

**USF Sarasota-Manatee**  
**THE 2000, Section TBD, 3 credit hours**  
**Theater and Culture**  
**Fall 2014**

**Instructor:** TBA  
**E-Mail:** TBA

**Office:** TBA  
**Office Telephone:** TBA  
**Office Hours:** TBA

**PREREQUISITES:** none

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course explores the contributions of theatre practitioners and audiences to the performance experience, aspects of theater making and an overview of theater history.

**COURSE TOPICS:**

This course will cover the following content areas with varying degrees of emphasis:

1. Theater as an art form
2. Dramatic literature
3. Theatrical genres
4. Theater production and practitioners
5. Dramatic interpretation of modern societal themes
6. Theater today. What do plays from the past have to offer audiences today?

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course is designed to expose students to theatre so that they appreciate its complexities and cultural importance. Over the course of the semester, students will the collaborative processes that make theater work. In addition to studying dramatic literature, theories, history, forms, and styles, students will evaluate how theatrical performances and literature explore societal issues such as ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and economic class. Students will also learn to think and write critically about theatrical productions.

**COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, successful students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Think critically through demonstrating interpretive ability and cultural literacy (Florida DOE Statewide General Education Humanities Learning Outcome #1).
2. Reflect critically upon the human condition (Florida DOE Statewide General Education Humanities Learning Outcome #2).
3. Apply their knowledge of theatre practice to analyze plays critically, both as text and performance.
4. Compare and contrast playing spaces, playing methods, representative plays, and the social context of theater.
5. Develop and defend informed judgments about theatre.

**TEXT AND MATERIALS**

A. The required text for this course is: Theatre: The Lively Art, 8th Edition (2013) by Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb. ISBN-13 9780073514208.

B. Materials: You will also be required to have a laptop with regular access to the Internet.

**CANVAS USE:**

The class syllabus is posted in CANVAS, an online course management system. In this course, CANVAS will be used for course announcements, grading, assignment information, and assessments.

Information on how to use CANVAS is available at:

[http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/DE/current\\_students.php](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/DE/current_students.php)

Other sources for assistance are the toll-free hotline, (866) 974-1222 or the live online help site:

[http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/app/chat/chat\\_launch](http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/app/chat/chat_launch)

**Need help?**

CANVAS Support is available through USFSM E-Learning staff from 9am to 5pm, Monday - Friday. Please call or email Dale Drees at 941-359-4215 [djdrees@sar.usf.edu](mailto:djdrees@sar.usf.edu).

The USF Tampa IT Helpdesk provides 24 hour support for CANVAS. Please call 813-974-1222 or email: [help@usf.edu](mailto:help@usf.edu) if you need assistance outside of USFSM's E-Learning hours.

Additionally, CANVAS tutorials can be found in the Student Quickstart Guide at

**GRADING, EVALUATION AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES:**

Points are earned for each assignment and contribute to a percentage of your final grade following the grading scheme below.

<b>CATEGORY/EXPLANATION</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<p><b>Performance Critiques *</b> Students will write <u>two</u> 3-4 page critiques for each required live theater performance. These critiques involve submitting a first draft and then revising that draft based on the instructor's comments. Tickets for two performances at the Asolo Theater (Conservatory or Rep) are provided to students taking THE 2000 free of charge. The dates for the performances are included on the syllabus because attendance is required for both performances.</p>	30% (15% each)
<p><b>Dramatic Literature Critique *</b> Students will write <u>one</u> 3-4 page critical analysis of a dramatic text read in class. The instructor will determine the exact nature of this reading response. The text may be one of the performed plays or it may be another play selected by the instructor.</p>	20%
<p><b>Community Engagement Reflections *</b> Students will write <u>two</u> 2-3 page papers reflecting on their experiences participating in local theater events and/or interacting with actors or other artists involved in dramatic production. These essays will engage the importance of theater to communities and how theater can engage citizens in issues of local, global, or national concern.</p>	20% (10% each)
<p>* All critique and reflection papers must be uploaded to Canvas as MS Word .doc files by the due date. Papers should be 12 pt. font, with one-inch margins and 1.5-paragraph spacing. Guidelines for the written critiques and reflections will be discussed in class and provided on CANVAS.</p>	
<p><b>Midterm and Final Exam</b> One midterm exam and one final exam will be given in this course. The final exam is cumulative. Exams may include a variety of question styles: true/false, multiple choice, short answers, identifications and listening. A study guide that identifies topics covered on each exam will be provided in class. Students who miss an exam and wish to make-up the points must immediately provide written evidence of a serious obstacle (such as hospitalization) and complete a similar exam at the instructor's convenience.</p>	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Late work**

Late work will be penalized 10% of the total points for each day that an assignment is late. Weekends (Saturday and Sunday) are counted as two days; USFSM recognized holidays are not counted. NOTE: The weekends preceding and following Semester Break holidays will be counted.

