

**Theatre Appreciation  
THE 2000  
CRN# 82210  
Fall 2017**

**Florida Gulf Coast University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Bower School of Music and the Arts  
Dept. of Theatre**

**Online Course  
3 credit hours**

**Dan Bacalzo, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Theatre  
Office: Arts Complex Rm. 117  
Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:30pm; Thursdays, 10am-Noon  
Phone: 239-590-7404  
E-mail: CANVAS course e-mail only**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introductory study of theatre and its development, literature, theory, techniques, forms, means of production, and models of dramatic composition, with an emphasis on the appreciation of theatre as a collaborative art form.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1) Students will become familiar with major plays, playwrights, and theatrical movements and their impact on contemporary theatre. 2) Students will understand the collaborative nature of theatre and the role that writers, directors, actors, and designers play in the creative process. 3) Students will examine theatre's cultural and sociopolitical themes with sensitivity and self-reflexivity. 4) Students will engage in effective and ethical communication and demonstrate critical thinking. 5) Students will understand the importance of theatre as a nexus for community building and a forum for civic engagement. 6) Students will develop an appreciation for theatre as an exciting and continuously evolving art form.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

**Required texts:**

*Theatre: Collaborative Acts*, 4th Edition, by Ronald Wainscott and Kathy Fletcher (available in FGCU bookstore)

*Trifles* by Susan Glaspell (available via online link in Canvas)

*365 Days/365 Plays* (excerpt) by Suzan-Lori Parks (available via online link in Canvas)

You must have access to a reliable computer that is able to access your CANVAS course content. Your computer must allow you to view PowerPoint documents and the streaming of video and audio files, as well as have internet access. Your professors are NOT responsible for any technical problems you may have with your computer. If you have technical questions regarding the use of CANVAS, please use the CANVAS help link. If questions persist, the following resources may be helpful:

**Distance-Learning:**

<http://itech.fgcu.edu/distance/>

**Online Tutorials:**

<http://canvas.fgcu.edu/>

**COURSE FORMAT**

This course is CANVAS based. All communication within the course will take place through the course website on CANVAS. The course includes an Introduction Module plus six additional modules corresponding to sequential chapters from our textbook. The Introduction Module and Module 1 are available immediately. **You must complete the Introduction Module (including the “Introduce Yourself” discussion and the Course Orientation Quiz) in order to unlock the rest of the course. Anyone who has not completed the Introduction Module by Friday, September 1 will not be allowed to continue on in the course.**

The assignments for each module have specified close dates (these can be found in the course calendar and at the end of this syllabus). It is your responsibility to complete the modules before the close dates. Each module contains narrated PowerPoint lectures for the assigned textbook chapters, a quiz, and at least one additional assignment such as a Discussion, a Dramaturgy Project, or a Performance Review. In order to view the PowerPoint lectures you may need to download adobe flash player at <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>. Modules may also contain supplementary web links, assigned video viewing and other material for which you will be responsible.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A DEADLINE EVERY WEEK.** It is imperative that you keep up with the course reading so that you do not fall behind and miss a deadline.

**Course Communications and Email:**

In order to ensure timely and reliable communication, all course-related email messages will be sent via CANVAS. For this reason, it is important that you check your FGCU CANVAS account regularly. Only e-mails sent through CANVAS will be answered; e-mails sent through EagleMail will not be answered. You are also expected to check course content regularly and be able to navigate our course site. This means reading course announcements and emails and taking responsibility for your own learning by becoming comfortable with the course site.

You are expected to communicate in a professional manner at all times.

- It is expected that you will look to your syllabus, navigate the course site, and check course communication (including previous posts on the Clarification Station) for course information before sending an email or posting a question to the Clarification Station.

- It is unacceptable to communicate anything online that you would not be willing to say in person.
- It is unacceptable to write your emails or post to the Clarification Station in all capitals.
- It is unacceptable to post course communication with poor grammar. In effect, please do not use texting shorthand. Use proper capitalization where necessary.
- The fact that this is an online course does not grant you permission to conduct yourself in an inconsiderate and unprofessional manner. This means not expecting instantaneous responses and acknowledging that your faculty function in real time, not virtual time. This is an interface for your academic career, not Facebook. Act accordingly please.

I will check in with course communication at least every 24 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays. I will schedule two informational sessions via Adobe Connect to answer questions about the required assignments and course material (exact dates/times TBA), which will be available for viewing afterwards for students who cannot attend in real time.

For queries related to grades given on specific assignments, contact your designated preceptor.

