

THTRE 106: INTRODUCTION TO THE PERFORMING ARTS

Course Syllabus—Fall 2023

Instructor: Cason Murphy, M.F.A.

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Course Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:55am–10:45am **Classroom:** MacKay 0117
Office: Carver 320 **E-mail:** cwmurphy@iastate.edu **Phone:** 515-294-8936
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm
Tuesdays from 2:00pm-3:30pm or other times by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This course is designed as an introductory audience-oriented, broad-based survey of the performing arts that will introduce students to—and increase their critical understanding of—dance, music, theatre, radio and audio drama, television, film, video gaming, and new media.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to:	This will be measured by:
Identify the main genres of each of the performing arts including important artists in each area and some of the characteristics that makes each unique.	<i>In-class discussions and lectures, guest speakers, and exams</i>
Increase their understanding of the creativity and commitment that goes into a quality performance.	<i>In-class discussions and lectures, exams, and performance attendance</i>
Find opportunities to attend and critique live or virtual performing arts events.	<i>Performance attendance and reaction papers</i>
Increase their critical response to performance events, demonstrated in written form.	<i>Reaction papers, discussion boards, and reading responses</i>

TEXT AND MATERIALS

Textbook

The World at Play: Performance from the Audience's Perspective—Cason Murphy

Any additional articles, essays, and texts other will be provided on Canvas.

Top Hat

We will be using Top Hat (www.tophat.com) for class participation. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and enroll in our course, please refer to the invitation sent to your school email address or consult *Top Hat's Getting Started Guide* (<https://bit.ly/31TGMIw>).

You should have received an invitation from me to join our Top Hat. If you already have a Top Hat account, **go to our Canvas page and click through the "Top Hat 1.3" link on the side navigation bar at least once.** From then on, you can either click through that link or go to <https://app.tophat.com/e/306099> to be taken directly to our course. If you are new to Top Hat, follow the link in the email invitation you received or...

- Go to <https://app.tophat.com/register/student>
- Click "Search by school" and input "Iowa State University"
- Search for our course with the following join code: **306099**.
- Be sure to click through the "Top Hat 1.3" link on the side navigation bar of our Canvas shell at least once.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Course Requirements	Points
Attendance and Participation	100
Reading Quizzes and Discussion Boards	150
Module Exams	300
Event Reaction Papers	200
TOTAL	750

Your final grade will be calculated on a 750-point scale:

698-750: A	600-622: B-	510-524: D+
675-697: A-	585-599: C+	473-509: D
660-674: B+	548-584: C	450-472: D-
632-659: B	525-547: C-	0-449: F

COURSE SCHEDULE

I reserve the right to alter the number of assignments, exams, and projects as necessary to meet the time constraints and enrollment of the course.

Dates	Topic of Class Meeting	Assignments Due
MODULE ONE (WEEKS 1-4)		
Aug. 22–Sept. 15	Art, Audience, and Critique	EXAM 1: Open from Sept. 15–Sept. 18
MODULE TWO (WEEKS 5-8)		
Sept. 18–Oct. 13	Dance & Music	EXAM 2: Open from Oct. 13–Oct. 16 REACTION PAPER 1: Due by Oct. 22
MODULE THREE (WEEKS 9-12)		
Oct. 16–Nov. 10	Theatre	EXAM 3: Open from Nov. 10–Nov. 13
MODULE FOUR (WEEKS 13-15)		
Nov. 13–Dec. 6	The Recording Arts and New Media	EXAM 4: Open from Dec. 6–Dec. 10
FINALS WEEK (WEEK 16)		
		REACTION PAPER 2: Due by Dec. 13

ITEMS TO BE GRADED

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Obviously, I want you here in class! That said, the past few years have shown us that life can get hectic really quickly. Students will be responsible for attending 35 class sessions once we begin taking attendance via Top Hat will start in earnest on Friday, Sept. 1. Which means, each student can avail themselves of **five unexcused absences** throughout the semester for any reason. Students will be expected to review material and/or catch up on class notes, but will not be penalized for attendance/participation points.

Additionally, a student can be excused for missing a class for any of the following—with proper documentation. **NOTE: Any student who has an excused absence must provide the proper documentation to me prior to the date of the absence to excuse your absence.**

- Field trips or curricular-related activities
- Extra-curricular activities as a representative of the university, such as:
 - Academic or professional conferences, workshops, presentations, or programs
 - Intercollegiate athletic, academic, and judging competitions
 - Musical, theatrical, dance, or other artistic performances
- Military or National Guard service
- Court appearances
- Funerals
- Positive COVID-19 test or necessary isolation from exposure
 - The period of excusal from class will extend to the full length of the isolation period under current CDC guidance.

Students experiencing family crisis or prolonged medical absences may be offered an additional assignment to help make up a deficit of participation points on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the professor.

READING QUIZZES AND DISCUSSION BOARDS: The end of each week during the semester will feature either a reading quiz (drawn from specific pages in the textbook) or discussion board, which will feature performances or relevant articles for student response. Students will be expected to complete/contribute to these as prompted in specific modules on Canvas throughout the semester.

