

THEATER APPRECIATION

MONDAY and WEDNESDAY -- SCOTT HALL 123

Section ONE (5th period) 2:50 pm – 4:10 pm

Section THREE (6th period) 4:30 pm – 5:50 pm

YOU MUST ATTEND THE SECTION IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED.
COURSE CONTENT MAY VARY FROM SECTION TO SECTION.

INSTRUCTOR: Joseph A. Mancuso

E-mail: mancuso@rci.rutgers.edu

Do not send ticket questions to this e-mail address.

It is to be used only for questions relating to class content and/or your personal progress.

Office Hours by Arrangement

Assistant to the Instructor: Jeffrey Bender

All ticket inquiries must be directed to Amie before or after class.

Extra time will be allotted during times of heavy ticket business.

**For assistance with RUTIX ticket reservations
before the deadline expires
contact help@rutix.net.**

Visit www.RuTix.net at least once per week
even when not ordering tickets for updates and notices.

Once you have either received the physical ticket for a particular play
or the reservation deadline for that play has passed,
the reservation system called RuTix is no longer your resource
for information about that particular play.

Instead, please see Amie **in person before or after each class.**

COURSE OBJECTIVE & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objective of this course is to examine, explore and discuss the techniques and styles of major theater movements through the experience of live theater productions. Major course topics include the origins of theater, the role of the audience and, based on assigned plays, major artists and movements.

Through lectures and in-class discussions, as well as attending eight assigned productions in the Central New Jersey and New York City area, the student will explore this art form from its classical roots through today's most innovative trends.

To this end, the class focuses on developing the critical skills necessary to create for the student a keener understanding of how to watch a theater performance while increasing awareness of the roles that playwrights, actors, directors, designers, producers and critics play in bringing a stage script to life.

We undertake this study of theater and its potential place in our everyday lives to broaden our awareness beyond pedestrian day-to-day issues to expand our perspective about life, purpose and extraordinary thinking.

This course has two primary learning goals:

- 1) Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production through exposure to contemporary theater. Students will be able to analyze and appreciate the contribution Theater makes to the public debate on social issues and values. They will develop an understanding of the theatrical methods and techniques that are used to frame the debate.
- 2) Analyze the art and literature of the Theater in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures and technologies. Contemporary theater production includes a wide range of plays and topics. Depending on availability, plays of previous times and values (Shakespeare, etc.) are studied along with plays of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Histories, values and cultures are compared and contrasted in class discussions.

In pursuit of these goals, students must develop the ability to:

1. Identify the roles and responsibilities of each theater arts collaborator: actor, director, producer, designer, playwright and critic.
2. Compare, contrast and analyze themes, motifs and symbols of assigned plays/productions.
3. Utilize the art form to explore an engaging inquiry into the challenges and nature of living a vibrant, engaged extraordinary life.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must attend **ALL** scheduled lecture/discussion classes in the section for which they registered and they must attend **ALL** assigned theater productions as outlined in this syllabus and explained in class. Finally, they must successfully complete two hourly exams.

EXAM QUESTIONS FOR EACH SECTION WILL VARY.

You are required to see all **SEVEN** productions listed on the RuTix website. You will use this site to make your reservations within the time frame listed. In support of the instructions covered in the introduction class, you may also utilize a video tutorial that can be found at www.rutix.net or search *RUTIX VIDEO TUTORIAL* on YouTube.

Once you have received the physical ticket for a particular play
or the reservation deadline has passed,
RuTix is no longer your resource for information about that play.
Instead, please see Amie in person before or after each class.

These are the seven required plays this semester.

They are reserved on RuTix before the deadlines to be posted.

“HOW DO I START ORDERING TICKETS?”

First, create your personal RuTix Account.

The video presentation seen during the first class that explains this procedure may also be found at www.youtube.com entitled **RuTix Video Tutorial**.

“WHAT’S NEXT?”

Once you have created your on-line RuTix Account be sure to read the FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS page as this will better enable you to navigate the system and assure you have the best chance of receiving your preferred dates.

It is essential that you order your tickets before the closing date listed.

Under each play title you will see the window of opportunity for ordering your ticket(s) for each play.

EXAMPLE: ***MARAT SADE***

On-line ordering begins: January 18 On-line ordering ends: January 26 at 8:00 pm

This means you have until Jan. 26th at 8:00 pm to select from the dates listed.

