

THE 100: Introduction to Theatre

Session A / Spring 2018

Instructor: Mary Stephens (mary.stephens@asu.edu)

3 Credit Hours / Online Course

Office Hours: To set up an appointment, email me at mary.stephens@asu.edu and I will confirm my availability. You are welcome to contact me to discuss any issue relating to the course. I am happy to help you as best I can. Note: Instructor does not (and is not qualified to) handle computer-related questions or issues.

When you send an email, you can reasonably expect a response within 48 hours during the work week. Very often, I am able to reply faster than that. The work week is Monday through Friday, 9:00am through 5:00pm. Emails sent after 5:00pm will not be reviewed until the next business day (emails sent Friday night will not be seen until Monday morning). Plan ahead, as many theatre events are held on the weekend. And your assignments are due on Friday at Midnight. If you do not log in until 10:00pm on Friday night, and you have a question, I am not available to answer you. You *must* plan ahead.

Course Description:

Welcome to THE 100: Introduction to Theatre, Online. I hope you find this class enjoyable and valuable. We will survey theatre production from the Ancient Greeks and Romans through contemporary theatrical works and artists. Our goals over the course of the course are to:

a) Outline various properties of theatre b) Explore how theatrical elements combine to convey meaning c) Comprehend theatre as both craft and aesthetic d) Discern ways theatre responds to and creates culture in various times and spaces e) Engage in meaningful discourse involving theatre

By the end of the course, students will have a basic knowledge / understanding of theatre. Based on and using the above, students will know how to explain and analyze a performance experience. They will learn how to understand others' arguments and begin to develop their own, while thinking deeply and critically.

What this course is not: This is not a course intended to teach you how to be a theatre artist. It is not an acting class, a playwriting class, or a design or directing class. At times, the course will invite you to view the world through the lens of a theatre artist, but primarily the course takes the perspective of the theatre-goer or audience member.

Other Important Information:

- A reliable computer with internet access is required.
- This course is NOT managed via Blackboard. hooray! All announcements and assignments are posted on the Herberger Online website: <https://the100.hol.asu.edu>
- An additional \$30.00 fee is applied for online learning.
- This course is entirely delivered through the internet. You are responsible for ensuring the computer you use to access course materials meets or exceeds the specified computer minimum qualifications as listed on the course web site. This included creating and uploading videos. If you do not have sufficient computer experience or are not willing or able to assume the added responsibilities that come with a computer-based course, please think carefully about whether or not to move forward. **Required Text:** Patterson, Jim and Tim Donahue. *The Enjoyment of Theatre*. 9th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2014. You may purchase the print version through the ASU Bookstore, Amazon (try Amazon Prime for students) or another book retailer or reseller. No matter how you decide to purchase your text, you will be held responsible for reading the required chapters on time. **Required Theatre Attendance:** This session, you are required to attend **TWO (2)** different theatrical productions of your choice. You will be writing about your experience as an audience member, with the first writing assignment due Week 3, and the second due Week 7. Begin scheduling your attendance for a theatrical production NOW. ***If you do not attend a theatrical production, you will not be able to complete a number of assignments. This will affect your final grade drastically. If finances are an issue, contact me. Stand-up comedy, concerts, or non-theatrical performances will not give you what you need to complete these assignments.*** ASU Herberger information may be found at: herbergerinstitute.asu.edu/season/ Scroll down to review productions from the Theatre Series, the Lyric Opera Musical Theatre, and click on the "Herberger Student / Faculty + Staff Tickets" link to get your **FREE TICKET** to ASU HIDA performances. Other acceptable local venues for live theatrical production attendance include: Southwest Shakespeare at the Mesa Arts Center--Student Rush Tickets are often available. Many of the Maricopa Community Colleges have theatrical productions running, including Mesa, Chandler- Gilbert, Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, and Glendale. Certainly performances at the Herberger in Downtown Phoenix, or the Gammage here on campus are acceptable, but they tend to be pricier. It is UNACCEPTABLE to view a production on the internet, or to use a production you have attended in the past for these assignments.
- **Assignment Information:**
- EVERY ASSIGNMENT must include the following in the upper left-hand corner of the first page: Your Name
- THE100: Mary Stephens: Page Number
- EVERY ASSIGNMENT will be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides.
- For all assignments use MLA (Modern Language Association) format. Purdue has the gold standard

resource for MLA: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> The tutoring and writing centers at ASU can also help you with MLA format.

