THEATRE APPRECIATION
THE2000 – Spring 2014

Lecture: Mon & Wed (11:45-12:35) - Carleton 100
Breakout session: Friday (see your schedule for time and location)

Professor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
Office: Nadine McGuire Pavilion, 2nd Fl., Rm. 229
(same building as the Constans Theatre - next to the Reitz Union)
Office Phone: (352) 273-0515
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 2:00-4:00
Email: cmitchell@ufl.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course is designed to expose you to live theatre so that you will better appreciate its complexities and cultural importance. Over the course of the semester, you will look behind the scenes in order to explore the collaborative processes that make it work. In addition to studying some of the literature, theories, history, forms, and styles of theatre, you will explore how influences such as ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and economic class have shaped the experience of theatre in the United States. You will also learn to write and speak critically about theatrical production. This course fulfills a general education and diversity requirement.

REQUIREMENTS
• You will do a close reading of all plays and supplemental material. There will be several quizzes given throughout the semester based on your play reading.
• You will see three live theatre productions and write a short paper about each one. I will post guidelines on Sakai.
• You will complete two production projects. I will post guidelines.
• There will be three exams and a final based on the lectures and assigned reading. I will provide a topic list for each exam. I do not give early exams - no exceptions. Exam dates are provided on the Course Outline but are subject to change. Make your family aware of the final exam date before they make holiday travel plans. I am prohibited from giving the final earlier than scheduled.

REQUIRED PLAYS
The following texts should be available in the bookstore:
Fat Pig by Neil Labute
The Piano Lesson by August Wilson
Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz
M. Butterfly by David Henry Hwang
The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman
How I Learned to Drive by Paula Vogel

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You can purchase any edition of these plays from any source but get them at the beginning of the semester. After a few weeks, unsold books in the campus bookstore are returned to the publishers. There is no valid excuse for not locating a copy of the play.

SAKAI
Additional readings, grades, announcements, and paper/project guidelines will be posted on the Sakai website. Log on to https://lss.at.ufl.edu/ (no “www”), click the orange “e-Learning Login” button, and then enter your Gatorlink username and password. This course should appear as long as you are officially registered. If you require assistance, start with the UF Computing Help Desk at http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES
For this class, you are required to see three plays. These productions will be the basis for three short papers and may appear in exam questions. You are required to see the School of Theatre and Dance’s production of Hobson’s Choice, Tribes, and Angels in America: Perestroika. Your student fees are used to purchase tickets for these shows. As soon as they are available, you will be given a coupon which you can trade for a ticket at the box office.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS and TA's
Every week on Friday (see your schedule), your section will meet in a different classroom with one of my teaching assistants. During these sessions, you will discuss assigned reading, do activities, or take exams. When discussing plays, it is expected that you will bring the text to class and share your opinions and observations. At the end of the semester, your TA will assign you a grade in Participation (see "Grade Breakdown"). This grade will be based on your degree of involvement in breakout sessions as well as attendance (see below). Simply showing up to class is not enough to earn an A in Participation. If you have any questions about the course or course material, contact me. If you have questions about missing grades, contact your TA.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
You are expected to attend all lectures and breakout sessions and are responsible for all material covered. If you miss a class, get the notes from a friend. The following attendance policy begins the first day you are enrolled in the course: You can miss three classes without penalty. Your fourth absence will automatically assure that the highest grade you can receive in Participation is a B, five absences will drop that level to a C, and six absences will earn you a failing grade for the entire course. I recommend that you save absences for illnesses because the only excused absences are religious holidays and documented participation in athletic or extracurricular activities. Weddings, job interviews, and other life events do not count as excused absences. If you have a logistical problem that is preventing you from arriving on time to class, notify your TA immediately. Otherwise, lateness will be factored into your Participation grade. Share all attendance documentation with your TA.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production Projects (2)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Exams</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Critiques</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Play quizzes 10%
Final Exam 10%
Participation 15% (assigned by your TA)
I do not curve grades and I do not offer extra credit.

SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-95</td>
<td>Superior Effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Good Effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Average Effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Minimum Effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59-</td>
<td>Reserved for Outstanding Effort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CLASS CONDUCT
Classes of this size demand a mutual respect to function positively. Therefore, there will be no cell phone use (including texting), sleeping, eating, drinking, doing work for other classes, reading, or disruptive talking in this class. If you engage in any of these behaviors, you will be ejected by me or one of my teaching assistants. Notes must be taken by hand. No laptops, netbooks or tablet computers can be open once class has begun. If you have special needs that require a computer, you must get permission from me to use it.

HONOR CODE
As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” If you cheat on a test or quiz, or plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else’s words or ideas without attribution, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

LEARNING DISABILITIES
If you have a disability that is documented with the Disability Resource Center and wish to discuss accommodations, please see me during office hours. If you have a learning disability that has not been documented, contact the DRC at 352.392.8565, email accessuf@dso.ufl.edu, or go
to their office at 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). I cannot provide accommodations unless I get documentation from the DRC.

**AVAILABILITY**
If you have something you want to discuss with me, feel free to stop by during my office hours. You are never bothering me by taking advantage of them. During these hours, I encourage you to bring drafts of your papers and projects. I will be happy to go over your work and suggest improvements. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, see me before or after class and we will come up with another time to meet.

Your ongoing enrollment is confirmation that you understand and will comply with the requirements of this course. I reserve the right to alter this syllabus if necessary.