

DRAM 1101: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE
Spring 2010

INSTRUCTORS:

First portion of semester: **Dr. Dassia Posner** (dassia.posner@uconn.edu)

- Office 263, Drama Music Building; Office Hours: Thursday 1-2 pm and by appointment

Remainder of semester: **Dr. Adrienne Macki Braconi** (adrienne.macki@uconn.edu)

- *On leave until TBA*; Office 254, Drama Music Building; Office Hours: Thursday, 1-2 pm and by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

- **Caroline Gombe** (carolinegombe@gmail.com): Students with last names beginning A-G
- **Ryan Guess** (ryanguess@yahoo.com): Students with last names beginning H-O
- **Robert Thompson** (show2une@yahoo.com): Students with last names beginning P-Z
- T.A. Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:00 pm and by appointment Friday afternoons.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the art of theatre—its literature, artistic techniques, and history. We will consider the social and cultural contexts of the plays and through critical and/or aesthetic modes of inquiry we will explore the creative process. We will examine the artists involved in creating theatre: the playwright, director, dramaturg, designers, and actors. Readings, lectures and discussions in these areas will be enhanced by attendance at campus theatre productions.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Available at the Co-Op

- Brockett, Oscar & Robert Ball, *The Essential Theatre*, Thomson-Wadsworth Pub.
- W.B. Worthen, *Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*, Custom (Condensed) Edition, Thomson-Wadsworth Pub.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- It is the student's responsibility to attend classes, take notes, participate in class discussions, submit self-quizzes in Husky CT, and other assignments *on time*. Be sure to check the class syllabus/schedule and view our Husky CT website REGULARLY—it will provide important announcements and ongoing information.
- **Written Work:** I do not accept papers/projects via e-mail or in my campus mailbox. Papers or assignments due that day must be turned in during class. *Late assignments will not be accepted.* Exceptions will be considered only in case of an emergency that is documented (in writing) by the Dean of Student's Office.

- **READINGS**

Reading assignments are noted in the syllabus and are due on the day the material is discussed in class.

- **ATTENDING THEATRE PERFORMANCES**

Students are required to attend (2) two productions by the Connecticut Repertory Theatre: *Comedy of Errors*, which runs 2/25-3/7 at the Nafe Katter Theatre and *The Who's Tommy*, which runs 4/22-5/1 at the Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre. (You should book your tickets early as shows do sell out—please note there are **no Monday night shows.**) You are responsible for obtaining your

ticket, either purchasing it online or in the main lobby of the upstairs theatre at the Jorgensen Center, Monday through Friday, 11-5 or calling **(860) 486-4226** to purchase.

· *It is possible to usher the event and receive a **free** ticket. See “extra credit” below.*

· For **directions to the theatres**, see: <http://www.crt.uconn.edu/dir.htm>

· For **schedule of shows**, see <http://www.crt.uconn.edu/shows.htm#1>

EXAM QUESTIONS WILL INCLUDE DETAILS FROM THEATRE DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCES.

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

This grade is reliant upon your active involvement in class discussion through small group work, completing 5 electronic self-quizzes (on Husky CT), and other in-class work.

QUIZZES

- You must **complete 5 out of 7 quizzes**. Quizzes are submitted electronically on our Husky CT website. Although these may be completed in advance, the ultimate due dates are listed in the syllabus. Also see the “assessments” tab on our Husky CT site for due dates.
- How it works: Complete 5 self-assessments on Husky CT (Your quiz grade is computed based on average of 5 self-assessments.) (10% of grade)

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION

- Small group discussions/submitted in-class work (10% of grade)
- Students may receive extra-credit participation points for answering questions in class.

- **EXAMINATIONS**

- There will be a **midterm examination** Feb. 18 and a **final examination** (date and details T.B.A.). Attendance mandatory.
- Examinations will include material from lectures, video clips seen in class, assigned readings, class discussions, and the two main stage productions.
- **Examinations** will be given only at the times announced. Emergency exceptions must be approved in writing by the Office of the Dean of Students.
- **Review Sheets** will be posted on Husky CT.

