Theatre & Society
USD Department of Theatre

THEA 111  
Section 02  
Spring 2020  
Location: Saints Tekakwitha & Serra Hall 314  
Time: MWF  
10:10- 11:05  

Instructor: Rana Salimi, Ph.D  
Email: rsalimi@sandiego.edu  

Office Location & Hours:  
Camino Hall 163B  
Wed: 9-10 am, 12:30- 1:30  
&  
By Appointment

Course Description:
From the USD course catalogue:  
“This course studies theatre as an art form and examines the historical role of theatre in the world and its significance as a cultural force. It involves attending plays, designing projects and/or performing. Satisfies the core curriculum fine arts requirement.”

Course Learning Objectives:
1. Students will develop both a conceptual understanding and practical application of technical skills related to the theatre discipline in performance and theatre production.
2. Students will show an increase in creative and critical thinking skills from the collaborative experience and theoretical examination of theatre practice.
3. Students will show an increase in organizational competence through their work in the theatre discipline.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:
1) Identify and discuss ways in which the theatre is relevant to our contemporary, diverse society and how it reflects the ideas and attitudes of the people who develop and inspire it.
2) Identify and distinguish theatrical skills, positions, and potentially desirable roles and jobs within the professional and academic theatre.
3) Be an active audience member and critic, able to articulate your opinion on each piece of theatre you experience, especially what you think the playwright or production is attempting to do, how well it has been done, and if it is worth doing.
4) Be able to analyze and discuss moral and ethical implications of plays and issues in the field of theatre and performance studies.
5) NOTE: This course deals with mature content and language. If this is a concern for you please see me right away.

Title IX Compliance:
USD recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. If you feel that any part of the class, members of the class, or professor are not upholding this standard, please report this either to the professor, Theatre Department chair or submit a report on https://www.sandiego.edu/titleix/.
A Note on Sexual Misconduct:
Our school is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and our school policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking — is also prohibited at our school.

Our school encourages anyone experiencing sexual misconduct to talk to someone about what happened, so they can get the support they need and our school can respond appropriately.

If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, want more information about filing a report, or have questions about school policies and procedures, please contact our Title IX Coordinator, which can be found on our school's website (see above).

Our school is legally obligated to investigate reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore it cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, but it will consider a request for confidentiality and respect it to the extent possible.

As a teacher, I am also required by our school to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident.

**Required Materials:**
*This course requires you to read a few plays. These plays are available to you on Blackboard.*

**Grading Criteria:**

**Class Participation: 20 pts**
You are expected to read the material, texts as well as plays, that are assigned for each session, before the class starts. This will allow you to participate actively and engage with the contents of our discussion. Participation in this class means active listening, taking notes, contributing to class discussions, and engaging in activities. In other words, showing up in class and observing do not guarantee an A.

**Backstage Tour: 5 pts**
We will tour the three stages of San Diego Old Globe Theatre. You can either come with the group or go on your own. The cost for this tour is $3.
**When: Saturday, Feb 15th**
Please visit Blackboard for more detailed information.

**Quizzes: 25 pts**
Throughout the semester, you will take 5 quizzes. Each quiz evaluates you on your understanding of the assigned material for that specific class. Put it another way, to make sure you receive A for all your quizzes, you need to read the assigned material for each class carefully and fully comprehend the lectures. Quizzes are given at the beginning of the class. That means if you are late, you miss the quiz.
**There is NO make up for quizzes.**
Theatre Critics: 30 pts
You are required to watch and write reviews for 2 LIVE shows. The first show is chosen by the instructor. You will be responsible to pay for the show. On Blackboard, you can find the Name, Time, and Locations of this particular show that we need to see together. If you choose not to accompany the group because of a medical, personal, or work-related excuse, you are still required to see the SAME SHOW. You will need to purchase the ticket on your own and watch the show before the first Review is due. Bear in mind, that as a group, we can get special rates that may not be applicable to individual audience members. The instructor has no responsibility in this regard.

For the second required show, we will watch one of the productions on campus or around the town. You are responsible to purchase/ reserve your own ticket and watch the show at your convenience. I highly recommend that you go to the shows on the dates the instructor suggests. This is to make sure that 1) you do not miss the production dates; 2) you do not have to pay extra for the tickets; and 3) you don’t miss the deadline to write your reviews. Please be advised that I will not be able to accommodate you should you miss the opportunity to view the shows.

