

THR 468W: EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

CID 4344

Spring 2011

TuTh 12:30-1:50 p.m.

PAC 240 (Performing Arts Center)

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Office: PAC 284-F

Hours: MWF 10:00-11:45 a.m.

Catalogue Description

Analysis of plays that depart from the realistic genre and examination of new production possibilities arising out of developments in theatre technology that will complement the experiments of the playwrights. Application of theory in laboratory productions. Writing Enhanced. Credit 3.

Course Description

On most days, we will spend the first half of the class period exploring past experimental theatre theory and practice including excerpts from scripts, video, and film. During the second half, we will create and produce our own individual and group "experiments" using both pre-existing and original source material. As a class, we will decide if, when, and how we will share our projects with the SHSU community.

Graded Components

5 experimental theatre projects, each worth 20% of your final course grade. For each project, half of your grade comes from the producing and performing of the project; (following with the requirements for "writing enhanced" courses) the other half comes from a 1000-word individually written response to your process (500 words) and product (500 words).

Project #1: Image vs. Word

object-action scene, individually written, team performed
tentative schedule: perform 2/3 with paper due 2/10

Project #2: Post-Avant-Garde

team performed existing text once considered avant-garde
tentative schedule: perform 2/24 with paper due 3/3

Project #3: Non-Text Text

team creation and performance that starts with a painting or piece of music as its source "text"; may be performed in a found space

tentative schedule: perform 3/24 with paper due 3/31

Project #4: ADS Personal Narrative

individually recorded and recreated/performed in the style of Anne Devere Smith

tentative schedule: perform 4/14 with paper due 4/21

Project #5: Mixed Media/New Technology

individually designed final project using mixed media (elements not used in "traditional" theatre and/or new technology; may include non-class members in the production and performance

tentative schedule: perform 5/5 with paper due 5/12

I reserve the right to redefine and reorder any of these projects; however, there will be 5 graded projects with 5 resulting papers.

Attendance

By university policy for classes that meet two times each week (T-day classes), you may not be penalized for up to 2 absences, nor for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance; beyond that depends on instructor discretion.

After 2 absences, you will be penalized -5 points from your final course grade for each excess absence, unless there is written intervention (with specific dates, times, and reason) from our department chair or the Dean of Students.

For each day of class that you arrive on time, you will be rewarded with 1/8th of a point (a "tasty treat") to be added to your final course grade.

Late Work

Anything submitted late will be penalized one letter grade (-10 points) for each week overdue.

Final Exam

There is no final exam nor class meeting during the final exam period. No materials will be accepted after 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 12.

Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Beverages are permitted, if they are in spill-proof containers. Laptops are permitted only if the project necessitates and the instructor gives permission. Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight.

Academic Dishonesty

Any incident of academic dishonesty, most notably submitting someone else's work with your name on it, will result in a grade of zero for the project as well as a report to the department chair. Any subsequent incident will result in automatic course failure and a report to the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and the Dean of Students.

Final Course Grade

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F

Students with Disabilities

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, you should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and then talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Please note that no accommodation will be made until you register with the Counseling Center.