You also have the option of combining your order with the other section of THEATER APPRECIATION that takes place in Scott Hall on College Avenue Campus **but NOT the section that meets on Douglass.**

The earlier you submit your order the more likely you will get one of your choices.

What if I miss an on-line order deadline?

- 1) You will not be able to order additional guest tickets for that play.
- 2) If requested by you in class and if available, **you will receive a ticket from the remainder pile.** Not only is date selection from that pile limited, in some instances it is possible that the ticket has indeed expired. In fact, at some point the remainder pile runs out and there is no ticket available. In other words, missing an order deadline means that there may be an instance where you do not receive a ticket for that play despite our best effort to accommodate you.

What if, as a result of missing an on-line order deadline, I receive either an expired ticket or a ticket for a date I cannot attend?

- 1) Once the tickets for that play have been disbursed for one full class period, you may try to swap your tickets with Amie before or after class. If that doesn't solve the problem, then:
- 2) You may go directly in person to the box office for that play (**except for the New York City play**) and request an exchange. This is subject to availability and a fee of \$2 to \$3 per ticket that will be charged to at that time. **PLEASE NOTE: most theaters will not exchange expired tickets.** In fact, George Street Playhouse has a "24 Hour Rule" that means your ticket(s) must be at least one day away from expiration.

THE RUTIX SITE CONTAINS EACH THEATER'S INDIVIDUAL TICKET EXCHANGE POLICIES. REVIEW THEM CAREFULLY.

What if, as a result of missing an on-line order deadline, I receive no ticket at all?

You have the option of purchasing an additional ticket at your own expense or doing one or both of the Extra-Credit papers to make up for any potential points lost on the exam. Keep in mind it is also possible that you will miss a play for other reasons that are entirely out of your control – illness, transportation issue, etc.

This is why Extra Credit opportunities exist: to help you adapt to a missed play regardless of the reason.

As an added incentive to place your on-line order for each play before the deadline, a grade scale applies that represents 7% of your Course Grade as follows:

All plays ordered on time	=	7 points	Missed four deadlines	=	3 point
Missed one deadline	=	6 points	Missed five deadlines	=	2 points
Missed two deadlines	=	5 points	Missed six deadlines	=	1 point
Missed three deadlines	=	4 points	Missed all deadlines	=	0 points

There are many more FREQUENTLYASKED QUESTIONS (and answers) listed on RuTix.net. Visit that site and read them carefully. It will prepare you better for class.

In addition to ticket business, important announcements and updates relating to course content and vital exam information will be posted on RuTix regularly.

You are expected to visit the www.RuTix.net site at least once per week even when not ordering tickets including after all tickets have been ordered.

The following **THEATER PROTOCOL AGREEMENT** will be read and discussed in class. As an enrolled student you are agreeing to abide by its requirements.

THEATER PROTOCOL AGREEMENT: I acknowledge and recognize that the importance of punctuality and related behavior with respect to the theater industry has been fully explained and detailed to me.

With this understanding, I agree to abide by the following conditions:

- a) I will arrive at the designated theater for all scheduled performances *at least 30 MINUTES before* curtain. I understand that parking difficulties and heavy traffic are a basic part of life and will make all necessary adjustments to my departure time so that I can arrive at the theater before the thirty-minute requirement. In the case of JAMESON STUDIO productions, I understand that I might lose my reservation if I do not arrive at least 10 minutes before curtain.
- b) **I further understand that late seating is at the discretion of theater management including the possibility of not being seated at all.** I understand that in the event I miss the performance, neither the University nor the theater will give a refund nor replace ticket(s). It is up to me to acquire another ticket at my own expense.
- c) Before the performance begins, I will **TURN OFF** all of my electronic devices such as cell phones, beepers and pagers. **AT NO TIME WILL I TURN ON MY CELL PHONE TO CHECK THE TIME OF DAY, MESSAGES, PHONE LOG NOR WILL I TEXT MESSAGE OR PLAY VIDEO GAMES.** I understand that I may be asked to leave the theater if I use my phone for any reason during a performance.
- d) I will behave in a respectful and courteous manner at all times during performances. This includes creating disturbances, talking loudly and any behavior that may be deemed distracting to other patrons or the actors.

