

**HIP HOP THEATER**  
**THEA 4001-001 ENGL 4052-002 AFRS 4052-002**

Fall 2007  
F 9:30-12:15  
Robinson 118

Instructors: James Vesce  
Donell Stines

Office Hours: James: (Robinson 378): MW 10:00-11:00 and by appointment;  
Donell: by appointment only

Course Description

Hip Hop Theater is a musical theater studio class which explores in theory and practice hip hop performance. The class will combine readings and supporting materials with the public performance of an original hip hop production. The focus for the class this semester will be the performance of a new musical work created over the course of the semester.

Textbooks

There are no textbooks for this course. Instead, each student will be required to photocopy or print out assigned readings (the total cost will be less than \$20).

Requirements and Grading Procedure

The following activities constitute the work for the semester:

1. Class Participation - 50% - full and consistent participation in exercises, rehearsal, discussions, and activities, and completion of any and all reading assignments. This is an individual grade.
2. Public Performance - 50% - a group grade for the performances at the end of the semester.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Services, Fretwell 230, 704/687-4355, as early as possible in the term. It is your responsibility to make your special needs known so that we may be of assistance.

## DEPARTMENT OF DANCE AND THEATRE STUDIO CLASS AND PERFORMANCE PROTOCOL

*The following are uniform guidelines for participation in studio and seminar performance classes. In a studio class or seminar most of the work is “in-class” and “hands-on.” Attendance and full participation are therefore essential. Preparation and focus should guide your work as well; your demeanor in class should reflect this at all times. It is important for everyone to work cooperatively and collaboratively, and to create an environment of openness and trust.*

### Attendance

Two absences are permitted. After two absences, the instructor reserves the right to lower your grade one full letter for each additional absence. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to miss additional classes, and then only with advanced notice and appropriate documentation, subject to the rules and regulations of the University and the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions may include but are not limited to the following: religious holidays, medical emergencies, university athletic events, family emergencies, professional opportunities. Please do not call or email the instructor explaining absences. Failure to honor rehearsal schedules and time commitments is unprofessional and unacceptable, and will result in a lower grade. Absence at out-of-class rehearsals and group meetings will be considered as class absences.

### Tardiness

Tardiness is defined as arriving late once class has begun. 3 tardy arrivals constitute 1 absence. After the first 15 minutes of class, however, the instructor reserves the right to close or lock the door and/or deny you admission to the class. This will result in 1 absence. If you are tardy by more than 15 minutes and choose to come to class (provided the door is unlocked), it will still result in 1 absence. Students who are more than 5 minutes late for exams will not be admitted.

### Coursework

You may not use one of your 2 absences as an excuse for missing a class presentation. If you are absent from class on a day of a presentation or written assignment, the assignment, when presented or turned in, will be graded without prejudice and then lowered by one full letter grade. In the case of performance presentations - you are not guaranteed the chance to present your assignment late (if going back causes a schedule problem). If an assignment is one week late it will not be accepted.

All scheduled monologues, scenes, and class presentations must fulfill the requirements set forth by the instructor in class (e.g., one must read required material, be prepared for discussion, be off-book, etc.). Failure to perform the scene as required will result in a lower grade for that portion of the assignment.

You are expected to spend a considerable amount of time outside of class in rehearsal. Failure to honor rehearsal schedules and time commitments is unprofessional and is likewise unacceptable, and will result in a lower grade for the assignment.

Other specific requirements in the syllabus may apply to each course as necessary.

### Course Materials

It is expected that you will use the textbooks and materials recommended for this course. Otherwise, you run the risk of inconsistency among translations and adaptations, dissimilar pagination, and all of the other inconveniences to classmates that follow from different versions of the same play or text. You might also jeopardize your preparation for exams. Printer and software failure are unacceptable excuses

### Use of Facilities

Food and drink are expressly forbidden in the studio classroom and theater. Only bottled water is acceptable. All furniture, set pieces, and props should be returned to their proper places at the end of class.

### Dress and Behavior

Appropriate dress should be worn at all times. Do not wear short skirts, platform shoes, flip-flops, or any cumbersome clothing. Be prepared for floorwork at all times.

### Guests

Visitors to class are allowed with permission of the instructor only.

### Additional Guidelines

Please keep in mind the following regulations:

- Please do not email the instructor with explanations about tardiness, absence or incomplete and late assignments. If there are extenuating circumstances you should schedule an appointment to discuss the matter in person.
- Do not ask about extra credit assignments.

- All out-of-class communication will be arranged through my website or via your UNC Charlotte email account. You are responsible for responding as needed to any and all out-of-class communication. For schedule changes and all other course information you should check your email account and the webpage for this course on a regular, if not daily, basis.
- Technological failures are no longer valid excuses in our time. Do not use broken computers, printers, email systems, etc. as excuses for failure to complete assignments in this course.
- Failure to cooperate on group projects is the kiss of death in this course.

## **DEPARTMENT OF DANCE AND THEATRE MISSION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Majors and minors in the Department are encouraged to explore the theoretical foundations and aesthetics of both dance and theatre through a required series of cross-disciplinary courses as well as discipline-specific courses. While receiving a foundation in dance and theatre, all students in both our lecture and studio courses gain knowledge and skills that allow them to achieve career goals, commit to life-long learning, and enrich their quality of life. In addition, all students may gain practical experience through performance and technical assignments in the Department's production season.

Faculty members are committed to the teaching and practice of dance and theatre, as they foster academic progress and artistic expression in an environment that respects cultural and artistic diversity (note that "cultural diversity" refers to issues of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, and disability). In addition, they contribute to the University, the community, and their professions through scholarly and creative endeavors and through service activities. To conclude: in all its endeavors the Department strives to emphasize 1. Interdisciplinary interaction between dance and theatre, and 2. Interactions that promote cultural diversity.

## **STUDENT GUIDELINES TO THE UNC CHARLOTTE CODE OF STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As a student at UNC Charlotte, you have certain rights and responsibilities under the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity (the Code). The Code defines these responsibilities and guarantees you certain rights that ensure your protection from improper accusations of academic integrity violations. You should familiarize yourself with the provisions and procedures of the Code. *These guidelines provide a brief summary of the Code and are intended to be used as a quick reference for UNC Charlotte students. Please refer to the full Code, available online at <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html> for complete policies and procedures.*