## PRECEPTORS

Preceptors grade select assignments and give students feedback on their writing. Your preceptor will be assigned early in the semester. Be sure to make a note of his or her name and contact information when you receive notification that your first assignment has been graded. Preceptors are qualified professionals who have specialized experience and/or advanced degrees in fields like Humanities and the Arts.

## COURSE COORDINATOR

Lisa Courcier  
[lcourcie@fgcu.edu](mailto:lcourcie@fgcu.edu)

The Course Coordinator manages the mechanics of the course and makes sure everything goes smoothly. She maintains the course in CANVAS, assists the professors and ensures consistency. She supervises the training and work of the preceptors, to ensure reliability and fairness. She is also a key contact person if you have any difficulties.

**NOTE:** If you are having trouble with an assignment submission **BEFORE** the deadline, you should send one email to your professor, preceptor, and course coordinator, attaching the screen shot with the error message you receive **AND** your completed assignment.

## PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend one live theatre performance during the current semester for the purpose of the performance review assignment. Recordings cannot be used as a substitute. If you cannot arrange your schedule to meet course requirements, including the event attendance requirement, you should withdraw and take the course at another time. Students are responsible for making their own performance arrangements. Note that you are required to confirm that you have purchased your ticket and agree to the etiquette expectations for theatre patrons **by Wednesday, September 20 at 3pm**. FGCU and THE 2000 cannot be responsible for financial transactions and schedule changes involving theatre venues.

Students who are participating in a theatre performance in any way (as a performer / stage crew / organizer / staff member / volunteer) **MAY NOT** use that performance for their paper. For the purposes of writing the performance review, you must have complete independence from the event, because you cannot be objective or have the same kind of experience if you are involved in any way.

**PLEASE BE COURTEOUS AT ALL PUBLIC CULTURAL EVENTS.** During performances do not rustle, talk, eat, make noises, or wander in and out. Stay for the entire performance. Take notes inconspicuously. Never, ever try to record or take photographs during a performance – it is illegal as well as unethical, and you could be asked to leave. Never bring food or drink into a performance venue (unless it is an outdoor performance on a lawn or the show gives express permission to do so). Be especially considerate of the performers. In order to do their best, they should not be distracted by disruptions in the audience.

## GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades are awarded based upon the rubrics for each corresponding assignment. The rubrics, used by preceptors to grade, ensure that every assignment is evaluated using the same criteria and help the course coordinator and instructors maintain quality control and consistent standards across all sections of the course. Students can also use the component parts of the rubric to understand why they received the grade that they did, as well as to see how they might improve. Students can even use the rubric prior to turning in their assignment to see how they will be graded and avoid making obvious mistakes.

### Discussions (20%):

There are four required discussion forums, corresponding to Modules 1, 2, 4, and 5. There will be a discussion question that you must respond to with an initial posting that answers the prompt. You are also required to respond to your peers' discussions in at least one reply post (more are encouraged). Note that you are able to access your initial posting and replies to edit until the specified deadline. However, you should endeavor to post early to give your peers more time to reply. Please refer to the following rubric to understand how your discussion posts will be evaluated. **You must post to the discussion forum before 3pm on the day that the assignment is due. You will not be able to access the forum once the deadline has passed. No late postings accepted. If you do not post before the deadline, you will receive a "0" for that discussion.**

Examples of postings that demonstrate higher levels of thinking:

- "Some common themes I see between my experiences and our textbook are...." (analysis)
  - "These newer trends are significant if we consider the relationship between ...." (synthesis)
  - "The body of literature should be assessed by these standards ...." (evaluation)
- (Adapted from a rubric developed by Barbara Frey, University of Pittsburg)*

### Discussion Postings Rubric (20 possible points)

Criteria	Excellent 5 pts	Fair 4 pts	Acceptable 3 pts	Marginally Acceptable 2 pts	Unacceptable 1 pt	Unacceptable/Missing 0 pts
<b>Initial Assignment Posting</b>	Posts well developed assignment	Posts well-developed assignment	Posts adequate assignment with	Posts inadequate assignment	Posts wholly inadequate assignment	No submission or not enough material to be graded.

