THTR 110: Origins & Theories of Theater
Fall 2008

Instructor: D. Ohlandt
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TR 9:30pm - 10:50pm
Buchanan 200

Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm
Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am
and by appointment

Schedule of Events & Assignments
this schedule is subject to change

8/28  Th SYLLABUS AND OVERVIEW
Creative Spirit Ch. #1 pp. 10-19 "Professional Performance: Four Stories"
Creative Spirit Ch. #2 pp. 24-27 "The Power of the Theatre"

UNIT: Theater as Religion / Religion As Theater

9/2  T CLASSICAL GREEK THEATER
Creative Spirit Ch. #2 pp. 27-34 "The Greek Theatre: Athens, 5th Century B.C.E."
Creative Spirit Ch. #13 pp. 427-434 "Tragedy and Comedy"

9/4  Th ** short paper #1 due
EURIPIDES’ MEDEA
Medea by Euripides (linked on Moodle)
Creative Spirit Ch. #13 pp. 443-449 "The Critic" and "Two Reviews of Medea"

9/9  T HOPI PERFORMANCE, MEDIEVAL MYSTERY PLAYS
Creative Spirit Ch. #1 pp. 2-10 "Personal Performance" and "Community Performance"
Creative Spirit Ch. #2 pp. 35-38 "The Medieval Mystery Cycle"
** glossary check

9/11  Th PERFORMANCE STUDIES
readings TBA
Jonestown articles and overview

Fri 9/12  FIELD TRIP  The People's Temple @ American Theater Company

9/16  T ** short paper #2 due
RELIGION AS DRAMATIC MATERIAL
The People’s Temple performance discussion
Creative Spirit Ch. #14 pp. 453-461 "Exploring the Text of Dog Lady"

9/18  Th SANCHEZ-SCOTT’S DOG LADY
Dog Lady by Milcha Sanchez-Scott (Creative Spirit Ch. #14 pp. 461-473)
Creative Spirit Ch. #14 pp. 473-478 "Producing Dog Lady"
9/23 T RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES & RITUALS
readings TBA
** glossary check

UNIT: Theater As Education / Education As Theater

9/25 Th TEACHING THROUGH THEATER
Creative Spirit Ch. #3 pp. 63-75 "Exploring the Text of Joe Turner's Come and Gone"
Creative Spirit Ch. #9 pp. 263-270 "Exploring the Text of And the Soul Shall Dance"

9/30 T ** short paper #3 due
USING REALISTIC STYLE TO EDUCATE: WILSON'S JOE TURNER’S COME AND GONE
Creative Spirit Ch. #8 pp. 246-248 "Realistic Elements in Joe Turner’s Come and Gone" and "Realism in Film"
Act I of Joe Turner’s Come and Gone by August Wilson (Creative Spirit Ch. #3 pp. 76-99)

10/2 Th WILSON'S JOE TURNER’S COME AND GONE
Act II of Joe Turner’s Come and Gone by August Wilson (Creative Spirit Ch. #3 pp. 99-115)
Creative Spirit Ch. #3 pp. 115-128 "Producing Joe Turner’s Come and Gone"

10/7 T TEACHING ABOUT CULTURE: YAMAUCHI’S AND THE SOUL SHALL DANCE
Creative Spirit Ch. #9 pp. 270-271 "Evoking a World Through Detail"
Act I - And the Soul Shall Dance by Wakako Yamauchi (Creative Spirit Ch. #9 pp. 272-286)
** glossary check

10/9 Th YAMAUCHI’S AND THE SOUL SHALL DANCE
Act II - And the Soul Shall Dance by Wakako Yamauchi (Creative Spirit Ch. #9 pp. 286-302)
Creative Spirit Ch. #9 pp. 303-315 "Producing And the Soul Shall Dance"

Fri 10/10 FIELD TRIP  Amadeus @ Chicago Shakespeare Theatre

10/14 T ** short paper #4 due
BEING EDUCATED BY THEATER
Creative Spirit Ch. #12 pp. 409-422 "The Elements of Drama and Dramatic Structure"
Amadeus performance discussion

