

**THTRE 106: INTRODUCTION TO THE PERFORMING ARTS**

**Course Syllabus—Spring 2020**

Instructor: Cason Murphy, M.F.A.

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**Course Time:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:10–3:00pm

**Classroom:** Design 101

**Office:** Carver 320

**E-mail:** cwmurphy@iastate.edu

**Phone:** 515-294-8936

**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday from 11:00am–1:30pm, Wednesday from 1:00-2:00pm or always by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

This course is designed as an introductory audience-oriented, broad-based survey of the performing arts which emphasizes theatre and includes segments on television, radio, film, dance, and music.

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**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students should be able to:</th>
<th>This will be measured by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduce the student to the main genres of each of the performing arts including important artists in each area and some of the characteristics that makes each unique.</td>
<td>In-class discussions and lectures, guest speakers, class field trips, reading tests, and exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase student understanding of the creativity and commitment that goes into a quality performance.</td>
<td>In-class discussions and lectures, exams and performance attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide an opportunity for each student to attend performing arts events on campus and in the Ames community.</td>
<td>Performance attendance and reaction papers</td>
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<td>Increase student understanding in terms of a critical response to performing arts events that will be demonstrated in written form.</td>
<td>Reaction papers and exams</td>
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</tbody>
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**TEXT AND MATERIALS**

*Required Texts*

*The Performing Arts: An Audience’s Perspective*—David P. Hirvela

All additional texts may be provided on Canvas (it is the student’s responsibility to bring them to class).

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Your final grade will be calculated on the 1000-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>930-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900-929</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>870-899</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>830-869</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-829</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>770-799</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>730-769</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>700-729</td>
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<tr>
<td>670-699</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>630-669</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>600-629</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-600</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Tests</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1 – Art, Audience, and Dance</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2 – Theatre</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3 – Music and The Recording Arts</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
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</table>
ITEMS TO BE GRADED

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in this class. You will be able to submit answers/record attendance to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

The Top Hat attendance code will only be available for a short period during class. If you miss a class, there is no way to make up the points from that day. The only instances where a student can be excused for missing a class are the following—with proper documentation:

- Field Trips and Curricular related activities
- Extra-Curricular activities as a representative of the university, including:
  - academic or professional conferences and workshops
  - intercollegiate athletic, academic, and judging competitions
  - musical, theatrical, dance and other artistic performances
  - presentations or programs given to external audiences
- Military Service
- Court Appearances
- Funerals (other family emergencies are NOT recognized as excused absences)

Any student who has an excused absence must provide the proper documentation to me prior to the date of the absence in order to excuse your absence. You must also make arrangements with me to make up any missed assignments within a reasonable amount of time.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

An invitation will be sent to you by email, but if you don’t receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: https://app.tophat.com/e/549976 - our Course Join Code is: 549976.

Note: I cannot assist with any technical issues that may arise while using Top Hat. Contacting me instead of the proper IT help desk (whether it be the ISU solution center or Top Hat help desk) will only add time to your issue and possibly cause you to fall behind on important due dates in this class. Always call Top Hat help desk or ISU IT solution center first to resolve technical issues.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact the Top Hat Support Team directly by way by email at support@tophat.com or the in app support button or by calling 1-888-663-5491 (this is the fastest way to get your issue resolved I highly recommend calling directly). A student may also contact the ISU IT Solution Center for any questions you have regarding Top Hat or Canvas. To contact the Solution Center: Complete an IT Solution Center online form for Top Hat questions or email at solution@iastate.edu or call (515) 294-4000 or visit 192 Parks Library.
READING TESTS: Every other week, students will complete a reading test in Canvas on material from the text. Each test may be repeated twice, and the lowest score will be dropped from your aggregate grade. Questions from any reading test may appear again on an exam.

EXAMS: All the examinations are composed of multiple-choice questions. The questions for the exams are approximately 20% material from the text and reading tests—and 80% from lectures. Any Powerpoints, guest lectures, film clips, field trip information, and/or performances seen in class may also be included.

REACTION PAPERS: You are asked to attend three performances (chosen from the categories below) and write a reaction paper of at least 800 words giving your view on the event, the performers, and the audience with your opinion supported by specifics. **NOTE: Questions to be answered are on page 13 of the text and will be included in the assignment on Canvas.** Performances should be at University level or higher—any exception requires instructor approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHOOSE ONE FROM:</th>
<th>CHOOSE ONE FROM:</th>
<th>CHOOSE ONE FROM:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Theatre</td>
<td>• Concert</td>
<td>• Movie (must be seen in a theatre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Musical Theatre</td>
<td>• Symphony / Orchestra</td>
<td>• University / Professional Sporting Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dance Recital / Performance</td>
<td>• Live Band</td>
<td>• Circus</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Performance Art</td>
<td>• Opera</td>
<td>• Stand-up Comedy / Improv Show</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Religious or Secular Service / Ritual</td>
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</table>

Reaction papers should be submitted through Canvas with proof of attendance (ticket, program, signed statement from someone in charge at the event, etc). Papers will be accepted up to two Theatre 106 class days after you have seen the performance. Students are expected to hand in assignments that are their own original content, neatly typed, double spaced with proper margins, with correct grammar and spelling—using MLA standards. Major points may be deducted for incorrect spelling and grammatical errors (including comma splices, run on sentences, sentence fragments, etc.).