	that fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task.	that addresses most aspects of the task.	superficial thought and preparation; doesn't address all aspects of the task.	with minimal thought and preparation; addresses only one aspect of the task.	with little evidence of thought or preparation; superficially addresses only one aspect of the task.	
<b>Content Contribution</b>	Engages with central ideas and/or problems in the assigned material; advances discussion.	Engages with ideas in the assigned material; lacks full development of concept or thought.	Repeats but does not add substantive information to the discussion.	Repeats but adds no original thought to discussion	Posts information that is largely off-topic, incorrect, or irrelevant to discussion.	No submission or not enough material to be graded.
<b>Follow Up Postings</b>	Demonstrates analysis of others' posts; extends meaningful discussion by building on previous posts.	Elaborates on an existing posting with further comment or observation.	Posts shallow contribution to discussion with some analysis.	Posts minimum contribution to discussion (e.g., agrees or disagrees); does not enrich discussion.	Posts repetition of another's posts with no further comment or observation.	No follow up or no submission or not enough material to be graded
<b>Clarity &amp; Mechanics</b>	Contributes to discussion with clear, concise comments formatted in an easy to read style that is free, or nearly free, of grammatical or spelling errors.	Contributes valuable information to discussion with minor clarity or mechanics errors.	Communicates in friendly, courteous and helpful manner with some errors in clarity or mechanics.	Minimal communication impeded by numerous errors in clarity and mechanics.	Posts long, unorganized or rude content that may contain multiple errors or may be inappropriate.	No submission or not enough material to be graded.

### Quizzes (20%):

Each module will contain a quiz on the corresponding textbook chapters for that module. There will be twenty questions that are multiple choice, true/false, or matching worth two points each, with one short-answer essay worth 10 points. You will have 25 minutes to finish each quiz. You will see quiz questions one at a time, the questions will be randomized, you will receive a five-minute warning before time is up, and the quiz will be automatically submitted when the time is up. **The quiz must be completed before 3pm the day the module closes. The module will close and you will not be able to access the quiz after 3pm. The quizzes cannot be taken after the module has closed. If you do not submit a quiz before the deadline, you will receive a "0" for that quiz.**

### Quiz and Exam Review:

You can review your quiz answers once after each try. The reviews will allow you to see your overall score, whether you answered right or wrong, the question text, your answer, the points possible and points awarded. Please note that the review will not show the correct answers for the questions you got wrong—you must look them up yourself. The procedure for a final exam review will be announced at a later date. The review period is a privilege in helping you to prepare for the

final exam—as all the questions from the quizzes become part of the pool of questions that are randomly selected for the final.

**Dramaturgy Project 20% [DUE DATES: Proposal – Friday, October 6 before 3pm; Project - Friday, October 27 before 3pm; no late projects will be accepted]**

You are required to select one of the following plays from the Drama Online database: *Antigone*, *As You Like It*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Hurt Village*. You should read the play or at least the synopsis to it included on Drama Online **PRIOR** to submitting your proposal. For the project, **read your chosen play** and research its production history as well as information relating to the playwright. The project should also include a brief critical analysis of the play within its cultural and/or socio-political context, as well as aesthetic concerns. The goal is to showcase an understanding of the play and a willingness to explore possible interpretations that would be useful to a director, designer, or actor in mounting a stage production of it. Your research should include images that you think are evocative of the play, its characters, and/or period in which the play is set.

There are two stages to the Dramaturgy Project. You will submit a proposal containing your play selection, a brief description, and a preliminary annotated bibliography with at least three valid sources, as well as a sentence for each source explaining how it relates to your project. For the bibliography, note that you should NOT be using open-source websites (like Wikipedia), online study guides (like SparkNotes or Schmoop), or most blogs.

You will then turn in a PowerPoint presentation with a minimum of 7 slides and a maximum of 12 slides, followed by End Notes and a Bibliography. (These latter two components are not part of your presentation slide count.)

All images (including images that you created) should be captioned or otherwise credited on the slide where they appear, or in the notes corresponding to that slide. It is inadequate to cite “Google images.” In addition, quoted or paraphrased words/ideas must be cited/credited on the slide (or in the end notes corresponding to that slide) where the quoted/paraphrased content appears AND your final slide(s) must be a Bibliography detailing works cited. (You do not need to repeat the sources for your images.) **No late projects will be accepted.**

Your projects will be graded according to the following rubric:

**Dramaturgy Project Rubric (25 possible points)**

Criteria	Excellent 5 pts	Fair 4 pts	Acceptable 3 pts	Marginally Acceptable 2 pts	Unacceptable 1 pt	Unacceptable/Missing 0 pts
<b>Research</b>	Project demonstrates in-depth research that identifies ideas and interpretive challenges	Project demonstrates adequate research that reflects upon ideas	Project demonstrates research but could be developed further	Project demonstrates incomplete research.	Research is either inadequate or contains factual errors	No submission or not enough content to grade.
<b>Visual Impact</b>	Incorporates stimulating visuals	Good use of visuals	Visuals are present, but largely uninteresting	Few visuals; and/or visuals present are disproportionately uninteresting.	Uninteresting and/or no visuals	No submission or not enough content to grade.

