00 pm
11	11/17	LEAR	Theatre Gigante	Kenilworth Studio 508	TBA
	11/24	THANKSGIVING BREAK			
12	12/01	SCROOGE IN ROUGE	In Tandem Theatre	Tenth Street Theatre	TBA
13	12/08	LOVER'S QUARREL	UW-Milwaukee	Mainstage	Students Meet 6:20 pm Pre-Show Talk 6:45 pm Curtain 7:30 pm