

Course Syllabus
EXPLORING THEATER ARTS: LIFE AS A STAGE

Course 01:090:120:33
Fridays 1:10-2:30 PM
Scott Hall 103
College Avenue Campus (CAC)
New Brunswick, NJ

Emma Leigh Waldron
ewaldron@eden.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00 PM (or by appt.)
Bishop House Room 308 (CAC)

Course Description:

This First-Year Interest Group will focus on transitioning into life at Rutgers University with a focus on exploring Theater Arts as a major, profession, or hobby. Although this class will focus mainly on acting, we will study different aspects of everything that goes into the theatrical art form including acting, directing, designing, and more. We will also discuss what exactly defines “theater” as an art form, and how that relates to other art forms, as well as our day-to-day lives. This class is meant for students with varying interest and experience in the field – the goal is to form a collaborative and supportive learning and creative environment centered around a common thread, rather than perfecting specialized skills in only one area.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce new first-year students to opportunities to study and explore theater in all its forms at Rutgers.
- To create a positive, safe community consisting of people with a common shared interest.
- To expose students to various and diverse aspects and techniques of the art of theater.
- To create a supportive learning environment and to cultivate team building.
- To educate new college students in information literacy.
- To explore tools for academic success.
- To get comfortable with the New Brunswick/Piscataway campus, and to extend learning outside of the classroom.
- To explore diversity and multiculturalism within the Rutgers community as well as the world of theater.
- To establish peer connections and explore the peer perspective on the college experience.
- To establish useful faculty connections.
- To explore the variety of career options in the theater arts, and to establish a knowledge basis on how to prepare for an acting career.
- To successfully complete the coursework, and for the final culminating project to reflect the personal and artistic growth experienced during this course.

GRADING POLICIES

This course is worth one (1) credit and is graded Pass/No Credit.

You will *earn* points throughout the course by completing the assignments listed below. In order to pass the course, you must earn at least 75 points out of a total possible 100 points.

There are a few optional Extra Credit assignments that you may complete as well.

All assignments must be turned in completed and *on time* in order to receive consideration for full credit.

Below is a general outline of the overall grading policy for the class. More detail on specific assignments will be handed out as the class progresses. Please do not hesitate to ask a question in class, or to visit me during office hours if you are unclear about any of the assignment criteria.

Attendance and Participation – 50 points

- You will have the opportunity to earn *5 points* per class: *2* for attendance, and *3* for participation.

Questionnaire – 5 points

- Fill out the questionnaire handed out on the first day of class and return it *on time* to receive full credit for this assignment.

Voucher Assignment – 10 points

- *8 points* - response paper.
- *2 points* - program.

Research Project – 15 points

- *10 points* – paper and mini-presentation.
- *5 points* – legitimate library source and works cited.

Final Project – 20 points

- *5 points* - final journal.
- *15 points* - final performance.

Extra Credit Assignments (15 total possible points)

- Bring in an interesting or unusual object to use as a prop for class on September 21st. Each prop is worth *1 point*, and you can earn up to *2 points* total this way.
- Bring in your theatrical resume for a critique during the career workshop on October 12th for *5 points* of extra credit.
- Ask questions of guest speakers – questions are worth *1 point* each, and you can earn up to *3 points* this way.
- See any other show of your choice at any theater, and submit a proper play response and program for up to *5 points* of extra credit. (Vouchers are not provided for the extra credit option.)

CALENDAR

****subject to change****

Friday, September 14 (Week 1)

Exploring Your Environment Part I: Getting Comfortable
Syllabus Review

Friday, September 21 (Week 2)

Exploring Your Environment Part II: External Influences
Personal Wellness: Taking Care of the Actor's Instrument
Questionnaires DUE
Props DUE (optional)

Friday, September 28th (Week 3)

Exploring Internal Influences: Setting Goals
Information Literacy Workshop

Friday, October 5th (Week 4)

Exploring How Internal and External Influences Work Together: Take Action
Mini-Presentations/Research Projects DUE

Friday, October 12th (Week 5)

Exploring Majors and Careers: Planning Ahead
Guest Speaker: Marshall Jones
Audition Workshop and Resume Critique
Resumes DUE (optional)

Friday, October 19th (Week 6)

Exploring Dialogue: Reading Between the Lines
Academic Success at RU

Guest Speaker: Dean Hogan-Stanzione

Friday, October 26th (Week 7)

Exploring Dialogue Part II: Rehearsing and Interacting
The Student Perspective and Involvement at RU

Guest Speakers: Student Panel

Friday, November 2nd (Week 8)

Exploring Diversity in Theater

Guest Speaker: David Letwin

Friday, November 9th (Week 9)

Performances Today!

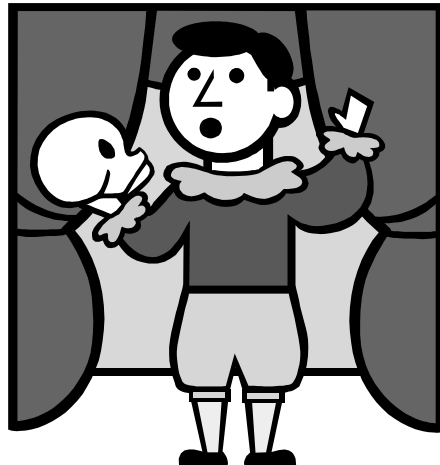
Friday, November 16th (Week 10)

Last Day of Class!

Performances Today!

Journals DUE

Voucher Assignment DUE



“Alas! Poor Yorick! He didn’t pass his theater FIG!”