

**Course Syllabus**  
**Theatre Appreciation – Fall 2007**  
THR 166W  
CB RM 125  
Credit Hour 3

**Instructor:** Miki Johnson  
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**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**TEXT:**

*Mud* by Maria Irene Fornes

-I will give each of you a copy of this play

*Antigone* by Sophocles

- Buy: The Antigone of Sophocles
- Translated by: Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald
- AMAZON.COM  
(\$3.50)

*Phaedra's Love* by Sara Kane

- BUY: Phaedra's Love by Sarah Kane
- (Methuen Modern Drama
- AMAZON.COM  
(\$11.86)

*True West* by Sam Shepard

BUY: True West by Sam Shepard  
AMAZON.COM  
(\$2.30)

*The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World* by Suzan-Lori Parks

BUY: The America Play and Other Works by Suzan-Lori Parks  
AMAZON.COM  
(\$10.85)

*Endgame* by Samuel Beckett

BUY: Endgame and Act Without Words by Samuel Beckett  
AMAZON.COM  
(\$9.87)

**OBJECTIVE:**

To learn about what artists use to create a work of art in the theatre. To create and discuss broad definitions of "theatre." To construct meaning (social, personal, political, etc.) from different sorts of performance from various historical periods and places around the world.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Class participation is crucial to any theatre class. It is imperative that you attend all classes. If you are absent more than three (3) classes, your final grade will be reduced by five (5) points For each absence. Don't come to class late. If you are tardy three (3) times that equals one absence. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

**CLASSROOM ATTIRE:**

Wear clothes in which you feel comfortable moving.

**CLASSROOM DEMEANOR:**

This is a class that requires focus and mutual respect. Turn off your phones!

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An analysis of the theatrical experience for the audience. Examination of theatre's relation to the broad contemporary scene and its relation to past eras. Examination of the production elements necessary to provide the theatrical experience.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

This is an active participation class. We will be playing theatre games, doing dramatic readings, and working on creative projects. You will be responsible for reading several plays and articles. **YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CLASS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR GRADE.** It is NOT about knowing answers to questions. It IS about BEING PREPARED, having an open and flexible attitude, being inquisitive, being focused and being willing to be physical and creative in class.

*Other than class participation, you will have three (3) assignments:*

1. To see a performance piece and write a response about it. You could see a play, a stand-up comedian, dance, etc. (We'll talk details when the time comes)
2. You will have a mid-term project. This could be a paper, a substantial fine art project, creative writing, etc. (Again, we'll talk details when the time comes)
3. You will have a final project.

**Breakdown**

Class Participation	- 70 points
Performance Response	- 20 points
Mid-Term	- 55 points
Final	-55 points

**The following is the grade scale OUT OF A POSSIBLE 200 POINTS:**

200-180 = A  
179-159 = B  
158-138 = C  
137-117 = D  
Below 117 = F

If the student is unable to complete course requirements, the student's grade will reflect this.

**The drop date for Fall 2007 classes is Friday, September 14, 2007**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

The nature of this class requires honesty and cooperation. What violates the area of academic Dishonesty in the class is turning in nay work that you did not do and claiming it as your own. Also, claiming to have seen a production and writing about that production when, in fact, you did not see the production is cheating and dishonest. **FOR THIS REASON, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO RETAIN TICKETS STUBS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO THE PERFORMANCES YOU SEE.** Anyone who engages in dishonest behavior runs the risk of receiving a zero on that assignment.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:**

University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of a Religious holiday they must notify their instructor by the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the first day of the semester (Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007)

**AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936/294-1720).

**CLASSROOM VISITORS:**

Please talk with me prior to class if you would like to bring a visitor to class.