

THEA 100 - Introduction to Theatre

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2023	Instructor:	James Patterson, PhD
Course Title:	Introduction to Theatre	Email:	james.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20558		
Classroom:	Room 3400	Office #:	Office 2795
Class Days:	Tuesdays	Office Hours:	TBA
Class Times:	1:00 – 4:10 p.m.	Phone:	760.355.6486 (message only)
Units:	3 units		

Course Description

The class focuses on the relationship of theatre to various cultures throughout history and on the contributions of significant individual artists. This course introduces students to elements of the production process including playwrighting, acting, directing, design, and criticism. Students will also survey different periods, styles, and genres of theatre through play reading, discussion, films, and viewing and critiquing live theatre.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the nature of theatre and its role in society.
2. Assess the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical contexts in which theatre exists.
3. Critically analyze dramatic literature and performances.
4. Identify and examine theatrical components in production.
5. Propose alternative solutions to theatrical production situations.
6. Appreciate viewing theatre as an art form.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Patterson, James David. *The Seeing Place: an Introduction to Theatre*. Glenn Paul Press, 2009.

ISBN: 978-0-692-97340-0. This is an Open Educational Resource (OER) available in Canvas. www.glennpaulpress.com/projects

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Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Periodic Examinations [100 pts possible]: The student will complete short, objective quizzes over assigned readings from the required textbook and classroom lecture material.

Missed examinations cannot be made up. Students who anticipate an absence should arrange to take the exam(s) early, before the date of the examination.

Research Paper [100 pts possible]: The student will be assigned one of the historical periods covered in a chapter of the textbook to develop a 3-page research paper.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Analyze and evaluate the nature of theatre and its role in society.
2. Assess the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical contexts in which theatre exists.

The general understanding of theatre history and production will be covered in other assignments in this course. This Research Paper assignment requires students to conduct in-depth research and write an in-depth research paper demonstrating effective research into a specific element of the historical period or movement selected.

The research paper assignment will be graded in three phases: (1) Research, (2) First Draft, and (3) Final Draft.

Research: The research paper must include a minimum of three credible sources, one of which must be the required textbook. The student will provide the research sources in correct MLA textual citations and bibliographic documentation. [15 pts possible]

First Draft: During a designated class period, the student will write a first draft of his/her research paper without quotes or citations. The first draft must include Introduction, Body (at least two main points), and Conclusion. The first draft will be graded on content and correct spelling, grammar, and development. [35 pts possible]

- 35 points for well-developed papers in MLA format with minor errors.
- 30 points for papers with redundancy (fluff and nonsense).
- 25 points for papers that lack of focus or depth.
- 20 points for papers with significant errors in grammar or documentation.
- 10 points for off-topic papers or papers with plagiarized material.
- Zero points for papers without bibliography or incomplete papers.

Final Draft: The research paper must follow appropriate MLA format and documentation guidelines and must contain correct spelling, grammar, and development. [50 pts possible]

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The text of the Final Draft must be 3 pages in length, double-spaced throughout. The paper must include a clear introduction and a complete concluding paragraph. The paper must have clear external transitions between points/sections. Every paragraph should have at least three sentences.

The paper must include research materials – some quoted and some paraphrased – provided with appropriate reference citations in the text of the paper keyed to the appropriately documented source materials on the Works Cited page.

Quoted material must be enclosed in quotation marks. (Three or more words in sequence, taken from the source material, is considered a direct quote.) The citations and documentation must follow appropriate MLA format guidelines. The paper must have a minimum of three sources, one of this must be the required textbook for the course.

Information and guidelines for MLA formatting can be found at the Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_mla.html

Unacceptable Papers

Student writing that does not follow MLA formatting, which lacks clear organization/development or wanders outside the parameters of the assignment, and/or which contains numerous errors in grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling is considered unacceptable. The Final Draft will be returned to the student with a zero grade.

Also **unacceptable** are papers that provide a generic overview of the historical period or movement selected by the student.

Late Submissions

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Extra Points

Additional points can be earned by submitted an early draft of the research paper to NetTutor. The student can follow the link in Canvas to submit/upload a copy of the paper. NetTutor typically will respond within 48 hours. The student should turn in a copy of the NetTutor report with the Final Draft.

Theatre Project – Playwrighting [50 pts possible]: The student will develop and write a three-character, single location scene which runs approximately ten (10) minutes in performance.

- The scene must have a beginning, middle, and end.
- The scene must be typed according to the appropriate script format (available from the instructor).
- The play must use correct grammar and spelling (dialogue may be developed appropriate to Character/ Diction).

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Scenes are due at the beginning of the class designated by the instructor. Scenes may be submitted early but will not be accepted after the due date/time.

Points	Criteria
50	Student submission meets all requirements and is interesting/entertaining to read.
45	Three (3) actors required, single location, approximately ten-minutes to perform. Appropriate script format with five or fewer errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation.
30	Three (3) actors required, single location, approximately ten-minutes to perform. Appropriate script format with more than five errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation.
25	Appropriate script format has been used, but the play requires more than three (3) actors and/or multiple locations.

Canvas Message for Returning Graded Playscripts

IVC Theatre 100 students,

I am preparing to return your graded Playwriting Projects. I've mentioned in class that these 10-minute plays were bad across the board. Please review the rubric in the course syllabus for more information.

