TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

THE 397 and 597 Puppetry
Spring 2014
Location: PAC126 TR 9:30-10:45am
Lab: PAC125 Fri 1-4pm

Instructor: Kelly D. Switzer, MFA
Office Location: PAC 130
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10-11am, Tuesday and Thursday 11-12am, and by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5319
University Email Address: Kelly.Switzer@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: *Puppetry, A World History* by Eileen Blumenthal
ISBN: 978-0-8109-5587-5

On reserve in the Gee Library:
One copy of *Puppetry, A World History*
Puppet Circus by Peter Fraser
The Complete Book of Puppets and Puppeteering by Robert Hanford
Self-Supporting Scenery by James Hull Miller

Other Readings provided in class or through eCollege, see Course Outline/Calendar for specifics.

Additional Materials:

Notebook/Sketch book (no lines)
Graphite pencils
Eraser
Color pencils
Black portfolio/binder
Black construction paper
Dowel rods (variety of widths)
2 Exacto knifes, narrow and wide blade, buy extra blades
Cardboard or other surface suitable for cutting on
Ruler or straight edge
Air drying paper clay (at least 2 packages)
Masking tape
Scissors
Puppet Costume or Fabric scraps and Sewing supplies (if you use scraps or supplies from the costume shop, please ASK first and replenish as needed)
Wire
Acrylic paints
Assorted brushes
Plastic cups for water

A collection of found objects
Journal
Other materials as needed (bungee cords, zip ties, E6000, screw eyes, hinges, etc.)

Course Description: An introduction to puppetry as a global art form. In this class we will explore puppetry techniques and styles from around the world. This course will culminate in an original short form puppetry performance.

Student Learning Outcomes:

To develop:

- knowledge and awareness of the global world of puppetry.
- an ability to analyze, evaluate, and communicate about various aspects of puppetry as an art form.
- an examination of the interrelationship that exists between puppetry and the society of which it is a part.
- puppet skits, plays, and performances that utilize a variety of puppetry forms and techniques.

Additionally, graduate students will serve as Production Assistants for the Puppetry Festival. These students will develop:

- organizational skills related to orchestrating a live performance.
- research and research writing experience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment instructions can be found on eCollege. I will upload them ahead of time, please familiarize yourself with the requirements and instructions for each assignment.

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Undergraduate Students	
Found Object Puppet	100 pts
Expressive Face Puppet	100 pts
Social Commentary Puppet	100 pts
Shadow Puppet	100 pts
Filmed Piece	100 pts
Original Piece (Puppet Festival)	300 pts
Advertisement	50 pts
Journal	
March 21	25 pts
April 1	25 pts
April 4	25 pts
April 11	25 pts
April 18	25 pts
April 25	25 pts
Final journal	50 pts
Post Mortem	100 pts
Total:	1000 pts

Graduate Students	
Found Object Puppet	100 pts
Expressive Face Puppet	100 pts
Social Commentary Puppet	100 pts
Shadow Puppet	100 pts
Filmed Piece	100 pts
Original Piece (Puppet Festival)	300 pts
Advertisement	50 pts
Journal	
March 21	25 pts
April 1	25 pts
April 4	25 pts
April 11	25 pts
April 18	25 pts
April 25	25 pts
Final journal	50 pts
Post Mortem	100 pts
Research Paper	
Outline and Annotated Bib.	50 pts
Rough Draft	50 pts
Final Paper	100 pts
Production Assistance	100 pts.
Total:	1300 pts

Grading

Exceptional work will warrant an	A=90% (900-1000 pts/1170-1300 pts)
Above average work will warrant a	B=80% (800-899 pts/1040-1169 pts)
Average work will warrant a	C=70% (700-199 pts/910-1139 pts)
Below average work will warrant a	D=60% (600-699 pts/780-909 pts)
Unacceptable work will warrant a	F=59% or less (>599 pts/>779 pts)

Extra Credit

Extra credit is at the discretion of the professor and will be announced in class and on eCollege.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to check their myLeo accounts on a regular basis for communications about the course. Students will also need to access eCollege regularly for readings and assignment instructions. I will also be passing around a contact sheet for the class, please include and email and/or cell phone number where your group members can easily and quickly reach you.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be enhanced by using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information is at the top of this syllabus.

All emails to the instructor should begin with a salutation, clearly and politely state your inquiry, and close with a signature that includes the specific class you are enrolled in.

If you are having issues with eCollege, please contact Technical Support:

eCollege Student Technical Support (QM 6.6, 7.1) Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
Email: helpdesk@tamuc.edu to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to Dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

- Please do not be late to my class. If you are late, enter as unobtrusively as possible and find the nearest open seat.
- I do not allow makeup work, except in cases of true emergency. Get your work done.
- Bring your book to class, I frequently reference it during lecture.
- You are expected to participate fully and enthusiastically in all group projects. All students are expected to attend the labs, both graduate and undergraduate. The lab meets in the scene shop (or other designated spaces) every Friday from 1-4pm. There are no exceptions.
- Please bring your supplies to class as needed. Pay attention to the syllabus and what projects we will be working on.
- Graduate students are expected to act as a Production Assistants for the Festival. You will assist in coordinating rehearsals, tech, advertising, and any other duties that are intrinsic to running the Festival. This is a valuable opportunity to get a show up on its feet from scratch; the time-management and organizational skills it takes to do this will be invaluable to your theatrical career.
- I subscribe to the school of Figure It Out. Very few people get to sit at the knee of a master puppeteer to learn the craft, and everyone has to start somewhere. Just because you haven't done it before doesn't mean that you aren't going to excel at it with grit, practice, and organization. By the end of this course you should have learned to problem solve, time manage, organize and power your way through a live puppet show!

