

# THEATRE APPRECIATION

**Course:** THEA 105 (FALL 2018)

**Instructor:** Dr. Sarah J. Rudolph

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**Office:** NFAC 211

**Class Time:** T&R 3:30-4:45 pm

**Office Hours:** T 12-2:30 and by appt

## Required Text:

Brockett, Oscar and Ball, Robert J. (editors) *Plays for the Theatre*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston: Wadsworth (Cengage), 2014. RENTAL.

## Required Production Attendance:

You are required to attend one of the following performances of UW-Stevens Point Department of Theatre and Dance's production of Tennessee Williams'

### *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* *October 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19 & 20*

UWSP students must acquire tickets IN PERSON at University Information & Tickets (in the Dreyfus University Center-Concourse Level) and bring their UWSP ID in order to receive discounted tickets. You must see this production—no substitutions.

**Ticket Information: 715-346-4100**

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**Course Description:** This course explores the theatre and dramatic traditions of Western Civilization. Refer to plays as DRAMA, once they are put on stage, we use the term THEATRE. Careful reading of the assigned material before class will enable you to understand drama in relation to various aspects of theatre including relevant historical/social context, evolving theatre architecture and practices. By semester's end, you should be able to "appreciate theatre" with knowledge to enrich the experience as audience member; and you may also be inspired to pursue new interests in future study and application.

## Specific Learning Outcomes

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- Gain an understanding of major developments in theatre: Ancient Greece, Elizabethan, Dramatic and Theatrical Realism, and various departures to such tradition in the form of poetic realism, issue based theatre, and expanding definitions of theatre to include performance.
  - Demonstrate the ability to think critically about live performance, putting into writing detailed observations about the production and how they (or fail to) deliver a cohesive piece of theatre.
  - Understand the various aspects involved in production including acting, directing, design, and marketing
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*All courses in the humanities ask that you approach the subject matter with maturity and a healthy respect for other cultures and belief systems. Some of the plays we read have strong language and explore issues related to sexuality, social norms, value.*

**Attendance Policy and Class Decorum:** A good deal the course material will be in the form of lecture. By the second week of class, we will establish a seating chart. This chart will enable students to work with the same individuals when we do interactive work in class; and make it easier for me to track your attendance. Students who disrupt class will be asked to leave and not given credit for daily participation activity—whether it is during that particular class *or* for the most recent activity. Habitual disruption will result in appropriate disciplinary action and lowered or failing grade.

**Extra Credit:** Seeing additional plays will be worth up to 10 extra credit points; there will be optional questions about these plays on Exams 3 or 4.

- ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SEE UW-Stevens Point Dept of Theatre and Dance production of *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF*. October 12-14, 17-20, *Studio Theatre*.
- Options for extra credit productions include
  - UWSP Department of Theatre and Dance, *Heathers*. November 9-11, 14-17; Jenkins Theatre.
  - University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Wausau, *The Putnam County Spelling Bee*. November 2- 4.
  - University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Marshfield, *Too Much Light Makes the Baby go Blind*, November 1- 4.
  - UWSP Department of Theatre and Dance, *Afterimages*. December 6-9; Jenkins Theatre.

**Missed In-class Work:** Students absent for university-sponsored activities or mandatory military service may make up work missed due to such absence with no penalty. Proof of involvement in an officially sanctioned university event must be before the event occurs. Exams must be taken on the date listed in the syllabus. If I allow you to take it prior to the next class period, you will only be eligible for 50% of the points in question. You will not be allowed to make up participation activities as there are more given than required for the participation point total.

**Exams & Grading:** There will be four exams during the term; these will consist primarily of multiple choice questions and identification of terms. These exams will also include short answers about production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and other productions you attend for extra credit.

375	Exams 1. 2. 4 @ 125 pts. each	
175	Exam 3 .	1
300	Comprehensive Final	
150	Writing, Other in Class Activities (15 @ 10)*	

930-1000 points=A 900-929=A- 870-899=B+ 830-869=B  
800-829=B- 770-779=C+ 700-730=C- 640-699=D 639-0=F

*\*there will be more than 15; I will include the top 15 scores in calculating your course grade.*

**Cheating:** Students found cheating on an exam or other in class activity will fail the work in question and be you referred to your advisor and/or academic dean for appropriate disciplinary action.

**Disability & Assistive Technology Services:** Please see me to discuss accommodations.

**Class Room Security:** See UWSP Risk Management Department's website.

# Schedule

Please note that the DUE means you need to come to class with reading done. Please check D2L and campus email for modifications to this schedule and other announcements.

DATE	TOPIC	DUE
T Sept 4	Introduction to Course Defining “Theatre” and “Drama” Begin Aristotle’s Six Parts of the Drama	
R Sept 6	Aristotle’s Six Parts of Drama Begin Reading <i>A Doll House</i>	
T Sept 11	Aristotle’s Six Parts Applied	<i>A Doll House</i>
R Sept 13	Production Concept	
T Sept 18	History and Theories of Acting	
R Sept 20	History and Theories of Acting	
T Sept 25	Scoring the Scene Exam 1 Review Session	, <i>Angels in America</i> , pp 503-505 (scene IX)
R Sept 27	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
T Oct 2	Tennessee Williams and the Development of American Theatre	
R Oct 4	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>
T Oct 9	Characterization in <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>	
R Oct 11	Theatre Etiquette and the Role of the Critic Exam Review	
T Oct 16	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
R Oct 18	The Classical Origins of Theatre	<i>Oedipus</i>
T Oct 23	<i>Oedipus</i> on Stage, The Designer	
R Oct 25	The Nature of Tragedy, Tragic Hero	Act I <i>Hamlet</i>
T Oct 30	Diction, Pentameter and Scansion	Act II, III <i>Hamlet</i>
R Nov 1	<b>Hamlet</b> , Universality and Revision Exam Review	Act V <i>Hamlet</i>
T Nov 6	Film Adaptations of <i>Hamlet</i>	
R Nov 8	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
T Nov 13	Brecht, Artaud and other Departures from Modern Realism	

R Nov 15	<i>How I Learned to Drive</i>	<i>How I Learned to Drive</i>
T Nov 20	Issue Driven Theatre	
R Nov 22	<i>Happy Thanksgiving, No Class</i>	
T Nov 27	Evolving Spaces, Ideas, Forms of Theatre	
R Nov 29	Evolving Forms, continued Exam Review	
T Dec 4	<b>EXAM 4</b>	
R Dec 6	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>
T Dec 11	Finish <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Final Exam Review	
R Dec 13	Final Exam Review	

Cumulative Final Examination: must be taken on assigned day during the Final Exam Period.