The first paper must be submitted by the day of the first exam—**Wednesday, Feb. 19.** The second paper must be submitted by the day of the second exam—**Wednesday, April 8.** The third paper is due no later than **Wednesday, April 29.** Late submissions will be accepted, but may only earn up to 50% of points possible.

EXTRA CREDIT: Students may attend one additional performance of their choice and complete another reaction paper—for up to 20 additional extra credit points. Extra credit assignments must be submitted through Canvas by **Wednesday, April 29.**

Students will also be given opportunities to volunteer in class for additional extra credit.

**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.

**PART I: Art, Audience, and Dance (Jan. 15–Feb. 17)**
- Reading Test 1 [pages 1-30] – due by 11:59pm **Sunday, Jan. 26**
- Reading Test 2 [pages 105-116, 143-149] – due by 11:59pm **Sunday, Feb. 9**

**EXAM 1: Wednesday, Feb. 19 during class**
PART II: Theatre (Feb. 21–Apr. 6)
  Reading Test 3 [pages 49-92] – due by 11:59pm Sunday, Mar. 1
  Reading Test 4 [pages 93-104] – due by 11:59pm Sunday, Mar. 15
  EXAM 2: Monday, Apr. 8 during class

PART III: Music and the Recording Arts: Film, Television, and Radio (Apr. 13–May 1)
  Reading Test 5 [pages 117-130] – due by 11:59pm Sunday, Apr. 12
  Reading Test 6 [pages 131-142] – due by 11:59pm Sunday, Apr. 26
  EXAM 3: Wednesday, May 6 from 2:15–4:15pm

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

TECHNOLOGY: Students will use computers and smartphones to complete assignments in class. I expect you to use them wisely—and this policy can be revoked at any time. Any disruption from a device (texting, answering calls, surfing social media, completing work from other classes) will result in a deduction of 25 points from your attendance grade. A continued problem may result in your ejection from the class. That being said, if there are extraordinary circumstances and you are waiting for an important call, let me know beforehand and we can make arrangements. NOTE: Absolutely NO RECORDING OR PHOTOGRAPHY allowed in class without explicit permission—this includes but is not limited to lectures, guest speakers, taking pictures of PowerPoint presentations, and/or performances/presentations.

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 your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester 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 to the students in the room as possible, so I will constantly be looking for ways to make the course as useful to you as possible. Please be patient and flexible if we make changes.

LATE WORK POLICY: I understand that sometimes students get behind/get overwhelmed. If you miss a reaction paper due date, you can (and should) still turn it in. Late work turned in up to 7 days past due date
is eligible for 50% credit. Late work turned in after 7 days is NOT eligible for any credit. That said, if you start to fall behind in class, the best thing you can do is talk to me! I want everyone in this class to be successful - but I can only help troubleshoot with you when you let me know when you’re having trouble.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

DEAD WEEK: This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week guidelines as outlined in http://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#examinationstext

CHEATING AND PLAGIARIZING: Plagiarism is defined as copying or paraphrasing the ideas of others and passing them off as your own. Cheating and plagiarism are very serious issues. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing in this class will automatically receive a “0” on the assignment and be turned into the Academic Dishonesty Committee. Please see the student handbook for more information. If you have any question about whether you are plagiarizing an assignment, please ask me about it before you turn it in. The class will follow Iowa State University’s policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office: http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: First and foremost, I want you to stay happy and healthy. Please communicate with me as necessary if you are not! Additionally, Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating the well-being of all students. We welcome and encourage students to contact the following on-campus services for assistance regarding their physical, intellectual, occupational, spiritual, environmental, financial, social, and/or emotional needs:

- Student Wellness call (515) 294-1099 or via website (http://studentwellness.iastate.edu)
- Thioen 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 contact the ISU Crisis Text Line (Text ISU to 741-741) or contact the ISU Police Department (515) 294-4428.

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 me. 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.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION: If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.
HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

CLASSROOM DISRUPTION: At the discretion of the instructor, disruptive conduct includes a single serious incident or persistent conduct that unreasonably interrupts, impedes, obstructs, and/or interferes with the educational process. Disruptive conduct may be physical and/or expressive in nature and may occur in person or in a virtual setting. Examples of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following: speaking without being recognized, interrupting, or talking over others; arrival to class late or leaving early without instructor permission; the use of technology, such as cell phones, computers, or other devices, without instructor permission, particularly in uses unrelated to course content; creation of loud or distracting noises either carelessly or with intent to disrupt; eating, sleeping, or carrying out other personal activities in class that are unrelated to course content without instructor permission; non-protected malicious or harassing or bullying speech or actions directed at instructors or students, such as personal insults, ad hominem attacks, name-calling, other abusive or ridiculing comments, or threats; gratuitous use of cursing/expletives or other speech that is not relevant to class discussion; inappropriate physical contact or threats of inappropriate physical contact directed at instructors or students; refusal to comply with instructor’s request for appropriate conduct.

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