University Specific Procedures:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Gee Library
Room 132
Fax (903) 468-8148

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. From the Code of Student Conduct: "Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action."

The Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook can be found here: http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf

Academic Honesty:

Students will adhere to the tenets of academic honesty while in this class. Academic dishonesty includes working on non-group projects with others, deception, impersonation, cheating during a test, and plagiarism. These are all offenses that warrant disciplinary action up to, and including, an F in the course. Additionally, any student found guilty of a Breach of Conduct, including Academic Honest, could face the following disciplinary actions imposed by the University:

(1) Expulsion from the University. Students may not return to the University.
(2) Suspension from the University for a definite or indefinite period of time.
(3) Disciplinary probation with or without loss of designated privileges for a specified period of time. The violation of the terms of disciplinary probation or the infraction of any University rules
(4) Loss of privileges.
  a. Denial of the use of an automobile for a designated time (on campus).
  b. Removal from elective or appointive office.
  c. Ineligibility for pledging, initiation, and representation of the University.
  d. Removal from residence hall or other University housing.
  e. Loss of such other privileges as may be consistent with the offense committed and the rehabilitation of the student.
(5) Admonition and warning.
(6) Notification of parents.
(7) Such other actions as may be approved by the University Discipline Committee or the Dean for Campus Life and Student Development.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's information without proper and formal citation. Information about avoiding plagiarism can be found here: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Tues.	Jan. 14	Course Orientation, review of syllabus
Thurs.	Jan. 16	Chapter 1: *The Origin of Species* Types of Puppetry British: Reading and Punch and Judy Kariagozi "Jackson Pollock in Shadows"
Fri.	Jan. 17	Lab: orientation and discussion of found object puppet assignment
Tues.	Jan. 21	Chapter 1 continued Bunraku Reading and Video Javanese Wayang Indian forms Kathputli Video 1 and Video 2
Thurs.	Jan. 23	Chapter 2: *Show Breeds* Hand: TBA Marionette:TBA Rod: Journey Body: TED talk "Handspring Puppet Co." Shadow: The Mania of Bonaparte

		Found Object: Jim Henson
Fri.	Jan. 24	Lab: Found object puppet work day
Tues.	Jan. 28	Present found object puppets
Thurs.	Jan. 30	Chapter 4: *Casting Characters*
Fri.	Jan. 31	Lab: expressive face puppet work day (air dry clay)
Tues.	Feb. 4	Present expressive face puppets
Thurs.	Feb. 6	Chapter 9: *Public Service*, Graduate students choose paper topics
Fri.	Feb. 7	Lab: expressive face into social commentary puppet (rod puppet)
Tues.	Feb. 11	Present social commentary puppets
Thurs.	Feb. 13	Chapter 5: *Puppet Masters*
Fri.	Feb. 14	Lab: shadow puppet work day (children's theatre)
Tues.	Feb. 18	Present shadow puppets
Thurs.	Feb. 20	Present shadow puppets
Fri.	Feb. 21	Lab: screening of *Dante's Inferno* (bring popcorn!)
Tues.	Feb. 25	Puppetry for Film and Television Muppets: TBA In Advertising: TBA Television: TBA Film: TBA
Thurs.	Feb. 27	Puppetry for Film and Television Continued, Graduate Outline and Annotated Bibliography Due
Fri.	Feb. 28	Lab: as small groups, develop a previous project into a filmed piece for YouTube
Tues.	Mar. 4	In class work day, filmed piece
Thurs.	Mar. 6	In class work day, filmed piece
Fri.	Mar. 7	Lab: screening of filmed pieces (bring popcorn!)
Tues.	Mar. 11	Spring Break
Thurs.	Mar. 13	Spring Break
Fri.	Mar. 14	Spring Break

Tues.	Mar. 18	Present script ideas and vote: begin journaling
Thurs.	Mar. 20	Break into groups, pre-planning
Fri.	Mar. 21	Lab: original pieces work day, turn in journals
Tues.	Mar. 25	Script read throughs and critiques, Graduate Draft Due
Thurs.	Mar. 27	No class—USITT National Conference
Fri.	Mar. 28	No class—USITT National Conference
Tues.	Apr. 1	Script read throughs and critiques, turn in journals
Thurs.	Apr. 3	Original pieces progress report, present puppet sketches, research, plans and critique
Fri.	Apr. 4	Lab: original pieces work day, turn in journals
Tues.	Apr. 8	Movement exercises: bring a sock!
Thurs.	Apr. 10	Directing exercises: bring a puppet
Fri.	Apr. 11	Lab: original pieces work day, turn in journals
Tues.	Apr. 15	Screening of *Cthulhu: A Puppet Play* (bring popcorn!)
Thurs.	Apr. 17	Original pieces progress report, present advertisements, rehearsal schedule, vote on advertisements
Fri.	Apr. 18	Lab: original pieces work day, turn in journals
Tues.	Apr. 22	TBA
Thurs.	Apr. 24	TBA
Fri.	Apr. 25	Lab: original pieces work day, preparation of the space, turn in journals
Tues.	Apr. 29	Tech original pieces, Graduate research paper due
Thurs.	May 1	Tech original pieces
Fri.	May 2	Lab: final tech

Performances: May 2 and 3

Final Exam: Post-mortem, turn in final journals TBA

updated:1/7/2014