The final grade scale will be:

94-100%	A	87-89%	B+	77-79%	C+	67-69%	D+	≤59%	F
90-93%	A-	84-86%	B	74-76%	C	64-66%	D		
		80-83%	B-	70-73%	C-	60-63%	D-		
Exceptional		Very Good		Average		Below Average		Failing	

**Disputing a Grade**

Every student has *two weeks* after receiving a graded assignment to dispute the actual grade. Specific or detailed grading issues are not discussed over email due to FERPA regulations. If you need to discuss a grade on an assignment please make an appointment with your instructor to meet on campus. Prepare and explanation for why you believe there is an error before coming to this meeting. Also, make sure to bring the graded assignment with you to the meeting.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required for all course meetings and events held outside of class. **This course requires attendance at four events scheduled outside of class.** Failure to attend the events scheduled outside of class will result in a grade of zero for the assignments associated with these events. Notify the instructor in case of emergency; otherwise you are expected to be on time to all course meetings events and to remain until the meeting is finished.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Please see the course schedule at the end of this syllabus. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and through your CANVAS course website.

### **USFSM Policies**

**A. Academic Dishonesty:** The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university's policy in the catalog, [USFSM Undergraduate Catalog](#) or [USFSM Graduate Catalog](#), the USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the [USF System Student Code of Conduct](#).

**B. Academic Disruption:** The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog: [USFSM Undergraduate Catalog](#) or [USFSM Graduate Catalog](#), USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the [USF System Student Code of Conduct](#).

**C. Contingency Plans:** In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: CANVAS, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor CANVAS site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and [MoBull](#) messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the [Safety Preparedness Website](#) for further information.

**D. Disabilities Accommodation:** Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a Memo of Accommodation. Disability Coordinator, 941-359-4714, [disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu), <http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/>

**E. Fire Alarm Instructions:** At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated. See [Emergency Evacuation Procedures](#).

**F. Religious Observances:** USFSM recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes.

**G. Web Portal Information:** Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and CANVAS course information via that address.

**H. Instructor Copyright:** Students may not sell notes or other course materials.

The following course schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments / Important Dates</b>
Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Course Information Theatre: The Art Form	<b>8/29:</b> Last Day to Drop/Add a course without record or payment liability Read CH 1
Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Audience: Spectators and Participants <b>Backstage at the Asolo Theater – Meet the Director</b>	<b>9/1:</b> Labor Day Holiday USFSM Campus Closed Read CH 2
Sept 8 <sup>th</sup>	Creating the Dramatic Script	Read CH 3 <b>Attend first required performance at Asolo Theater</b>
Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	Theatrical Genres	Read CH 4 <b>Performance critique #1 draft due</b>
Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Acting for the Stage	Read CH 5 <b>Community Engagement Reflection Paper #1 Due</b>
Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>	The Director and the Producer	Read CH 6 <b>Final Performance Critique #1 Due</b>
Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Theatre Spaces	Read CH 7 <b>Dramatic Literature Critique Draft Due</b>
Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	The Designers: Scenery and Costumes	<b>Midterm Exam</b> Read CH 8
Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Designers: Lighting and Sound	Read CH 9
Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Early Theatre: Greek, Roman, and Medieval <b>Backstage at the Asolo Theater – Meet the Designers</b>	<b>11/1:</b> Last day to drop with a “W”; no refund & no academic penalty for Fall 2015 Read CH 10 <b>Dramatic Literature Critique Final Due</b>
Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Early Theatre: Asian	Read CH 11 <b>Attend second required performance at Asolo Theater</b>
Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Renaissance Theatres	<b>11/11:</b> Holiday USFSM campus closed. Read CH 12 <b>Performance Critique #2 Draft Due</b>
Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Theatre from the Restoration through Romanticism	Read CH 13
Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Modern Theatre Emerges	<b>11/27-11/28:</b> Thanksgiving Holiday USFSM campus closed. Read CH 14 <b>Final Performance Critique #2 Final Due</b>
Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Today's Diverse Global Theatre	Read CH 15 <b>Community Engagement Reflection Paper #2 Due</b>
Finals Week		<b>Final Exam</b>