CREATIVE PROJECT: Due April 6 (early submission date for extra credit: March 23)

- You will develop a creative project that reflects the process of making theater.
- ***Don't be afraid: you don't have to act!***
- ***Guidelines for projects will be made available on the HuskyCT site***; you may choose between acting, designing (costumes, sets or lights), playwriting, directing or dramaturging. This project is an opportunity to experience theatre in a more practical way.
- ***Grades for all creative projects will be available by the date of the final exam.***

ATTITUDE AND CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

- Out of respect for your classmates, **be on time** to class and silence your cell phones.
- Attendance and participation is critical.
- Getting up in the middle of class is disruptive to your fellow students. Please be considerate to your neighbors. If you need to leave early, please speak with one of the graduate assistants or the professor, in advance, and sit at the end of a row to minimize interruptions to other students.
- Students are responsible for all reading assignments, lecture discussions, video clips and presentations—including performances (live and on video). You are also responsible for

seeing two Connecticut Repertory Theatre plays.

- Students are 100% responsible for information and assignments missed and will be required to contact another student to get notes and assignments missed.
- All assignments and their due dates are 100% the responsibility of the student, whether or not he/she is in class to receive the assignment.
- The instructor will NOT be responsible for re-assigning work for students who miss class or a self-assessment on Husky CT. All students who miss a class should check in with a classmate for updated assignment information and materials.
- Please note that significant portions of classroom lectures are not available in your textbooks—and are only available in class.
- Voices carry in this space—resist the urge to chat with your neighbor. Your professor will give you time to ask questions and compare notes if you missed something.
- Please be **respectful** of your fellow students, the material, teaching assistants, and professor. Those who choose to behave inappropriately--listening to headphones, sending text messages, chatting, sleeping, playing on their computers and such will be asked to leave so as not to disturb the other students.
- Students who surf, play games or engage in any other activities not related to the class are affecting the learning of the students around them by distracting them. **This behavior is not tolerated and offending students may be asked to leave.**
- All students are encouraged to **respectfully contribute** to group discussions, drawing on their own experiences and knowledge even when (and maybe especially when) they challenge any idea or procedure offered.
- The use of laptops, Blackberrys, iPods, earphones, and cell phones is prohibited during exams.

GRADING:

- Midterm Examination 25%
- Final Examination 30%
- Creative Project 25%
- Participation 20% (self-assessments, group work, attitude)

EXTRA CREDIT

Students may earn up to 7 points extra credit by working a maximum of 40 hours during the semester in certain areas of production: ushering, lighting, costumes, and puppetry. (Example: a student with an average of 85 may increase final grade to 92.) Students must complete the work that they signed up for or will forfeit their points. (Example: if you sign up to usher 6 shows and only usher 3, you will not receive credit.) The number of openings is limited—more information will be available on the course website as soon as it is available.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Any form of dishonesty will result in an automatic failure of the assignment/exam and possibly the course. Academic discipline could result in dismissal from the university. Please see the Dean of Student's Office website for FAQ's about academic misconduct: http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/standards_misconduct_faq.html and our standards for academic integrity: http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student_code_appendixa.html

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

If you require special accommodations in order to succeed in this course, it is your responsibility to contact the appropriate services **during the first two weeks of the semester**. Be sure to allow

for time to have your requests processed by the administration. If you have difficulty with this course, be sure to consult your advisor and the available academic services for help. The teaching assistants and your instructor are available during posted office hours and by appointment.

