

THE 210 – *Introductory Syllabus* – Summer II, 2012

Professor: Gary Burton

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Text (required): The textbook is an on-line resource in lieu of the hard copy of *The Art of the Theatre: A Concise Introduction*. This saves you, the student, a significant amount of money. Also, the source provides you with a number of study helps, including sample test questions, flash cards of theatre terms, and a glossary. There are two ways to access the information.

Option 1: The bookstore will provide you with a code that you can use to access the text for six months. There will, of course, be a markup on their part.

Option 2: The least expensive option: Log on to cengagebrain.com then log in with this key number:

CM9781111946012 to access your account. You will pay about \$70 directly to Cengage. A paperback hard copy would sell for about \$130 at a bookstore.

Course Objective: To appreciate the art of live theatre by understanding more about it. We want to see how art in general and theatre in particular relates to our real lives and helps to understand our selves and express our selves on many levels.

Modes of Accomplishing the Objective: lecture and visual sources, attending live plays, writing critical analysis of plays, and classroom group activities.

The textbook is available as an e-book at considerable savings to you. Please log into cengagebrain.com for the textbook and a number of study aids.

Note that I will be able to see how much time you spend studying from the Web site and keep track of “at risk” students. Should you fall into the “at risk” category I will set up special work time with you to help you do better.

Assignments and Grading:

- Attend production of *Crimes of the Heart* here in our theatre and write analysis. Play dates are July 9-15 and July 19-22. Sunday performances are at 3:00 PM. All others start at 8:00 PM
 - Format of analysis to be provided to you in advance.
 - Spelling and grammar **do** count.
 - Student price for attendance is \$5. If you cannot afford the cost, you may sign up to be an usher and see the show for free.
- Written notes on any visual media sources shown to you. Form for this to be provided. Some content of media sources may be test questions
- Three short tests.
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Grading breakdown is as follows:

1. **Each test: 25% X3=75%**(Note that some of the test questions will relate to the visual media shown in class)
2. **Report of the play, *Crimes of the Heart*, paper: 25%**
3. **Potential boost of grade by creative efforts (to be discussed)**

Attendance policy below:

Class Attendance Policy: It is very important that all students attend every class. Missing one class is like missing three during the fall. I will be open to excused absence via a written note from your doctor, a program from a funeral, or events sponsored by the school. After the **first unexcused** absence, a full letter grade will be deducted for an unexcused absence. Students more than 10 minutes late to class will be considered tardy and ½ letter will be deducted. Students who are more than 20 minutes late, or leave as much as 20 minutes early, will be marked absent.

- **Special Note: in case of unavoidable absence or missed test or paper, alternate arrangements can be made with the professor.**
- **Reading of your student written plays may be used to replace a missed class or to boost a test score.**

Expectations: This class is expected to adhere to the standards of conduct and ethics as presented in the student handbook. Cheating, plagiarism, or failure to document sources will not be tolerated. Disruption of class will not be tolerated.

Disruption of class includes the following:

- **Mobile phone abuse:** phones must be turned off before entering class. Students answering phones, or text messaging during class will be asked to leave and be counted absent. Speak with professor concerning exceptions to this rule for emergency reasons.
- **Speaking in class while professor or other class members have the floor.** Everyone will get to speak, concerning the subject, in an orderly fashion
- **Walking in and out of class at will.** Go to the bathroom before class. Comfort breaks will be provided at appropriate times. Anticipated emergencies must be discussed with the professor prior to class.
- **Disrupting class during media presentations or during lectures.**

Tentative Schedule

- July 9 Introduction to the course. Lecture on beginnings of, and reasons for, theatre. Chapter 1, “Theatre, Art & Entertainment” covered. In-class group activity defining “art”
- July 10 Special guest, Martin Holden, director of the play, with the goal of helping the student understand better what they are going to see and how the play, *Crimes of the Heart*, got developed on our stage. Discussion of the requirements of the written assignment about the play. **Take note of clothing restrictions of July 11 activity!**
- July 11 Tour of the theatre. **Special clothing required for Tour! Complete closed shoes, such as sneakers required. No skirts or dresses! Also no loose objects like cell phones or jewelry that could fall from your pockets.**
- July 12 Chapter 2, “Stage vs. Screen” covered. Extra video material presented, as follows: Scenes from *The Untouchables*, *Dogville*, *Oedipus at the Crossroads*.
- July 16 **Test over chapters 1 & 2 and video sources.** Discussion of dramatic structure, demonstrated by play on video. **Papers due for *Crimes of the Heart*.** Video: “Plot and Conflict in Drama.”
- July 17 Chapter 3 “Theatrical & Cultural Diversity”. Videos of NEC and Japanese theatre.
- July 18 Chapter 4 “Experiencing and Analyzing Plays” covered. Classroom activities as time permits
- July 19 Chapter 5, “A Day in the Life of the Theatre” covered. Discussion, slides, & video of a Costume Design progression presented.
- July 23 **Test over Chapters 3, 4, and 5;** extra time may be used for a “catch up” day.
- July 24 Chapter 6 “The Playwright and the Script,” covered. Class fun: write and read your own plays. Improve activities in class. Give class assignment of writing your own **plays to be read in future class (July 30) Note how these readings may be used toward improving your grade as noted above.**
- July 25 Chapter 7, “Art of Acting” covered. Extra video of a Master Class presented.

- July 26 Chapter 8, “Art of Direction,” Guest Artist possible
- July 30 Test over Ch. 6, 7, 8. Students can have their plays read in class!**
- July 31 Chapter 9, “Art of Design” covered. Extra material presented.
- August 1 Chapter 9 continued, Chapter 11 begun
- August 2 Chapter 11 continued
- August 6 Test over chapters 9 and 11
- August 7 Video of “Creating Ragtime,” with discussion on things about it that would have been missed, were it not for the course. Such things to be written out by individual class members . These notations will be used for a non-graded “assessment of learning” needed by the accreditation board.
- August 8 Course evaluations and any needed “Catch Up”
- August 9 Relaxation, Breath Control, and other class activities. Conclusion of class.