1. Every sentence in English must begin with a capital letter.
 2. Every sentence in English must end with an appropriate punctuation mark.
 3. People may speak in sentence fragments, but we never speak in comma splice errors or fused sentences.
 4. Students were assigned to use one of the two playwriting formats provided in the online textbook. Failure to format your play correctly doesn't even reach the grade rubric in the syllabus.
 5. The primary purpose of the assignment was to write a play script that could be performed in the front of the classroom and take approximately 10 minutes to perform.
 6. You were not limited to three speaking roles; you were limited to three actors. People driving through a busy parking lot require multiple actors to show that on stage.
- ... Dr. Patterson

Theatre Project – Acting [50 pts possible]: The student will prepare and perform an assigned monologue before the class. The monologue must be delivered verbatim and make a clear attempt at characterization. Two monologues (male and female) are provided later in this syllabus. The student may present a different monologue only with prior instructor approval. A copy of the monologue must be provided to the instructor at least 48 hours in advance.

Monologues must be presented in the class period designated. Students who anticipate an absence should arrange to perform their monologues early.

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Points	Criteria
50	The student delivers the monologue without obvious error.
47	The student completes the monologue but with minor problems.
40	The student completes the monologue, but there are several obvious difficulties, errors, or false starts.
35	The student is able to complete at least half of the monologue but cannot finish without prompting.

Theatre Project - Design [50 pts possible]: The student will develop a floorplan for a scene from a selected script and design one costume for the same scene. The script must be selected from those scripts viewed in class:

Oedipus Rex by Sophocles

Everyman (anonymous)

The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

The Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Points	Criteria
50	The student completes an interesting floorplan and submits an appropriate costume for a character in the scene selected.
45	The student completes a basic floorplan and basic costume design.
40	The student submits a floorplan and costume design which evidence a rushed product.
25	The student submits a floorplan or a costume design, but not both.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Late or Make-up work will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on 2 June 2023.

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Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Periodic Examinations	100
Research Paper	100
Theatre Project: Playwrighting	50
Theatre Project: Acting	50
Theatre Project: Design	50

Minimum Point Total for a **Passing Grade of C: 250 points**

Grades in Canvas

Warning: The grades (points) in Canvas are not a true account of the student's status in the course. Dr. Patterson maintains some points separate from the Canvas grades.

Co-Curricular Theatrical Opportunities

The student must score at least 60% on the in-class examinations to be eligible for these extra credit opportunities.

Option A: [20 pts possible]

Should the student have an opportunity to attend a theatrical production during the semester, the student may earn extra credit by preparing a two-page, typed critique of the production. The student should include the playbill/program or ticket stub with the critique. The critique must follow MLA formatting guidelines and demonstrate correct grammar and punctuation.

Option B: [possible points will vary]

Should the student have an opportunity to participate significantly in a local theatrical production (during the semester), extra credit can be awarded toward the final grade in this course. The student should complete a log of dates, times, and work completed in the production

Tentative Class Schedule/Calendar

Tuesday	Topic(s)	Beginning of class
February 14	Opening Day Roster / Introduction to Course	
February 21	Why Study Theatre / Research Paper assignment	Chapter 1 quiz
February 28	Theatre Beginnings Conducting Research	Chapter 2 quiz Topic due

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Tuesday	Topic(s)	Beginning of class
March 7	<i>Oedipus Rex</i> by Sophocles (1957) with Douglas Campbell and Eleanor Stuart	
March 14	Essentials of Theatre How to Write a Research Paper	Chapter 3 quiz
March 21	The Playwright	Chapter 4 quiz
March 28	Roman to Medieval Theatre <i>Everyman</i> (anonymous)	Chapter 5 quiz
April 4	The Golden Ages, Part I <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> by William Shakespeare	10-minute play Chapter 6 quiz
April 18	The Golden Ages, Part II <i>A Doll's House</i> by Henrik Ibsen (YouTube)	Chapter 7 quiz
April 25	Acting	Chapter 8 quiz First Drafts due
May 2	Twentieth Century Movements in Theatre	Monologues Chapter 9 quiz
May 9	Directing	Chapter 10 quiz
May 16	The Modern Age <i>The Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller	Final Drafts due Chapter 11 quiz
May 23	Design	Chapter 12 quiz
May 30	The Theatre Today	Chapter 13 quiz
June 6	Course Evaluation & Final Examination period	Design Projects

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Students will evidence a satisfactory level of knowledge of theatre history (Greek, Roman, Medieval, Elizabethan, 17th Century France, Melodrama, Realism, and Non-realism) through objective examination.
2. Students will evidence a satisfactory level of awareness of theatre production processes through specific projects in Playwriting, Acting, and Design.
3. Students will demonstrate a familiarity with performance theory related to Acting and Directing.

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Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source.
 - Quoting from a source without identifying the quoted words with quotation marks is plagiarism.
 - Failing to provide accurate and complete bibliographic information for research materials is plagiarism.
- You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly cite a source, you must ask for help. There is no difference between accidental and intentional plagiarism.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) plagiarism;
- (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
- (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination;
- (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; and/or
- (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped from the Opening Day Roster by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. A student who fails to attend the second meeting of the class will be dropped on the

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Census Roster. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class.

- It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details. The deadline to drop with "W" is **13 May 2023**.
- Dr. Patterson only drops students on the Opening Day Roster (13 February) and the Census Roster (27 February).
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.