<p>I understand that violating these policies could seriously jeopardize my grade for this class as well as my standing at Rutgers University with respect to its policies and guidelines.</p>

FURTHERMORE, I understand that if I fail to pick up my tickets (INCLUDING GUESTS) for any of the assigned productions **ON THE FIRST CLASS DAY IN WHICH THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED** it is possible that I may not receive these tickets at all. This is due to many reasons including, but not limited to, dwindling supply as tickets expire. I understand that refunds will not be made for any tickets ordered for that play.

I also understand that the inputting of my **PREFERRED DATES** on the reservation website merely represents a guideline for the disbursement system. While every effort is made to supply tickets for these dates, I understand I might not get tickets for any of these dates. I understand that efforts will be made to solve schedule conflicts. I also understand that available remedies sometimes do not solve the problem. In that event, I will make every effort to resolve the matter and understand that I am not absolved of responsibility to see that play.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be **TWO** exams each worth 100 points consisting of Selected Response Questions and two Extended Response Questions.

BE SURE TO BRING PENCILS AND PHOTO ID TO EXAMS.

Midterm Hourly Exam

Regular class time

Monday, March 6th

- for students with last names beginning with **M - Z**

Wednesday, March 8th

- for students with last names beginning with **A - L**

Make-up midterm exams are BY APPOINTMENT with Jeff
and should be completed by no later than April 5th.

Final Exam -

The Final Exam is cumulative.

Section One (Fifth Period): Wednesday, May 10th

Noon - for students with last names beginning with **A - L**

1:30 pm - for students with last names beginning with **M - Z**

Section Three (Sixth Period): Friday, May 5th

4:00 pm - for students with last names beginning with **A - L**

5:30 pm - for students with last names beginning with **M - Z**

Students with a BIO EXAM conflict may attend the May 10th session or arrange a make-up date that is later than May 10th.

Make-up final exams are BY APPOINTMENT with Professor Mancuso who may be reached at **mancuso@rci.rutgers.edu**. A course grade of TF will be assigned if exams are not made up by May 17th. This grade will be removed upon completion of the make-up exam by no later than the end of the Fall Semester.

Exam questions will be drawn from class lectures/discussions and assigned theater productions.

MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE NOT GIVEN BEFORE THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULED EXAM TIME.

COURSE GRADE will be determined as follows:

First Hourly Exam:	40%	Multiple Choice Questions
Final Exam:	53%	Multiple Choice Questions
RuTix ordering history	7%	

Potential additional points from optional EXTRA CREDIT papers will be added to final total.

COURSE GRADE SCALE: A (92-100); B+ (87-91); B (82-86); C+ (77-81); C (72-76); D (67-71); F (0-66)

COURSE FEE: You will be assessed a \$160 COURSE FEE on your term bill. This will pay for your ticket to all assigned plays as well as in-class demonstrations and guest speakers.

USE OF LAPTOPS: Students using laptop computers during class MUST SIT IN THE FIRST TWELVE ROWS. Computers may only be used for note-taking. NO ON-LINE USE NOR GAMES during class. Infractions will result in your being asked to leave class that day.

Transportation to required plays: Students must arrange their own transportation to the NINE assigned plays. You may take the opportunity to speak with classmates or invite guests who are not registered for the class.

There are up to TWO OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

You have the option of seeing any high school, community, college, regional or New York City theater production that is **NOT** on the assigned list AND WRITING A RESPONSE PAPER.

You may do up to TWO extra credit papers. This does not include stand-up comedy, rock concerts nor dance. It does include musical theater and non-musical theater.

You may not use an assigned play for extra credit.

A response paper as outlined below will receive zero to three extra credit points added to the course grade.

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Papers must be EXACTLY ONE PAGE in length as described below.
These are typed reviews of your response to the production/play.

EXTRA CREDIT PAPERS ARE DUE WITHIN TWO WEEKS of date on ticket or by MONDAY, MAY 1st - **whichever comes first.**

For any productions that do not supply dated tickets:
USE TWO WEEKS FROM THE CLOSING NIGHT DATE.