MODULE EXAMS: At the end of each module, students will complete an exam on Canvas on information covered in textbook readings and in class (lectures, additional articles, PowerPoints, guest lectures, field trip information, film clips, and/or performances viewed). **Each exam will be open for a window of three days (see schedule above) and may be taken twice within that window.**

REACTION PAPERS: You are asked to attend **two** performances during the semester and write a reaction paper of **at least 1000 words** giving your view on the event, the platform, the performers, and the audience with your opinion supported by specific class concepts. **A list of question prompts to consider are on page 21 of the textbook and additional questions will be included in the assignment on Canvas.** Students are expected to submit assignments that are their own original content, neatly typed, double spaced with proper margins, with correct grammar and spelling—using MLA standards.

The first paper must be submitted by **Sunday, Oct. 22**. The second paper must be submitted on or by **Wednesday, Dec. 13**. I will raise awareness of fun, possible (but not mandatory) events happening on campus or around the area throughout the semester.

NOTE ON LATE WORK: I understand that sometimes students get behind/get overwhelmed—if you miss a due date, you can (and should) still turn submit something. That said, if you start to fall behind in class beyond a missed assignment or two, the best thing you can do is talk to me!

EXTRA CREDIT: Options for extra credit may be assigned throughout the semester.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY: This class honors ISU's Principles of Community and expects the classroom discourse and attitude to reflect them: respect, purpose, cooperation, richness of diversity, freedom from discrimination, and the honest and respectful expression of ideas:
<http://www.diversity.iastate.edu/principles-of-community>

CONTENT: Some examples of the performing arts may contain strong language and mature content: profanity, violence, sexual terms, religious references, and other mature themes/elements which may be presented in this class. Art provides us an opportunity to explore the human condition, and the human condition is not always pretty. Expect to examine material that challenges you as an audience member—but at the same time, know that you as an audience member may excuse yourself if necessary. Warnings will be given as applicable, but you know your limits and triggers better than I do, so don't be afraid to be your own advocate.

REGARDING NAME, GENDER IDENTITY AND/OR GENDER EXPRESSION: Class rosters and any other university-controlled apparatuses (email, Canvas, etc.) are created, and provided to me, using the student's legal name. However, I will gladly honor any request to address you by an alternate name or pronouns. Please advise me of your preferences so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

FLEXIBILITY: All dates and assignments are open to being changed at my discretion *with plenty of notice to the students*. I am hoping to make this class as useful as possible to you all, so I will be on the lookout for targeted ways to make the course better. Please be patient and flexible if we make changes.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: As a land-grant institution, we are committed to the caretaking of this land and would like to begin this event by acknowledging those who have previously taken care of the land on which we gather. Before this site became Iowa State University, it was the ancestral lands and territory of the Baxoje or Ioway Nation. The United States obtained the land from the Meskwaki and Sauk nations in the Treaty of 1842. We wish to recognize our obligations to this land and to the people who took care of it, as well as to the 17,000 Native people who live in Iowa today.

ACCESSIBILITY: Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to meet with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish

eligibility and learn about related processes. Eligible students will be provided with a Notification Letter for each course and reasonable accommodations will be arranged after timely delivery of the Notification Letter to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible. SAS, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu. Contact SAS by email at accessibility@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

PUBLIC HEALTH: If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the attendance policy.

Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating all students' well-being. Please know that the following on-campus services are available for assistance regarding your physical, intellectual, occupational, spiritual, environmental, financial, social, and/or emotional needs:

- Student Wellness call (515) 294-1099 or via website (<http://studentwellness.iastate.edu>)
- Thielen Student Health Center call (515) 294-5801 (24/7 Medical Advice) or via website (<http://www.cyclonehealth.org>)
- Student Counseling Services call (515) 294-5056 or via website (<https://counseling.iastate.edu>)
- Recreation Services call (515) 294-4980 or via website (<http://recservices.iastate.edu>).
- Students dealing with heightened feelings of sadness or hopelessness, thoughts of harm or suicide, or increased anxiety may dial 988, use the ISU Crisis Text Line (Text ISU to 741-741) or contact the ISU Police Department (515) 294-4428.

Public health information for the campus community continues to be available on Iowa State's public health website. All public health questions should be directed to publichealthteam@iastate.edu.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic misconduct ([5.1 in the Student Code of Conduct](#)). Students are responsible for adhering to university policy and the expectations in the course syllabus and on coursework and exams, and for following directions given by faculty, instructors, and Testing Center regulations related to coursework, assessments, and exams. Anyone suspected of academic misconduct will be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct in the Dean of Students Office](#). Information about academic integrity and the value of completing academic work honestly can be found in the [Iowa State University Academic Integrity Tutorial](#).

WRITING AND MEDIA CENTER ASSISTANCE: The Writing and Media Center (WMC) helps students become effective, confident communicators by supporting students during all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming to revising, as well as with oral, visual, and electronic communication. The WMC offers one-on-one and group consultations online—to register and schedule an appointment, see <https://iastate.mywconline.com/>. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.wmc.dso.iastate.edu> or emailwritectr@iastate.edu.

FREE EXPRESSION: Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION: Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students Office](#) at 515-294-1020 or the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) at 515-294-7612.

HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu