**THEA 111 - Online Winter 2021-22**

**THEA111 - THE THEATER EXPERIENCE**

James Wulfsong

Office: DH 2027

Phone: 3140

[jwulfso@siue.edu](mailto:jwulfso@siue.edu)

ONline 'Office' Hours 3:00pm-5pm; 11pm-1:00am

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**This course does not require zoom sessions though you can contact me for a zoom meeting during office hours.**

This course is an introduction to theater, it's creators and audience.  You will gain understanding and appreciation of the actor's craft, the decisions of a director and how they affect the story, design, construction and crew for a foundation of design and construction of scenery for the theater.  We tell stories with ‘Stuff.’

This is an Online only course.  As such you will be expected to log into the Blackboard website daily during the 3 weeks of this class.  You will have some ability to tailor your work periods to your schedules over these 3 weeks but this is NOT a completely self-paced course.  ie you cannot forge ahead on your own without the rest of the class.  You will participate in a smaller discussion group, as well as online discussions with the class as a whole.

There will be daily work to do as well as assignments generally due 3 times a week.  (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)  For full credit, assignments must be turned in by their due date.  I will accept it prior to the next due date though some points will be lost.  If an assignment is due on Monday and turned in on Monday you can get full points.

It may be completed and turned in late for partial credit **before** the next assignment period.  ie. I'll still accept it on Wednesday, but NOT on Thursday/Friday which would be 2 periods late.  We must keep moving forward together so that we can explore each chapter, reading, and video with a lively and timely discussion.  The goal is to teach and learn from each other as well and the text and myself.

 A successful student will leave the course with:

An understanding of their role as an audience member in creating the work.

The ability to critically view a play’s characters and the actors that play them

Be able to specifically comment on how actors create a role and communicate character

Have an understanding of how design and theater architecture influences staging and audiences

Knowledge of everyone involved in the collaborative process of creating a production

ALL participants in a production are needed and add to the whole

Understand the various positions in mounting a production and their relationship to the whole

**COURSE TEXT, VIDEO ACCESS AND DETAILS**

**Text**

The course Text is:

The Theater Experience -  by Edwin Wilson.  This is available through [Redshelf] online in the link at the left.

This is a VITAL part of your Online class and you will not be able to complete the course without it.   On the first day of the course, you should have already read the first 4 chapters, and be ready to discuss them.  You should also complete a short survey of your theater experience.  (See the Survey above and in the Syllabus folder to the left - an overview of the assignments are in the Assignments folder to the left.)

In addition to the text, we will be viewing several films and a number of online videos.   I will post links to services where you can either download the videos' free or pay a small rental fee to stream them to your computer.  You will need a reliable Internet connection with enough bandwidth to use a streaming service such as Netflix, Amazon, and YouTube.  In a face-to-face class during a full 15 week semester, you would normally watch films in class and attend several live theater productions -  comment on various aspects of them and write reviews.  In this abbreviated 3-week format, we need to view these online.  Some of the videos we watch might be available for rent in a DVD format locally but most won't be.  I've found free material on YouTube, or as a 'free' trial offer where available. The rest of the video and films are available for streaming download for a modest rental fee.

**Online learning components**

As previously noted this course will utilize Blackboard and other online resources to meet virtually and complete all of the class requirements.  You will post in blogs, journals in on the discussion board.  Your Research paper, as well as any other writing assignments, will be submitted online.  We don’t meet in synchronous zoom sessions. No zoom required.

I expect **Daily** use of the online forums and discussions.  In addition to reading the text you will read and share your thoughts online and comment on your classmate's uploaded links. The discussion section should provide a rich diversity of material as you and your classmates find relevant articles and video to compliment the book section we are working on.

**Grading of Online discussion content**

Participation in online discussions will be assessed as follows:

            1pt.     Timely postings (within a day)

            1pt      Responding with new material/topics and viewpoints

                                    (no points for “what she said” posts.  ie NEW thoughts.)

            1pt      2 or more responses/feedback to other students threads

         1-2pts     Additional pts can be had with more detailed and well-supported posts, links to relevant material and                          additional feedback and commentary on classmate's work

In addition to the discussions, each section will require you to upload your thoughts and links as well as a presentation that can be viewed and commented on by the rest of the class.

**Examination**

There will be two examinations given in this course.  the first in the 2nd week and the final at the end of week 3.  The format of the exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions.  Questions will cover material from the text, my presentations, and commentary as well as materials provided for review online. Blog posts by your classmates can also be covered in the test though only ones that I have commented on or asked the class as a whole to be sure to read.

Each of the exams will have a specific length of time allowed for you to take it and will be open for the entire day. A self-test non-graded exam will be opened up prior to the first exam day so that you can familiarize yourself with the online exam process.

In addition to the exam, a research paper and a worksheet will also be included in the grading.

**Makeup Exams**

No makeup exam will be allowed.

**Disability Statement**

Any individual who may have a disability that would prevent them from completing work assigned will need to notify the instructors before class begins.  I will accommodate as best possible any issues.

**Writing Assignments**

There will be writing assignments required in this course.   Reviews of movie acting and design and a research paper.

**Grading**

Student grades in the class will be earned as follows:

15%                 Theater Blog (3 times weekly - minimum of 9 )

15%                 Daily Journal  (3 times weekly - minimum of 9 )

15%                 Research Paper

8%                   Group Wiki and Workgroup specific tasks.

10%                 Play/Movie Review

12%                 Misc, discussion, and participation

10%                 Midpoint exam

15%                 Final Exam

**Grading Time**

It will take several days grading time for each of the reviews, written assignments, and Exam.  These can be discussed privately during office hours or by appointment.

**Extra Credit**

There is none available due to the 3 week online semester schedule.

**The instructor reserves the right to alter assignments and the overall grading percentages as the course evolves**