

THEATRE ARTS 100

M hour (9:40 – 11:10 am) Tuesdays & Thursdays
Spring 1999

Ewing - 3937 / K105

(My office is in Kennedy and most of my work is in the McCoy Theatre, result - I spend a great deal of time walking back and forth. If I am not in my office there will be a note on the door giving my location. It is advisable to call, however, before dropping by.)

“In every age, a society is controlled by one or another force which dominates people’s lives. For example, church doctrine may determine the paths of politics, economics and science or economic conditions may drive political and religious thinking. Historically, theatre has helped society understand the world by encompassing large issues through metaphoric communication and providing a communal experience which relates individuals to the group and the group to the forces controlling society. No matter the place, the time, the reason or extent of change, a fundamental question underlies the theatre’s work (and every other serious enterprise) “ What does it mean to be human?”

Beeb Salzer

San Diego State University

Text:

THEATRE: BRIEF VERSION, Robert Cohen

Grading:

The final grade is based on your performance and “artistic” growth throughout the term. I would like to say forget about the grade and concentrate on the experiences in class.

Realizing that is impossible I purpose:

If you attend AND participate in all classes

If you have all projects completed on time

If you attend all required performances

If you work ? hours in the theatre

You will pass with a “C”

If you accomplish all of the above and make an honest commitment to challenge yourself

If you attend all your groups meetings, rehearsals and participate

If you work well with your group

You will pass with a “B”

Please note “participation” is an essential part of this course. Participation does not necessarily mean talking just to hear one’s voice or to be argumentative...participation means to be actively engaged in the class. If you sleep through the class you will get extra rest but nothing else. If you half way participate you will have the same fun as half way playing a game... if, however, you actively participate, applying class work to

yourself and the world in which you live, you will have the satisfaction of a game well played. It is up to you.

You will also have the opportunity to give yourself a grade. Grading your fellow group participants is also a possibility... we shall discuss this.

Also note – IF you miss more than two classes IT will affect your grade, severely, as in a full letter grade drop! Theatre is a collaboration so is this class. All members must be present for that to be successful.

Requirements:

*Attendance – discussed above

*Participation – discussed above

*Attend ALL McCoy Theatre productions:

FIFTH OF JULY- Feb 11-21

BLOOD BROTHERS –April 15 – 25

Extra credit will be given for various productions throughout the term, i.e. Senior Projects, Improv shows, Special scenes, etc.

*Attend 1 production at either Circuit Playhouse or Playhouse on the Square

*Attend 1 production elsewhere – i.e. Orpheum, Germantown Community Theatre, GPAC, Theatre Memphis, Theatre Works, University of Memphis. (No high school productions)

*Keep a journal recording your insights, discoveries, etc in regards to the performing arts. This journal could be used as your study guide.(We shall discuss this in class)

There will be various assignments throughout the term. As college students you will be expected to complete these assignments on time. IF an extension is necessary, please see me!

*A PERFORMANCE – YOUR OWN-

April 27 in the McCoy Theatre the Theatre Arts Festival will take place. You must attend. It will be in the evening. Invite your friends! More on this later!

Course Objectives:

- To engender an appreciation and understanding of the experience of theatre.
- To establish a foundation for critical evaluation of theatre.
- To develop an appreciation and respect for artistic choices , points of view, and elements of style as they serve to communicate artistic vision and shape the experience of theatre.
- To have fun!

Do not allow yourself to get lost in the large class! Education is not passive! Theatre is not passive! We may sit quietly while viewing a play, but our mind, heart and head should be actively engaged! Are we ready?