On Blackboard, you can find theatre review samples and guidelines for this assignment. You will write your own impression of the theatre we have seen in 3-4 pages.

Creative Group Project: 20 pts
In place of a Final Exam, you are asked to produce an artwork. You are required to take a role of a Costume Designer, Set Designer, Director, or Performer in interpreting, analyzing, and producing a short scene of a play. More details will be available to you on Blackboard.

Due: Monday, May 18, 2020
11am – 1 pm
In Our Classroom

Extra Credit: 5 pts
See a show and bring your ticket stub for 5 points. No written Component is required.

Policies:
Classroom Etiquette:
For the duration of the semester, the classroom is yours to respect as the space where our work is done. Your entrance into the classroom signals your readiness to enter into the day’s work, and your willingness to be fully present for the other people in the room and to complete all necessary tasks.

Cell phones, laptop computers, & electronic devices of any kind will not be permitted in the classroom AT ANY TIME, unless it is a permitted tool for your specific activity & used accordingly. Repeated interruptions caused by cell phones, beepers, watches or other electronic devises are disruptive; turn them off before entering the classroom. If you do bring any such devices into the classroom, it is at your own risk. If your electronic devices prevent you from being fully present in the room (for instance, if you text message or Tweet), then it will negatively affect your participation grade; you will also be given one warning before being asked to leave class and counted absent.
If you fall asleep, yawn excessively, or are in any other way disruptive or disrespectful to members of the class, you will be asked to leave and counted absent. In other words, you must be totally present.

**Disruptive behavior (of any kind) in class will prevent a student from earning an A in the course.**

**The grading scale will be as follows:**

A+ = 97-100; A= 94-96; A- = 90-93  
B+ = 87-89; B= 84-86; B- = 80-83  
C+ = 77-79; C= 74-76; C- = 70-73

**Submission of Assignments:**
Assignments are due at Midnight of the dates announced for each assignment. Submit the assignment in word.doc format on our course’s Blackboard page. (you can log in at [http://ole.sandiego.edu](http://ole.sandiego.edu))

For helpful videos on how to use different features, go to [http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm](http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm).

When submitting assignments, name your file as follows: “first name” “last name” “assignment title”. For example, Rana Salimi, Theatre Review #1. Please do NOT use .pdf or .pages formats.

It is your responsibility to confirm that the attachments are correct and are not corrupted.

**Late Assignment Policy:**
Late assignments will receive a penalty of 1/3 a grade per calendar day late, including the day that the assignment is due if the work is not submitted in an appropriate format by Midnight.  
I do not grant extensions. Comments will be returned electronically; please make sure that your sandiego.edu email account is functioning properly & has not reached capacity. Graded material can only be sent to your sandiego.edu email account & you will need to check that account regularly.

**Lateness/Absence Policy:**
Punctuality is expected. This is a matter of respect for everyone in the class and for the work we engage in. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. If you are absent, late or if you leave early, it will be recorded and your participation grade will suffer.

I expect you to take responsibility for your choices & to accept the consequences of your decisions regarding your attendance. It is your responsibility to make arrangements regarding any missed work & to get the day’s notes from a peer BEFORE contacting me regarding any questions about the missed class. I will not re-teach the missed material but will answer specific questions during office hours. Furthermore, given the nature of the course, much of the work for this course will occur during class sessions and will not be able to be made up. I do understand that some absences are inevitable, but if you miss a large number of classes, your final grade will suffer and you may have to retake the course. If you anticipate certain absences, please notify me in advance, before the absence occurs.

You are allowed 2 excused absences. For each class you miss, in addition to the 2 excused ones, you lose 1 point.
**Athletic Commitments:**
If participation on a USD athletic team will cause ANY absences from production activities, you must discuss this with the professor during the first week of classes and provide official documentation of your athletic commitments (such as travel dates) at the beginning of the semester.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**
If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, students are encouraged to contact Disability Services in Serra 300 (260-4655) within the first three weeks of the semester to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. If you have emergency medical information you need to share with me or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me privately after class so we can make the necessary arrangements.

