I. Locator Information:
Instructor: Mr. David Griffie
Course # and Name: 203 01 Introduction to Theatre
Semester Credit Hours: 3
Day and Time Class Meets: MWF 11:00-11:50 am
Total Contact Hours for Class: 45
Email address: dgriffie@uncfsu.edu

Office Location: Butler Building - Room 269
Office hours: Posted on office door
Office Phone: 672-1275

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf

II. Course Description: An introduction to the study of drama and to the art and craft of the theatre, with special attention to the role of the theatre in modern society. Work with FSU Theatre Company productions.

III. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.


Supplemental Text: None

V. Student Learning Outcomes –
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze, critique, and construct meaning from informal and formal theatre.
2. Trace, generally, the evolution of theater from its earliest beginnings to the modern stage.
3. Gain an understanding of theatre as both an art and a craft by studying the roles of the practitioners including actors, designers, directors, and playwrights.
4. Distinguish between several theatrical styles and the several dramatic genres and to relate dramatic content to theatrical production.
5. Conceptualize theatrical productions as a whole, integrating its several components in artistic interpretations.
6. Understand and appreciate the several roles and responsibilities of the production staff.
7. Relate and appreciate theatrical productions as social, political, economic and cultural institutions.

VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria -
Grades will be averaged and comprised of the following:

Skit/Scene, Playwriting, Quizzes and exams, FSU Theatre Company Participation/ Lab hours, and a Critical Review.
The percentage for the assessments throughout the year is as follows:

- **Production Experience**: 100 points
- (5) **Quizzes**: 500 points/ You will take 6 lowest dropped
- **Production Analysis**: 100 points
- **Group Presentation/Icebreaker**: 100 points
- **Acting Assignment**: 200 points
- **Playwriting Assignment**: 200 points
- **Class Participation**: 100 points
- **Design Assignment**: 200 points

**Total of 2100 points divided by 21 to get your final grade.**

Rubrics will be used to evaluate, production analysis, group presentations, playwriting, and acting assignments.

**Class participation**: You will be asked to complete several assignments outside of class. The completion of assignments will contribute toward your class participation grade. Furthermore, being engaged in class discussion will also contribute toward this grade.

**Quizzes**: There will be a total of six (6) quizzes given for the reading and/or viewed assignments.

**Playwriting Assignment**: This assignment will introduce you to the basic methods of playwriting. This assignment will require that you created at least three pages of full dialogue that includes the setting or locale, stage directions, parentheticals, and, most importantly, dialogue. More information will be given when assignment is given.

**Acting Assignment**: This assignment will require that you perform and scene from a piece chosen by your group or the professor. You must have memorized the piece, documented all blocking, and exhibit that you have a firm understanding of the piece form a theoretical and stylistic point of view. This means that you firmly understand the objectives of your character and your partner’s character. There will be no more than two people to a group.

**Production Analysis**: You are required to attend two theatrical productions at Fayetteville State. Each student will turn in a paper that discusses and evaluates the overall elements of a theatrical production they’ve attended. Your commentary in these papers should include observation, analysis, and opinion. It is expected for you to express why you liked or disliked something, but you should include examples and your reasoning for your opinions. This will lead to you making evidence-based decisions. Be sure to include analysis of all technical elements covered in the class. The analysis is not to facilitate a plot synopsis or summary of the play. The papers must be two pages in length, not 1 and 7/8". The paper must be typed in Times Roman or Geneva 12pt font. Margins should be no larger than 1" on top and bottom and 1.25" on the side. Remember, you are a college student and are expected to write on a collegiate level. The written assignments require careful organization and clear expository writing. Spelling, grammar, and the mechanics of composition are an integral part of all your written work. I will expect you to submit papers that you have proof-read and edited, and which reflect the highest level of compositional skill. If you need help with your writing, please make an appointment with the writing center. I encourage you to take notes and write your production analysis immediately following the performance. This way it will be fresh in your mind. I will not accept any papers that are hand written. If you are registered in a Learning Community, you will be completing the Production Analysis in conjunction with ENG 110.

**Design Assignment**: You will be required to complete a design assignment based on the reading of Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom. You will be required to design either the scenery or the costumes and this will be completed with one of your peer’s in the class. You will be required to complete the costume design or the scene designed based on what you have read and what we have discussed in the class.

**Production Experience**: Every one in the class is required to participate in regards to the show. Each student will start with 100% for the Production Experience. You must accrue 100 points during the semester to receive full production credit. You will receive 20 points for every hour you work. You must work a total of 5 hours to accumulate 100 points.
Policy on Missed or Late Assignments: There will be no make-ups for quizzes or exams. Late work will only be accepted one class period after it is due. It will result in an automatic letter grade reduction. I will not accept any assignments sent through email nor will I accept any final assignments hand written.