CAMPUS CLOSINGS

If the campus is closed and university classes are cancelled (due to inclement weather/campus emergency), we will meet on the next available scheduled class day and continue where we left off. If the cancelled day was an exam, we will offer the exam at the next meeting. Please note that we will meet, regardless of weather conditions, unless the University closes the campus.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
T 1/19	Introductions and syllabus will be discussed.	
Th 1/21	What is Theatre? What is a Play?	Read Chapter 1 , “Nature of Theatre” (Brockett), 4-21 and Chapter 2 , “Performance, Audience, and Critic” (Brockett), 22-35
T 1/26	The Play: Structure, Form and Style	Read Chapter 3 , “The Play” (Brockett), 37-53
Th 1/28	Play Analysis	Read <i>Trifles</i> (Worthen) and complete self-assessment on Husky CT ** Drop/add ends Feb 1.
T 2/2	Envisioning the Stage: Theatrical Space and Production	Read Chapter 11 (Brockett), 278-293
Th 2/4	Classical Greek Theatre	Read Chapter 4 , “Festival Theatre: Greek” (Brockett), 55-70
T 2/9	Classical Tragedy: <i>Oedipus</i>	Read <i>Oedipus the King</i> (Worthen) and complete self-assessment on Husky CT
Th 2/11	Classical Comedy: <i>Lysistrata</i>	Read “Greek Comedy” (Brockett), 70-72 and <i>Lysistrata</i> (Worthen) and complete self-assessment on Husky CT
T 2/16	Finish Comedy Unit and Review for Midterm	
Th 2/18	MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
T 2/23	Modern Tragedy: August Wilson	Read <i>Fences</i> (Worthen) and complete self-assessment on Husky CT
Th 2/25	Shakespeare and Elizabethan Drama	Read Chapter 5 , “Creating a Professional Theatre” (Brockett), 94-103 and <i>The Tempest</i> (Worthen), Act I-II ***SEE COMEDY OF ERRORS AT NATE KAFFER THEATRE 2/25-3/7 ---NO MONDAY SHOWS***
T 3/2	Shakespeare in Performance: <i>The Tempest</i>	Read Acts III-V and complete self-assessment on Husky CT
Th 3/4	Playwriting and Dramaturgy	Read Chapter 12 (Brockett), 294-308

		Assignment: in class exercise/activity
T 3/9	SPRING BREAK	No Class
Th 3/11	SPRING BREAK	No Class
T 3/16	Acting	Read Chapter 14, "Acting" (Brockett), 336-353
Th 3/18	Acting Continued	
T 3/23	Design Elements: Lighting and Sound	Read Chapter 17, "Lighting and Sound Design" (Brockett), 396-418 **Early Submission Creative Projects to Receive Extra Credit**
Th 3/25	Design Elements: Costumes and Make-up	Read Chapter 16, "Costumes and Make-up" (Brockett), 376-393
T 3/30	Design Elements: Scene Design	Read Chapter 15, "Scene Design" (Brockett), 354-373
Th 4/1	Directing and Producing	Read Chapter 13 (Brockett), 310-335
T 4/6	Directing and Producing Continued	***CREATIVE PROJECTS DUE***
Th 4/8	Puppetry	
T 4/13	Romanticism, Realism, and Naturalism	Read Chapter 6, "From Romanticism to Realism" (Brockett), 132-152
Th 4/15	Realism: <i>A Doll's House</i>	Read <i>A Doll's House</i> (Worthen) and complete self-assessment on Husky CT
T 4/20	Contemporary Theatre and Its Diversity: <i>Los Vendidos</i> and Satire	Read <i>Los Vendidos</i> (NOT IN WORTHEN- posted on Husky CT) and complete self-assessment on Husky CT Read Sections Chapter 9 (Brockett), 218-219, 230-233, 236-237, 240-247
Th 4/22	Identity, Stereotypes, and Race	Read <i>Fires in the Mirror</i> (Worthen) and complete self-assessment on Husky CT ***SEE TOMMY 4/22-5/1 AT HARRIET S. JORGENSEN THEATRE. NO MONDAY SHOWS***
T 4/27	Musical Theatre	Read "Broadway and Musicals After Subsidization," 209-212 (Brockett)
Th 4/29	Course Wrap Up and Final Review	
TBA	Final Exam	Good luck and thank you for your attention this semester!