The optional extra-credit paper(s) is worth ZERO to THREE extra points that will be added to your course average.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR EXTRA CREDIT PAPER(S)

ATTACHING IMAGE TO YOUR PAPER:

- On your ticket stub from the show, please WRITE YOUR NAME and RUID.
- Take a picture or scan your ticket stub to include with your paper
- Two Ways to Submit the Ticket Stub picture:
 - o In Microsoft Word, go to INSERT > PICTURE > FROM FILE and select the image of your ticket stub to include in your paper.
 - o If you are unable to INSERT the image into your paper, please upload with your extra credit paper to Dropbox individually.

SAVING YOUR FILE CORRECTLY BEFORE SUBMITTING:

- Save your paper as WORD or PDF only! Other formats are not accepted.
- Save the paper as a file labeled with **YOUR NAME, SECTION #, EXTRA CREDIT #**
Example: John Smith Sec 1 Extra Credit 1

**** BEFORE UPLOADING YOUR EXTRA CREDIT PAPER TO DROPBOX, YOU MUST HAVE IT LABELED CORRECTLY WITH YOUR NAME, SECTION, EXTRA CREDIT PAPER #**

Not doing so may delay in lost papers or a delay in grading.

UPLOADING YOUR PAPER TO DROPBOX:

- Login to Sakai. Visit the Theater Appreciation course page
- On the left menu, select DROP BOX.
- You will be directed to a folder with your name to upload assignments and papers.
- Next to your name, select the ADD drop down menu.
- Select UPLOAD FILES.
- Next, upload the paper and a picture of the ticket (IF SUPPLIED BY THE THEATER) with your RUID written on it.

Here is a link to the Drop Box Help & Instructions:

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/directtool/32dffec2-027b-43a5-ab13-6e9245b7d875/>

Please note: THIS IS NOT A PERSONAL DROP BOX.

Anything and everything uploaded or shared in this folder can be seen by the course instructors.

This Dropbox can only be used for Theater Appreciation.

Your paper must include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1) A TITLE PAGE | that includes your NAME, RUID, and SECTION. |
| 2) RESPONSE PAGE | 12 point font and one inch margins on all four sides |
| | Black ink only. Double spaced. |
| | Minimum: 1 page Length: ONE <u>FULL</u> PAGE |

Begin your text at the first line on the page and proceed to the very bottom of the page.

**A RESPONSE PAGE that is shorter than one page (NOT INCLUDING TITLE PAGE)
will automatically receive zero points.**

A paper that falls short in any of the other requirements will be marked down accordingly.

SUGGESTED EXTRA-CREDIT VENUES ON CAMPUS:

LIVINGSTON THEATER COMPANY	www.rultc.org
COLLEGE AVENUE PLAYERS	www.collegeaveplayers.com
THE CABARET THEATER	www.cabarettheatre.org

**You are not limited to these sites.
Some projects will be announced in class.
You may choose one on your own.**

PAPER CONTENT:

Assume the reader knows the play and only use plot references to make a point. This is an opinion piece. Write about the topics that move you the most:

- Acting; Directing; Design
- Play vs Production
- Relevance (or lack thereof) of themes
- Insights

Suggestion: write a first draft of random Points of View – the “Whats:”

- The acting by certain cast members was strong
- The play is dated
- The designs were unconnected and random

Then add the “Why’s” to each Point of View. This is the heart of the paper and will earn the higher credit award. Do not concern yourself with the flow from one thought to another. **IT WILL BE A CHOPPY PAPER.** It’s unavoidable. As you writing begins to exceed the one page maximum, begin to condense your ideas to **COMPLETETELY FILL *ONLY ONE PAGE*.**

Papers are graded on strength of Points of View rather than if the reader agrees. Also, one does not have to like a piece in order to earn the higher grade. Sometimes productions and/or plays do not warrant our praise.

GRADE RUBRIC

MOST POINTS:

A TITLE PAGE that includes NAME, RUID, and SECTION and ONE FULL PAGE of text.

Double spaced 12 point font and one inch margins – black ink only.

Writing is clear, cogent with varied points of view that are backed up with “whys.”

Avoids simple declaration of plot.

SOME POINTS:

Most of the above features.

Writing makes some clear observations with some support.

Avoids simple declaration of plot.

LEAST POINTS:

Few of the above features.

Writing makes some poorly articulated observations with little support.

Sometimes uses plot as filler.

ZERO POINTS:

A paper that is shorter than one full one page of text (NOT INCLUDING TITLE PAGE) **or**

Late **or** Not-typed **or** simply uses plot information as filler with no personal point of view.