<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Effectively interprets data, evaluates various points of view, and develops and explores informed conclusions	Interprets data and develops informed conclusions	Includes data, but needs more to successfully support conclusions	Conclusions not supported by existing data; minimal evaluation.	Little evidence of data interpretation, evaluation, or conclusions.	No submission or not enough content to grade.
<b>Written Communication</b>	Engagingly written with appropriate organization, formatting, and style	Written well with attention to organization, formatting, and style	Organization is unclear and contains spelling or grammatical errors	Badly organized and contains several spelling or grammatical errors	No recognizable organization and contains numerous spelling or grammatical errors	No submission or not enough content to grade.
<b>Meets Assignment Criteria</b>	Meets assignment criteria: correct slide count, accompanying text, end notes and bibliography	Meets minimum assignment criteria: correct slide count, accompanying text, end notes and/or bibliography may be insufficient	Mostly meets assignment criteria with at least 6 slides and accompanying text, end notes and/or bibliography may be insufficient or missing	Does not meet assignment criteria of minimum slide count and/or accompanying text and may be missing end notes and/or bibliography	Does not meet assignment criteria of minimum slide count, missing lines of text, insufficient or missing end notes and/or bibliography	No submission or not enough content to grade.

**Performance Review (20%) [DUE DATE: Friday, November 17 before 3pm; no late projects will be accepted]**

You will be required to review a production of a play (from the preapproved list of productions) this semester. Reviews should be between 650 and 1000 words, contain your opinions regarding the performance, and analyze such factors as the writing, directing, acting, and stage design. You should complete the cover sheet (containing identifying elements such as name of the theater, production company, etc.) and include requested corroborating evidence of your attendance at the performance. The review itself should evaluate whether or not the production is successful at what you believe it is trying to accomplish. Think of yourself as an eyewitness who is describing the event for someone who might not have seen it. See the Performance Review Template and Cover Sheet (on CANVAS) for additional guidelines. **No late projects will be accepted.** Your reviews will be graded according to the following rubric.

**Performance Review Rubric (20 possible points):**

Criteria	Excellent 5 pts	Fair 4 pts	Acceptable 3 pts	Marginally Acceptable 2 pts	Unacceptable 1 pt	Unacceptable/Missing 0 pts
<b>Opinion</b>	Review expresses clear opinions about all aspects of the production (writing, directing, design, acting)	Review expresses opinions about most aspects of the production	Review expresses a few opinions about some aspects of the production	Review expresses opinion about 1 aspect of the production	It is unclear what the writer thought about the production	No submission or not enough content to grade.

<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Effectively backs up opinions by interpreting specific examples from the performance and developing and exploring informed conclusions	Backs up opinions by interpreting examples from the performance and developing informed conclusions	Examples from the performance exist, but may be insufficient to back up opinions; conclusions are not well developed	Examples from the performance are insufficient and conclusions are similarly insufficient	Examples from the performance are minimal or missing and conclusions are similarly minimal or missing	No submission or not enough content to grade.
<b>Written Communication</b>	Engagingly written with appropriate organization, formatting, and style	Written well with attention to organization, formatting, and style	Organization needs to be further clarified; contains some spelling or grammatical errors	Poorly organized and contains several spelling or grammatical errors	Unorganized and contains multiple spelling or grammatical errors	No submission or not enough content to grade.
<b>Meets Assignment Criteria</b>	Includes a cover sheet (with all relevant identifying information) and evidence of attendance	Includes a cover sheet (with most relevant identifying information) and evidence of attendance	Cover sheet contains some relevant identifying information but evidence of attendance may be incomplete	Cover sheet included but missing crucial identifying information; evidence of attendance minimal	Cover sheet lacks crucial identifying information, or is missing entirely; evidence of attendance may be incomplete or non-existent	No submission or not enough content to grade.

### **Final Exam (20%):**

The final exam will consist of questions taken from the module quizzes. It will consist of 40 questions that are multiple choice, true/false, or matching worth two points each, with two short-answer essays worth 10 points each. You will see the questions one at a time, and questions will be randomized. You'll have 100 minutes to complete the exam with a 5-minute time warning. **The final must be completed by 3pm the day of the deadline (please see calendar for deadline dates). If you do not submit your final before the deadline, you will receive a "0" for that exam.**

**\*Please note ALL deadlines are Eastern Standard Time**

### **Course Requirements and Grading Distribution:**

Discussions	<b>20%</b>
Quizzes	<b>20%</b>
Dramaturgy Project	<b>20%</b>
Performance Review	<b>20%</b>
Final Exam	<b>20%</b>

### **Grading Scale:**

93.45-100	A
89.45-93.44	A-



86.45-89.44	B+
82.45-86.44	B
79.45-82.44	B-
76.45-79.44	C+
69.45-76.44	C
66.45-69.44	D+
62.45-66.44	D
59.45-62.44	D-
0-59.44	F

Please note that your grade will be assigned based on the score you receive for the course. Grades are NOT “bumped up” if you are close to the point cutoff.

