

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

**July and August, 2008
THE 110-AUI
Wednesdays 6:00p.m.-8:45p.m.
2 credit hours**

**DR. BRAD WRIGHT
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**OFFICE HOURS:
by Appointment**

**University of Indianapolis
School for Adult Learning**

Welcome to Introduction to Theatre. I want to assure you that I have no expectations of previous experience in the theatre, but I hope you will find this course interesting. The course will consist of a combination of lecture and activities.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Attend all classes
- Participate in all exercises
- Complete reading assignments on time
- Be prepared for quizzes and the final exam

DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to Theatre is intended as an overview of the theatre experience. There are no pre-requisites.

COURSE SUMMARY:

Students will take two quizzes (one at the beginning of the third class, and one at the beginning of the fourth class), and one final examination during the final class meeting. In addition, there will be a tour of the Uindy theatre facilities, so attendance is imperative. Your out of class study time will depend on your reading ability. There will be no out of class group work or Blackboard assignments.

COURSE GOALS:

This course will introduce you to the various elements of theatre, to how plays and productions are created, to the various participants in creating theatre, and to the function of theatre in our culture. Through an understanding of the process and workings of the theatre, you will gain an appreciation and understanding of theatre as an art form from both aesthetic and practical views.

COURSE RATIONALE:

Introduction to Theatre fulfils the Fine Arts Lecture/Theory requirement of the general education core. Arts appreciation implies sufficient critical judgment to see the value and to enjoy the expressiveness of creative work, which uniquely conveys universal human feelings.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will

- gain an appreciation of theatre as an expressive art.
- discuss the various theatre artists and their functions within the theatrical process.
- discuss how to evaluate the effectiveness of the various production elements (acting, directing, design, playwriting, etc.) in a performance.
- be able to apply this evaluative process to a production based on more than an emotional response.
- apply practical knowledge of theatre as a collaborative art form

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY:

During the summer, I do not keep regular office hours, however, I would be happy to meet with you by appointment. The best way to contact me is via email: bwright@uindy.edu. If it is urgent that you reach me right away, you may call my mobile number between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

TEXTS:

The following text is available at the bookstore:

Edwin Wilson, *The Theatre Experience* (Tenth edition).

Some of your texts may contain a Student CD-ROM. As an extra resource, this contains interesting video clips, questions, self-quizzes, etc. You will not be tested on this material, but it is good for further exploration of the textbook material.

REQUIREMENTS:

All students are expected to attend class regularly and to take part in class discussion and activities.

Attendance: You will earn 2 points for attending the entire class and being punctual to each session. I will deduct 1 point for tardiness. These points cannot be made up.

Activities: I do not expect anyone in this class to become an actor! You will NOT be performing scenes or memorizing monologues.

GRADING:

Your grade will be based on:

180 possible total points:

10 possible points for attendance
100 possible points for quizzes
70 possible points for final exam

2 points per class x 5 classes
50 points per quiz x 2 quizzes

GRADING SCALE

A = 171-180
A- = 162-170

B+ = 157-161
B = 153-156
B- = 144-152

C+ = 140-143
C = 135-139
C- = 126-134

D+ = 122-125
D = 117-121
D- = 108-116

Extra Credit is possible for attending play performances and turning in written critiques. Up to 10 possible points are available for each critique up to a total of three critiques. Critiques should be at least 3 pages in length, typed, double spaced, with your name and page number on each page. Please attach a ticket stub or copy of the cast list page of the program.

MAKE UP POLICY:

If you absolutely have to miss a quiz or exam, you must notify me in advance. I will make arrangements with the School for Adult Learning to have them proctor a make-up quiz/exam PRIOR TO the next class meeting. There is a \$5.00 fee for this service.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

Students are required to attend the first session of a class; however, SAL no longer automatically drops students for missing the first night of class. Students are responsible for notifying SAL if they wish to withdraw from the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

“Plagiarism and cheating are contrary to the ideal of academic integrity and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of someone else as one’s own. Cheating is defined as dishonesty of any kind in connection with assignments or examinations; it applies to both giving and receiving unauthorized help.”

Disciplinary action may include failure in the course involved or expulsion from the University. For more details, please refer to the Student Handbook available online at intranet.uindy.edu under Campus Life.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please inform me immediately so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. Students with a disability must register with the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) in Schwitzer Center 206 (317-788-6153 / www.uindy.edu/ssd) for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. You are responsible for initiating arrangements for accommodations for tests and other assignments in collaboration with the SSD and the faculty.

UNIVERSITY LEARNING GOALS

This course addresses the following three university-wide learning goals:

- Critical Thinking – by challenging students to make judgments through the application of intellectual criteria.
- Creativity – by encouraging students to use their imagination and inventiveness in modifying or generating results.
- Performance – by challenging students to demonstrate their mastery of subject content through their execution and communication of educational objectives.

SYLLABUS

- Wednesday, July 17** *The Audience*
Wilson, pages 1-95
- Wednesday, July 24** *The Performers and the Director*
Wilson, pages 99-171
- Wednesday, July 31** *The Designers: Environment, Visual Elements, and Sound*
Wilson, pages 333-405
Quiz #1
- Wednesday, August 7** *The Play: Types of Theatre*
Wilson, pages 175-271
Tour theatre--meet in our regular classroom
Quiz #2
- Wednesday, August 14** *The Playwright: Dramatic Structures and Dramatic Characters/Epilogue*
Wilson, pages 275-329, 407-415
Final Exam