**Academic Integrity:**
Both the university and the Theatre Department take issues of academic integrity extremely seriously, and the penalties for engaging in any kind of academic dishonesty are severe. Under the policies of the University of San Diego, the penalties administered to a student engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will include the submission of an Academic Integrity Violation form and, at a minimum, receiving no credit (a “0”) for the assignment. They may also include receiving an “F” for the entire course or expulsion from the university.

Any test or paper submitted by you that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your instructor. (In other words, unless the project is clearly defined ahead of time as a group effort, all work, including essays and exams, must be absolutely your own, conceived of and executed without the assistance or input of any other person.) In all of your assignments you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. “Proper attribution” means that you have fully identified the original source & extent of your use of the words or ideas of others reproduced in your work in the form of MLA footnotes or parentheses. (See the MLA Handbook or the Quick Reference guide available through the Writing Center’s website: www.sandiego.edu/writingcenter/mla.php)

Please see “How To Guard Against Plagiarism: Guidelines for University Writing” (available at http://www.sandiego.edu/sli/resource/academicexcellence.php) and the USD Policy and Procedure Manual for more information.
Please note that this syllabus is subject to change!
If you miss a class session, it is your responsibility to check with me, or one of your peers, to make sure you have not missed any changes to the schedule.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: 1/27-1/31  
**Introduction to the Course**  
Your Stories  
What is Theatre?  
Read: Chapter 1, Pp. 1-20

Week 2: 2/3- 2/7  
**The Play**  
Read: Chapter 2, Pp. 23-39  
Read: Medea  
Quiz 1 (Monday, 2/3)

Week 3: 2/10- 2/14  
**Scenic Design**  
Read: Chapter 7, Pp. 121-134  
**Backstage Tour, Sat 2/15 @ 10:30 am**

Week 4: 2/17-2/21  
**Costumes, Lighting, & Sound**  
Read: Chapter 8, Pp. 137-155  
Quiz 2 (Monday, 2/17)

Week 5: 2/24- 2/28  
**Watch and Analyze a Production (Hurricane Diane)**  
The Critic  
Read: Chapter 10, Pp. 183-189  
Theatre Critic #1 Due: Friday 2/28 Midnight

March 2-6  
**Spring Break**  
No Class
Week 6: 3/9 - 3/13  
**The Audience**  
Read: Chapter 9, Pp. 157 - 179  
Watch: *Hamilton*

Week 7: 3/16 - 3/20  
**Play Analysis**  
Read: *Lydia*  
**The Playwright**  
Read: Chapter 3, Pp. 43 - 71  
*Quiz 3 (Monday, 3/16)*

Week 8: 3/23 - 3/27  
**Directing**  
Read: Chapter 5, Pp. 93-110  
Watch and Analyze: *Hedda Gabler*  
**Play Analysis**  
Read: *Macbeth*  
*Quiz 4 (Monday, 3/23)*

Week 9: 4/6 - 4/8  
**Acting**  
Read: Chapter 4, Pp. 73 - 90  
Watch and analyze: *Topdog/ Underdog*

April 9-13  
Easter Break; No Class

Week 10: 4/15 - 4/17  
**Producing**  
Read: Chapter 6, Pp. 113 - 118  
Watch: *Moon Over Broadway*  
*Theatre Review #2 Due: Friday, April 17th by Midnight*

Week 11: 4/20 - 4/24  
**Documentary Theatre**  
Production Analysis: *The Laramie Project*  
Read: Pp. 397 - 402

Week 12: 4/27 - 5/1  
**Documentary Theatre**  
Production Analysis: *Twilight, Los Angeles: 1992*  
*Quiz 5 (Monday 4/27)*
Week 13: 5/4- 5/8  World Theatre (Students’ Choice)

Week 14: 5/11- 5/13  In-Class Study for Final Project

Monday, 5/18  Creative Group Project
11 am- 1 pm
Our Classroom

It is the group members’ responsibility to provide all the equipment necessary to showcase their work on screen. If you do not have access to camcorders, phones, or other devices necessary to videotape your performance, you should talk to me as soon as possible. Also make sure your video clip is compatible with your laptop or other devices you are about to use to show your clip. Again, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor in advance if you need specific equipment for your screening. You will lose points if you come to class unprepared.