THTRE 106: INTRODUCTION TO THE PERFORMING ARTS
Course Syllabus—Spring 2023
Instructor: Cason Murphy, M.F.A.
he | him | his

Course Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:15-3:05pm
Office: Carver 320  E-mail: cwmurphy@iastate.edu
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00pm–2:00pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am-2:00pm  or other times by appointment

Classroom: Physics Hall 0005  Phone: 515-294-8936

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students should be able to:</th>
<th>This will be measured by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>In-class discussions and lectures, guest speakers, and exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase their understanding of the creativity and commitment that goes into a quality performance.</td>
<td>In-class discussions and lectures, exams, and performance attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find opportunities to attend and critique live or virtual performing arts events.</td>
<td>Performance attendance and reaction papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase their critical response to performance events, demonstrated in written form.</td>
<td>Reaction papers, discussion boards, and reading responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/31TGMlw).

If you already have a Top Hat account, go to https://app.tophat.com/e/729296/ 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: 729296.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes and Discussion Boards</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Exams</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Reaction Papers</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>750</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic of Class Meeting</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE ONE (WEEKS 1-4)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 18–Feb. 10</td>
<td>Art, Audience, and Critique</td>
<td>EXAM 1: Open from Feb. 10–Feb. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE TWO (WEEKS 5-8)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>REACTION PAPER 1: Due by Mar. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE THREE (WEEKS 9-12)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 20–Apr. 14</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>EXAM 3: Open from Apr. 14–Apr. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE FOUR (WEEKS 13-15)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 17–May 5</td>
<td>The Recording Arts and New Media</td>
<td>EXAM 4: Open from May 5–May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINALS WEEK (WEEK 16)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. May 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>REACTION PAPER 2: Due by May 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ITEMS TO BE GRADED

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Obviously, I want you here in class! That said, this past two and a half years have shown us that life can get hectic really quickly. Students will be responsible for attending 33 class sessions once we begin taking attendance via Top Hat will start in earnest on **Monday, Jan. 30** (the start of Week 3). Which means, each student can avail themselves of **three 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 university-approved absence must be communicated to the instructor by your supervising faculty at least one week prior to the 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.

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. You must also make arrangements with me to make up any missed assignments within a reasonable amount of time.

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.

Given the nature of performance at this moment of global pandemic, it is my strong suggestion that you gauge the amount of risk you are willing to accept in seeking out live performances—you may attend in-person or virtual performances. I will raise awareness of possible (but not mandatory) events throughout the semester.
The first paper must be submitted by the start of Spring Break—**Monday, March 13.** The second paper must be submitted on or by **Thursday, May 11.**

**NOTE ON LATE WORK:** I understand that sometimes students get behind/get overwhelmed—especially this year. If you miss a due date, you can (and should) still turn submit something. Late work turned in up to 7 days past due date is eligible for up to 50% credit. That said, if you start to fall behind in class, 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.

You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters, as well as other vaccines such as influenza, but those options are not required. Thielens Student Health Center will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccinations free-of-charge to students. The university will continue to offer free masks and COVID-19 test kits during the fall 2022 semester. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at: https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources/.

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)
- Thienen 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.

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

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.
**FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND 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:** 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.

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