

THTRE 106: INTRODUCTION TO THE PERFORMING ARTS

Course Syllabus—Fall 2021

Instructor: Cason Murphy, M.F.A.

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Course Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:55–10:45pm **Classroom:** MacKay 0117
Office: Carver 320 **E-mail:** cwmurphy@iastate.edu **Phone:** 515-294-8936
Office Hours: Mondays from 11:30am–1:00pm
Wednesdays from 11:00am–12:00pm or always 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

Required Texts

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

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Course Requirements	Points
Participation and Attendance	200
Discussion Boards and Reading Responses	100
Module Exams	300
Event Reaction Papers	200
TOTAL	800

Your final grade will be calculated on an 800-point scale:

744-800: A	640-694: B-	536-559: D+
720-743: A-	616-639: C+	504-535: D
696-719: B+	584-615: C	480-503: D-
664-695: B	560-583: C-	0-479: 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 1-3)		
Aug. 23–Sept. 10	Art, Audience, and Critique	DISCUSSION BOARD 1: TBD EXAM 1: Open from Sept. 10–Sept. 12
MODULE TWO (WEEKS 4-7)		
Sept. 13–Oct. 8	Theatre	DISCUSSION BOARD 2: TBD EXAM 2: Open from Oct. 8–Oct. 10
REFLECTION WEEK (WEEK 8)		
Oct. 11–Oct. 15	Review and Reflect	REACTION PAPER 1: Due by Oct. 17
MODULE THREE (WEEKS 9-12)		
Oct. 18–Nov. 12	Dance & Music	DISCUSSION BOARD 3: TBD EXAM 3: Open from Nov. 12–Nov. 14
MODULE FOUR (WEEKS 13-15)		
Nov. 15–Dec. 10	Radio, Television, Film, and New Media	DISCUSSION BOARD 4: TBD EXAM 4: Open from Dec. 10–Dec. 12
FINALS WEEK (WEEK 16)		
Thursday, Dec. 16		REACTION PAPER 2: Due by Dec. 16

ITEMS TO BE GRADED

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE: Obviously, I want you here in class! That said, this past year and a half have shown us that life can get hectic really quickly. So, each student can avail themselves of **three unexcused absences** throughout the semester without a point penalty for attendance.

Additionally, a student can be excused for missing a class for any of the following—with proper documentation:

- Field Trips and Curricular related activities
- Extra-Curricular activities as a representative of the university, such as:
 - 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
- Funeral
- 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 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.

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in this class. You will be able to register your attendance at the start of class, as well as submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

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 Basic is free to students, but a full breakdown of other 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/368118> - our Course Join Code is: **638203**.

Note: I cannot assist with any technical issues that may arise while using Top Hat. 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.

DISCUSSION BOARDS AND READING RESPONSES: Each module will have at least one discussion board and reading response, which will feature performances or relevant articles for student response. Students will be expected to contribute to those discussions 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, composed of multiple-choice, matching, true or false questions, or other select styles. Any information covered in class (lectures, readings from the textbook, additional articles, PowerPoints, guest lectures, field trip information, film clips, and/or performances viewed) may be included. **Each exam will be open for a window of three days (see schedule below) and may be taken twice within that window.**

REACTION PAPERS: You are asked to attend **two** performances during the semester and write a reaction papers 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 the moment of global pandemic, it is my strong suggestion that you seek out virtual or socially-distanced performances to view. I will raise awareness of possible (but not mandatory) events throughout the semester.

The first paper must be submitted by the end of Reflection Week 1 (Week 8)—**Friday, Oct. 15**. The second paper must be submitted on or by the day of our final session—**Thursday, Dec. 16**.

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! 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.

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.

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION: Please make sure to follow all Cyclones Cares recommendations (<https://www.care.iastate.edu>) to ensure that our fall semester is able to continue as we all hope! For the 2021-22 academic year, university leaders are asking all Cyclones to take responsibility for their own health and show they care with four simple behaviors:

- Get vaccinated
 - Multiple locations are available on campus for free, convenient vaccination. Further information is available on [ISU's Covid-19 Vaccinations](#). Vaccinations may also be obtained from health care providers and pharmacies.
- Monitor your health
- Stay home if you're ill
- Wash your hands often and wear a face mask
 - All students are encouraged—but not required—to wear face masks, consistent with current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Further information on the proper use of face masks is available on the [CDC website](#).

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: 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 contact the ISU Crisis Text Line (Text ISU to 741-741) or contact the ISU Police Department (515) 294-4428.

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