10/16 Th CLASSROOM PERFORMANCES
Goffman “Performances: Belief in the Part One is Playing” (posted on Moodle)
Mossman "Visible Disability in the College Classroom" (posted on Moodle)

10/21 T FALL BREAK - no class

10/23 Th student presentations on the "drama of education"
UNIT: Theater As Politics / Politics As Theater

Monday 10/27 @ 5:00pm in Mohr Student Center (required)
performance of monologues about immigration, created by the Theater Department and OIR

10/28  T    ** research paper topic due
KEY MOVEMENTS & FIGURES OF POLITICAL THEATER
Creative Spirit  Ch. #8 pp. 248-253 "Social Background of Realism" and "European Realism"
Creative Spirit  Ch. #10 pp. 325-328 "Bertolt Brecht"
Creative Spirit  Ch. #10 pp. 328-329 "Theatre of the Absurd"
Creative Spirit  Ch. #2  pp. 51-56 "Theatre As A Mirror of Society"

10/30  Th  NON-REALISM TO MAKE A POINT: KUSHNER’S ANGELS IN AMERICA
Creative Spirit  Ch. #11 pp. 339-348 "Exploring the Text of Angels in America"
Act I of Angels in America: Millenium Approaches by Tony Kushner (Creative Spirit Ch. #11 pp. 350-367)

11/4  T    KUSHNER’S ANGELS IN AMERICA
Act II of Angels in America: Millenium Approaches by Tony Kushner (Creative Spirit Ch. #11 pp. 367-398)
Creative Spirit  Ch. #11 pp. 398-405 "Producing Angels in America"
** glossary check

11/6  Th  Professor Ohlandt away at a conference-- NO CLASS MEETING
– arrange to watch the film The Cradle Will Rock as a class by next Tuesday (a responsible student may borrow the DVD from Professor Ohlandt)
– arrange to rehearse your scene(s) from Angels in America

11/11  T  ** research paper outline DUE
scenes from Angels in America DUE
discussion on the FEDERAL THEATER PROJECT

11/13  Th  THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
readings TBA

UNIT: Theater As Entertainment / Entertainment as Theater

11/18  T    SHAKESPEARE’S WORLD: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
Creative Spirit  Ch. #2 pp. 39-45 "The Elizabethan Theatre"
A Midsummer Night’s Dream  Acts I-III (linked on Moodle)
** glossary check

11/20  Th  A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
A Midsummer Night’s Dream  Acts IV-V (linked on Moodle)
Creative Spirit  Ch. #13 pp. 434-440 "Melodrama" "Tragicomedy" "Farce"
Creative Spirit  Ch. #13 pp. 440-441 "Writing About the Theatre: The Dramaturg"
SEE THIS WEEKEND  *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* - Allan Carr Theater, Hixon Hall  
call 847-735-6169 to make your reservation  
free for LFC students, Thursday-Saturday, 8pm nightly with a 2pm Saturday matinee

11/25  T  ** research paper due  
*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* performance discussion

11/27  Th  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - no class

12/2  T  OTHER FORMS OF PROFESSIONAL THEATER  
*Creative Spirit* Ch. #2  pp. 45-51 "The Beijing Opera of China"  
*Creative Spirit* Ch. #8  pp. 254-256 "Poetic Realism" and "Realistic Acting"  
*Creative Spirit* Ch. #10  pp. 321-324 "Exposing the Mechanics of the Theatre" and "Expressionism"  
*Creative Spirit* Ch. #10  pp. 329-331 "Martha Graham"  
*Creative Spirit* Ch. #10  pp. 331-333 "Robert Wilson"  
*Creative Spirit* Ch. #10  pp. 333-335 "Shen Wei"

12/4  Th  RITUALS AND PERFORMANCES AT SPORTING EVENTS  
readings TBA

12/9  T  RITUAL, EDUCATION, POLITICS, AND ENTERTAINMENT  
*how to look at everything as theater and see everything in theater!*  
** glossaries due

FINAL EXAM  details TBA  
Friday, December 12  8:30 - 11:30am