- *Turn your assignments in through the ASU ONLINE COURSE SITE. NOT through Turn-it-in's site. Your grades will not be logged into ASU's system if you submit directly through Turn-it-in.
- *Your feedback on writing assignments will be posted through GRADEMARK on Turn-it-in. If you do not know how to find your feedback, use the online Turn-it-in help center or the information below:
- Students may download or print the GradeMark view of a paper which can include the final grade, QuickMarks, ETS *e-rater*® marks, comments, and rubric information.
- To print the paper in GradeMark, please follow the steps below: 1. Sign into your account. 2. Click on the class name. 3. Click on the blue "View" button next to the assignment you submitted your paper to. 4. Click on the printer icon, located at the bottom left corner.
- 5. Select "Download PDF of current view for printing." 6. A popup window will come up, and after a short time there will be a link: "Click here to download
- your file." 7. You can then save or open the report as a PDF file. Once saved on your computer, you can
- print the paper from the PDF file.

Withdrawal Deadlines:

- If you wish to withdraw from the course, it is your responsibility to Actively Do So by January 27, 2017. On your my.asu.edu site, navigate to "My Classes", click on "Registration", and follow the instructions at the "Drop/Withdraw" option. As per University policy, the instructor has the option to initiate student withdrawal from the course if the student is disruptive or detrimental to creating a positive and respectful online educational environment. This means no trolling. No bullying. No disrespect.

Academic Dishonesty:

- All students must abide by the Student Code of Conduct. For more information visit provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity

Security Notice:

- All students must abide by the Student Code of Conduct and the official ASU online terms of conduct. For more information visit asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm104-02.html and eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/codeofconduct

Special Accommodations:

- To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact ASU Disability Resource Center ASAP. eoss.asu.edu/drc T: 480-965-1234; TDD 480-965-9000. Accommodations may be difficult to make retroactively. Present DRC documentation to instructor no later than the end of the first week of the course. Have DRC email me directly at mary.stephens@asu.edu

Computer Support:

Please do not contact your instructor with technical questions. Herberger Online handles all technical questions and issues that may arise in this course. Please contact the support team immediately if you encounter technical issues while completing an assignment and you are unable to resolve the problem and reset your work.

The Herberger Online support team is available to assist you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You may reach them anytime at:

- holsupport@asu.edu
- <https://courses.hol.asu.edu/help/>
- 1-888-298-4117
- 480-965-3057 (International)

When contacting support, please provide:

- The full name of this course (ABC 123: Long Name)
- The title(s) of any assignment(s) you're having trouble with
- A brief description of the problem
- Detailed, step-by-step instructions to reproduce the problem

Course Content:

- Some of the material used in this course may contain profanity, sexual, scatological references or other things that may be deemed offensive. In the university my philosophy is we exist in the marketplace of ideas--where these concepts may be discussed in service of learning and a greater understanding of the

Week One Introduction	Read Chapters 1 & 5	End of Week One is Friday, Jan 12
	Video Discussion	End of Week One
	Project 1 Introduce Yourself and Reading Response	End of Week One
	Theatre History Notes and Quiz Chapters 11 & 12	End of Week One
	Optional Extra Credit Quiz	End of Week One
Week Two The Audience	Read Chapters 2 & 4	End of Week Two is Friday, Jan. 19
	Video Discussion	End of Week Two
	Project 2 Professional Company Website Analysis	End of Week Two
	Theatre History Notes and Quiz Chapters 13 & 14	End of Week Two
	Optional Extra Credit Quiz	End of Week Two