Attendance Requirements: Attendance is mandatory!! It is a vital component of learning. You are expected to attend all classes and be engaged during this time. You will be allowed 3 absences. Any absences accrued after 3 will result in a 1pt reduction for each absence off your final grade. After 6 absences, you will fail the class. Roll will be taken at the beginning of class. Tardiness (after you name is called from the roll) is not acceptable. You will be marked absent until you see the instructor after class to change the absent status to a tardy. Three tardies = an absent. I understand that sometimes unforeseen circumstances happen that cause you to miss days. Please contact me before the fact and not after. If you miss several class periods due to a death, make sure you bring the obituary and program from the funeral.

Student Behavior Expectations: The instructor will respect all students and will make every effort to maintain a classroom climate that promotes learning for all students. Students must accept their responsibility for maintaining a positive classroom environment by abiding by the following rules: 1. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, remain in class until dismissed by the instructor, and refrain from preparing to leave class until it is dismissed. 2. Student/teacher relationships, as well as relationships among peers, must be respectful at all times. 3 Students are not permitted to wear headphones or other paraphernalia that may be distracting to the classroom environment. 4. Students must refrain from any activity that will disrupt the class; this includes the use of cell phones. 5. Students are not permitted to use profanity in the classroom, unless it is included in a scene. 6. Students will not pass notes or carry on private conversations while class is being conducted. 7. Students will refrain from using cell phones in class. It is very distracting to other students as well as the professor. 8. Food and drink will not be allowed in class or the theatre. Bottled water is acceptable.

Consequences for Failing to Meet Behavioral Expectations: The first time a student violates one of these rules, the instructor will warn him or her privately, either after class or before the next class. (Faculty members reserve the right to warn students publicly if needed.) The second time a student violates the guidelines, the instructor may deduct as many as twenty points from the student’s next exam grade. If a student violates the guidelines three times, the instructor will report the student to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action according to the FSU Code of Student Conduct.

PLAGIRISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: This course subscribes to the university policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty printed in the student handbook. First offense results in an F for the assignment. Second offense results in removal from the class.

Please note: If these evaluation criteria must be revised because of extraordinary circumstances, the instructor will distribute a written amendment to the syllabus.

VII. Academic Support Resources – Use of Smart Thinking, Criterion, University College Learning Center, and the Writing Center is strongly encouraged.

VIII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule
Week 1- Class Introduction/ Syllabus Introduction
Theatre as an Art Form/What is Theatre
Theatre in our Lives Chapter 1 & Chapter 2
Week 2 Group work - Artistic Endeavor Quiz #1 Syllabus
Group work - Artistic Endeavor Quiz #2 on Chapter 1 & 2
Week 3 Playwriting
Playwriting Group Work Chapter 12
Week 4 Acting/Directing Assignment 2 Acting Scenes- Chapter 13 & 14
Acting Exercises Quiz #3- Acting and Playwriting
Acting Exercises
Week 5  Acting Group Work
Week 6  Group Presentation of Acting Scenes
Week 7  Watch and discuss video of Acting Performances
        Dramatic Genres  Tragedy and Comedy/
        Actor Evaluation Due
Week 8  Review for midterm
        Midterm Exam on Wednesday February 27
Week 9  Spring Break
Week 10 Greek and Roman Theatre/ Chapter 4
        Chapter 5 Renaissance Theatre
        Read Mandragola
Week 11 Elizabethan Theatre/ Quiz #4 on Mandragola
Week 12 Improv  No Class March 29th
Week 13 Looking for Richard/ Read Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom
Week 14 Looking for Richard/ Quiz #5 Looking for Richard
        African American Theatre- Quiz #6 Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom
Week 15 Theatrical Space and Production Design/ Scenery, Lighting, and Costume
        Group Assignments for Design
Week 16 Group Design Presentations

Final Exam    Exam Week Wednesday 12:00

IX. Teaching Strategies
Some classes will be lecture while others will consist of “activities” to include play readings, videos, dramatic
activities, and/or group presentations. These activities will be relevant to the current subject matter and are
essential to the student’s growth and development in the art of theatre. ALL students are expected to participate.
These activities along with projects, quizzes, and exams will be used for student assessment. Methods will include
classroom lecture, instruction, and practical demonstration. Supplemental handouts will be given to further assist
the student on assignments. Students will learn from hands on participation by means of performing in the show,
working backstage, or working in the shop on production related tasks.

X. Bibliography
Parker, W. Oren; Wolf, R. Craig. Scene Design and Stage Lighting. 9th Ed. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College
2010.