### **Disclaimer for Theatre Courses:**

This course is a study of theatre. Theatre is a reflection of the total human experience: real and imagined. As such, readers of dramatic literature, students of theatre, and theatre audiences may encounter frank and uncomfortable discussions and portrayals of many topics including (but not limited to) violence, sex, religion, science, and politics. If you have a high degree of sensitivity to these matters you may wish to reconsider your participation in the class.

### **Academic Behavior Standards and Academic Dishonesty:**

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found in the FGCU Student Guidebook under the Student Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures sections. All students are expected to study this document, which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The FGCU Student Guidebook is available online at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html>

### **Disability Accommodations Services:**

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university’s guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please contact the Office of Adaptive Services. The Office of Adaptive Services is located in Howard Hall 137. The phone number is 239-590-7956 or TTY 239-590-7930

### **Student Observance of Religious Holidays:**

All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

## **Incomplete:**

An incomplete may be given only when severe illness, injury or some other unavoidable circumstance makes it impossible for a student to complete a major assignment before the end of a semester. In such a case, you must obtain an Incomplete Grade Agreement Form at the Registrar's Office. Both the student and the course instructor must complete and sign the form before it can be approved.

## **Library Resources:**

Main page: <http://library.fgcu.edu/>

Tutorials & Handouts: <http://library.fgcu.edu/RSD/Instruction/tutorials.htm>

Research Guides: <http://fgcu.libguides.com/>

## **Assigned Reading/Viewing:**

Module 1: Theatre: Collaborative Acts chapters 1 & 2

Professional Interview: A Day in the Life of Steppenwolf Theatre

Module 2: Theatre: Collaborative Acts chapters 3, 4 & 5

*Trifles*

Video: *A Jury of Her Peers*

Module 3: Theatre: Collaborative Acts chapters 6 & 7

Module 4: Theatre: Collaborative Acts chapters 8 & 9

Excerpt from *365 Days/365 Plays*

Professional Interview with Suzan-Lori Parks

Module 5: Theatre: Collaborative Acts chapters 10 & 11

Video: Kabuki play featuring Tamasaburo

Module 6: Theatre: Collaborative Acts chapters 12 & 13

***Refer to the CANVAS course modules for PowerPoint presentations and additional information on assignments.***

## **Summary of due dates for Fall 2017 semester:**

Week #1: "Introduce Yourself" Discussion (please complete by Friday, August 25 at 3pm)

Week #2: Course Orientation Quiz due (please complete by Friday, September 1 at 3pm)

**YOU MUST COMPLETE THE "INTRODUCE YOURSELF" DISCUSSION AND COURSE ORIENTATION QUIZ TO UNLOCK THE REST OF THE COURSE**

**Theatre Appreciation REVISED dates for Fall 2017 semester:**

**Wednesday, September 20**

Classes resume

**Friday, September 22 at 3pm**

Module 1 Discussion REVISED DUE DATE

**Wednesday, September 27 at 3pm**

Affirmation of ticket purchase REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, September 29 at 3pm**

Quiz #1 REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, October 6 at 3pm**

Module 2 Discussion REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, October 13 at 3pm**

Quiz #2 REVISED DUE DATE

**Wednesday, October 18 at 3pm**

Dramaturgy Project Proposal REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, October 20 at 3pm**

Quiz #3 REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, October 27 at 3pm**

Module 4 Discussion REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, November 3 at 3pm**

Dramaturgy Project REVISED DUE DATE

**Wednesday, November 8 at 3pm**

Quiz #4 REVISED DUE DATE

**Wednesday, November 15 at 3pm**

Module 5 Discussion REVISED DUE DATE

**Tuesday, November 21 at 3pm**

Quiz #5 REVISED DUE DATE

**Wednesday, November 29**

Performance Review REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, December 8 at 3pm**

Quiz #6 REVISED DUE DATE

**Friday, December 15**

Review for Final Exam day

**Friday, December 22 at 3pm**

Final Exam REVISED DUE DATE

Final exam opens on December 18 and closes on December 22

**As of Fall 2015, all faculty members are required to confirm a student's attendance for each course by the end of the first week of classes. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. *The confirmation of attendance is required for all students, not only those receiving financial aid.***

**Syllabus Change Policy: *This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change.***