Week Three The Playwright	Read Chapters 3 & 7	End of Week Three is Friday, Jan. 26
	Video Discussion	End of Week Three
	Project 3 Playwright Analysis	End of Week Three
	Live Performance Review 1	End of Week Three
	Theatre History Notes and Quiz Chapters 15 & 16	End of Week Three
	Optional Extra Credit Quiz	End of Week Three
Week Four The Director	Read Chapter 9	End of Week Four is Friday, Feb. 2
	Video Discussion	End of Week Four
	Project 4 Analyzing the Role of the Director	End of Week Four
	Midterm Exam	End of Week Four
	Theatre History Notes and Quiz Chapters 17 & 18	End of Week Four
	Optional Extra Credit Quiz	End of Week Four
Week Five Acting	Read Chapter 8	End of Week Five is Fri, Feb. 9
	Video Discussion	End of Week Five
	Project 5 People Watching and Analysis	End of Week Five
	Theatre History Notes and Quiz Chapter 20	End of Week Five
	Optional Extra Credit Quiz	End of Week Five
Week Six Technology	Read Chapters 6 & 10	End of Week Six is Fri, Feb. 16
	Video Discussion	End of Week Six

	Project 6 Global Theatre and Technical Theatre Exploration	End of Week Six
	Theatre History Notes and Quiz Chapter 22	End of Week Six
	Optional Extra Credit Quiz	End of Week Six
	Theatre History VIDEO PROJECT	End of Week Six
Week Seven Musical Theatre & Theatre Today	Read Chapters 19 & 21	End of Week Seven is Fri, Feb. 23
	Video Discussion	End of Week Seven
	Project 7 Performing Arts Center Season Selection	End of Week Seven
	<i>Live Performance Review 2</i>	End of Week Seven
	<i>Final Exam</i>	End of Week Seven
	Optional Extra Credit Quiz	End of Week Seven

Grading Scale Subtotals and Totals:

Each individual project has a corresponding assignment sheet and rubric.

Video Discussions: 10 points x 7 weeks = Projects 1-7: 20 points x 7 weeks = History Quizzes: 9 points x 4 weeks (36); 7 points x 2 weeks (14) = Midterm and Final Exam: Live Performance Reviews: History Video Project

Grade Scale point break down:

475 - 423: A

422 - 376: B

375-328: C

327-285: D

284-0: E

70 points; 140 points; 50 points; 125 points; 60 points; 30 points; **Total** of 475 points

At best--you can earn 21 extra credit points for this course by doing the optional extra credit quizzes each week.

There is no additional extra credit of any kind.

Grading Schedule:

My teaching schedule allows me to grade this course on Fridays. I will begin grading the Friday after the week ends, and will have grades posted by the Monday following.

Questions About Grades:

I'm a pretty generous grader--if I can see you are making an effort and trying your best, I will reward that effort, and help guide you toward greater success.

That said, there are 60 of you, and I am already teaching more than 100 students at other schools and am directing three shows and running my small business. And parenting. And doing laundry. Etc. So sometimes, I may miss something.

If you feel like I have graded you **horrendously** inaccurately (More than 8 points in the wrong direction PER ASSIGNMENT) do the following:

Review the rubric, and apply the rubric to your own work. See what grade you earned. Have a peer review the rubric, and apply the rubric to your own work. See what grade you earned. Then, if you still have an issue, send me a friendly and polite email that details exactly what you wrote that I missed, and link it to the rubric. (for example: I only graded you for three supporting examples from the textbook, and you included five). Quote your own assignment. I will review and get back to you once I am caught up with the regular grading for the course. Do not abuse this privilege.

The Fine Print

Grades are earned by the student's work. They are not deserved, negotiated for, or imagined by the instructor. If you care about your grade, please do all your assignments to the best of your ability, and read the rubrics carefully to understand what you can do to boost your grade.

Online courses require students to be self-disciplined in regard to schedules and work ethic. Put your assignments and due dates into your personal calendar today, and manage your time appropriately. Three credits in a Session A means you'll be spending up to 18 hours per week on this course. It shouldn't take that much time, but for three credits, it is appropriate.

Make sure you have a solid computer and internet connection, and you know how to research online, create and upload videos, and have some familiarity with the ASU online modules. **All computer questions go through Herberger Online, not me.**

Schedule your attendance at upcoming theatre performances immediately. Take notes. The assignments are available to you day one.

Finally, the golden rule applies. You are a human being, I am a human being. You won't have that much interaction with me this semester. When we do interact, I will treat you with respect and kindness. A little of that can go a long way.