

LBST - ARTS AND SOCIETY: 1104-ADV 04: THEA (A)
Visual Performance: The Language Of Our Time
Syllabus

Summer 2005
M-F 9:00 – 12:00
Robinson Hall 308

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Office Hours: M-F 12:00-1:00 and by appointment

A. Course Description

Visual performance - theater, film, music, television, and video - has become the common language of our time – the symbolic language of our culture. In its various forms it reflects the values of our culture and society. At the same time, it can create new mythologies and challenge old ones. Through a careful study of visual performance and its various media manifestations we can help better understand ourselves and the nature and character of this new social language. Each medium is unique but uses elements of one another to convey messages about society, culture, and the world. The goal of this course is to achieve “visual literacy” – to obtain the skills necessary to think critically about the nature and content of these forms of human communication.

The class will run as a combination of lecture, discussion, and performance lab. Students will read background materials, view selected film, video, and television performances, and participate in theatrical exercises and performances. No previous theater, film, or video experience is necessary – just a willingness to explore the possibilities of visual communication.

This course satisfies Section III ARTS AND SOCIETY for the LBST requirements. Caution: The material for this course will at times present topics and situations which some individuals may find objectionable.

B. Grading and Requirements

The class is structured around lectures, intensive reading, class discussion, and the performance of a production the class will create. You will be responsible for all material presented in class and all readings assigned. *No makeup exams will be given. Only under extraordinary circumstance recognized by the university will this policy be altered.* Your grade is determined as follows:

Class Participation (discussions and protocols) - 25%
Exam #1: 20%
Exam #2: 20%
Reflection Paper: 10%
Final Production (Group Grade): 25%

C. Attendance

Because the summer class is limited in duration, absence is not permitted. After each absence, the instructors reserve the right to lower your mark one full letter grade. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to miss class, 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.

Tardiness is defined as arriving late once class has begun. 2 tardy arrivals constitute 1 absence. After the first 15 minutes of class, however, the instructors reserve the right to close or lock the door and/or deny you admission to the class. 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 an absence. Students who are late for exams will not be admitted.

D. Textbooks (available at Gray's Bookstore)

Shakespeare, William, *The Tempest* (Pelican)

Various Authors, Handouts on Reserve and Electronics Reserve in the Library

E. Additional Guidelines

The following observations help make a better world and keep your instructors happy:

1. Class begins at 9:00 am and ends at 12:00 am. Please keep this in mind throughout the term. Additional class and rehearsal time will be held in the evenings several times a week.
2. It is expected that you will use the textbooks recommended for this course. Otherwise, you run the risk of inconsistency among translations and adaptations, dissimilar pagination, and all of the other inconveniences that follow from different versions of the same play. You might also have a very difficult time on exams
3. In a studio class or seminar course much 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.

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.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity (see 1999-2001 University Catalog, p. 375). This code forbids cheating, fabrication, falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Any special requirements or permissions regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student's work is free of academic dishonesty of any type, so grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases the course grade is reduced to "F." Copies of the code are available in the Dean of Students' Office or in the Catalog as cited above. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

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.

SCHEDULE

- Monday, July 11** Course Introduction
- Introductory Exercises
- Lecture: What Is The Language Of Our Time?
- In-Class Readings (Handouts):
- “The Culture Wars Are Over: TV Won” by Tom Shales
 - “The Televisionary” by Joseph Dalton
- Response and discussion
- ✓ **Overnight Reading Assignments:**
- Handout: “Does TV Make Kids Stupid?” (Boston Globe)
 - “Video Ergo Sum” (Jeremy Murray-Brown)
 - “Television and the Shaping of Cognitive Skills” (Renee Hobbs)
- ✓ **Written Assignment: Prepare a 5 Minute Response to Readings**
- Tuesday, July 12** Protocol
- 5-Minute Responses to Readings
- In-Class Library Reading Assignment:
“Liking and Loving On The Net” ((Patricia Wallace)
“Finding Balance in the Age of the Merchant” (Peter Whybrow)
- ✓ **Overnight Reading Assignment:**
- “Where We Came In” (Richard Schickel)
 - “Advertising and Disconnection” (Jean Kilbourne)
 - “Prurient Potions” (Tom Reichert)
- ✓ **Written Assignment: Prepare a 5 Minute Response to Readings**
- Wednesday, July 13** Protocol
- 5-Minute Responses to Readings
- Lecture: Shakespeare and Language
- ✓ **Overnight Assignment: Read *The Tempest***
- ✓ **Written Assignment: Respond to Handout Questions**

- Thursday, July 14** Protocol
- Review of Responses to *The Tempest*
- Lecture/Presentation: Dimensions of Love in *The Tempest*
- ✓ **Overnight Assignment: Read *The Tempest***
 - ✓ **Written Assignment: Respond to Handout Questions**
 - ✓ **Prepare for Test #1**
- Friday, July 15** Protocol
- Review of Responses to *The Tempest*
- Variations on *The Tempest*
- Test #1**
- ✓ **Overnight Assignment: Read “Endless Love Will Keep Us Together”**
 - ✓ **Written Assignment: Prepare a 5-Minute Response**
- Monday, July 18** Protocol
- 5-Minute Responses
- Lecture: Love in Film and Television
- Video: “What Hollywood Taught Us About Sex”
- 7 PM Evening Film: *Casablanca*
- ✓ **Written Assignment: Prepare a 5-Minute Response to *Casablanca***
 - ✓ **Overnight Assignment: Prepare Interview Theater Questions**
- Tuesday, July 19** Uptown Trip (No Class)
- Wednesday, July 20** Protocol
- 5- Minute Responses: *Casablanca*
- Discussion of Theater Interview Questions and Answers
- 7 PM Evening Film: *Say Anything*
- ✓ **Written Assignment: Prepare a 5-Minute Response to *Say Anything***
 - ✓ **Overnight Assignment: Prepare Interview Theater Questions**

Thursday, July 21 Protocol
5-Minute Responses: *Say Anything*
Interviews
7 PM Evening Film: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*
✓ **Written Assignment: Prepare Text of Interviews**
✓ **Overnight Assignment: Prepare for Test #2**

Friday, July 22 Protocol
Discussion: *Eternal Sunshine*
Test #2
Submit Interviews/Interview Theater Text Preparation

Monday, July 19 Script Preparation
7 PM Evening Rehearsal

Tuesday, July 20 Production Rehearsal
7 PM Evening Rehearsal

Wednesday, July 21 Production Rehearsal
7 PM Tech Rehearsal

Thursday, July 22 Tech Rehearsal
Performance 7:30 PM

Friday, July 23 Close Program/Move Out (No Class)