Theatricality: Understanding the Possibilities of Theater

COURSE DESIGNATOR LNDN 3523
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION English
NUMBER OF CREDITS 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Plays are written to be appreciated in performance, not only to be read; a play does not truly come to life until it appears on a stage. The course will introduce students to the current variety of theatre being produced in London. The course aims to provide multiple levels of theatre appreciation, and is therefore open to students who both have a background in theatre and those who have a general interest in expanding their knowledge.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
In this course we’ll see many plays acted out, and then we’ll consider their possible meanings and the contribution made by the director and his or her team. The plays we see will be contemporary, or modern, but there will also be some classics. This course aims to give you delight, as well as to refine your reading and play-going skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the end of the course students should be able to: identify, define, and solve problems; locate and critically evaluate information; master a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry; communicate effectively; gain a deeper understanding of the host culture where they are studying.

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences.

METHODOLOGY
The course will blend reading the play, and visits to see the play in performance with class-based discussions and lectures examining the theatrical and social context of plays. Students will be introduced to theatrical terminology, to theatre genres and criticism, and ways of analysing the play in text and performance, and will utilize their skills in writing and oral presentations. In addition to reading the plays, students will be expected to read and respond to articles of theatre criticism and theatre reviews, and be prepared for a great deal of discursive class participation. We will also visit a museum.

REQUIRED READING AND RESOURCES
Michael Billington, State of the Nation: British Theatre Since 1945 (Faber and Faber, 2007)

Peter Brook, The Empty Space (Penguin, 2008)

Where to buy books:
French’s Theatre Bookshop, Fitzroy St. (Warren St. tube, then ask) has a good stock. The National Theatre bookshop also has a good selection.

Another Delight: A backstage tour of the National Theatre will increase your understanding of how theatre works.

Theatre Tickers: These will be available for collection at CAPA front desk. They MUST be picked up by 5.30 p.m.!

GRADING
Students must complete all required components for each course by the established deadlines. Failure to do so
will result in a reduction of the course grade and may result in a grade of F for the course in question.

Class participation means that you have done the reading, and thought about the plays, and that you contribute to discussion. You may also have to make a class presentation. The Mid-term and Final exams will be a close reading of a passage from one of your set texts, followed by an essay on a play or a production.

Credit towards your participation grade can also be earned for attending a My Education event, and combining reflections on this experience into your class discussions with your theatrical experience of London. Try for example to attend the field trip which includes a My Education lecture, a trip to the Globe theatre, a trip to Brick Lane, a tour of the King's Road (including a history of punk, and the Royal Court), or a trip to Greenwich.

Or you could attend one of the Contemporary Film series that CAPA is running some Thursdays, which will include Brick Lane, The History Boys, and This is England. Attending any one or more of these will enhance your experience of the plays we see.

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. This means to gain full attendance you must attend all classes, you must not be late (unless with a valid reason) and you must be respectful of the professor and of other students by not talking/whispering in class when others are talking or presenting. Persistent lateness or lack of attention in class, i.e. reading materials other than the work set, may result in a low or zero grade for participation, and possible referral to the CAO. **No electronic equipment will be used in class**, including laptops, phones, ipods, cell phones, etc, unless you have written permission from the Chief Academic Officer prior to the course. If you are caught using any electronic equipment, you may receive a zero grade for participation.

Plagiarism will be dealt with very seriously, and will be referred to the Chief Academic Officer in London. You may receive an F for the course. If all work is not submitted by the end of the program, you will receive an F for the course.

**CAPA PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTOR POLICY**

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**CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all classes is mandated by CAPA; students who miss a class without permission from CAPA’s Chief Academic Officer will have their grade for the course lowered. Informed participation is expected in every class, so students must have read the full assignment carefully before coming and be ready to discuss it if called upon. At any meeting there may be a brief, pass-fail two-minute quiz on some utterly obvious fact in the assigned reading. Students will also be asked to complete informal in-class writing assignments on a regular basis, which will require them to demonstrate their familiarity with the assigned materials. Students who repeatedly demonstrate unsatisfactory performance on these quizzes and exercises will be penalized in the participation grade.

**CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93+</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
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Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.

Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Grading for Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group discussion/Class participation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall grade</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student’s responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

University of Minnesota Policies and Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.