



Governing Iowa's Public Universities

In accordance with [Board of Regents policy 3.20](#), the following required information is available below:

Fall 2026

I. Course title and number as designated in the institutional course catalog

THEATRE IN OUR WORLD--THEA-1000-02 (32170)

II. A course description including learning objectives that students are expected to achieve by the end of the course

A. Course Description:

1. Audience-oriented introduction to the dramatic arts, including the live theatre, film, and television, and their interrelationships with society—Thea 1000—02 LEC (32170) 3 Units. Arranged lab required. Attendance at SWT productions is a class requirement.

B. Course Level Learning Objectives:

#1—Recognize the cultural and social history of theatre and the constantly evolving role of the performing arts in society.

#2—Identify, compare and contrast theatrical vocabulary and comprehend its application to live theatre.

#3—Articulate the relationships and responsibilities of the audience, actor, critic, director, designers, and producer to the modern theatre.

#4—Define, compare and contrast theatrical genres and styles.

#5—Identify theatrical design elements and analyze their contribution to production.

#6—Analyze and critique all facets of the live theatrical event, from development to performance.

III. A general outline of the topics to be covered throughout the course:

The Art of Theatre: Then and Now --Reading Assignments/Course Schedule:

Week 01: August 24--August 28

T-- The fall calendar at-a-glance: Intro/Review syllabus/Map out the week. Begin reading scholarly articles/critical essays over the Harlem Renaissance.

** Lecture over Chapter 01. Theatre, Art and Entertainment 03-23.*

R-- In-class theatrical activities

Week 02: August 31—September 04

T-- Lecture over Chapter 02. Stage versus Screen 25-49.



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- R-- *Guest Lecturer Jeffrey Coon: How to Find Research Sources in the UNI Library. Students should be able to locate materials which pertain to their topics and to identify what they believe to be the most significant contributions to the Harlem Renaissance.*

Week 03: September 07—September 11

- T-- *Group discussions cont'd. Announce upcoming documentaries. Peer mentor presentation on First-Year related topic.*
* *Lecture over Chapter 03. Theatre and Cultural Diversity 51-71.*
R-- *Drama games appropriate for the college-level setting.*

Week 04: September 14—September 18

- T-- *Begin reading Wuthering Heights Chapters I-VIII, 7-43/Dramatis Personae, 4.*
* *Viewing of Lullaby of Harlem.*
R-- *Viewing of Against the Odds: Artists of the Harlem Renaissance.*

Week 05: September 21—September 25

- T-- ***Harlem Renaissance essays due.** Read Wuthering Heights Chapters IX-XIV, 44-79/*Emily Bronte*, 152-154 and *Bronte Family Tree*, 155.*
* *Lecture over Chapter 04. Experiencing and Analyzing Plays 73-99.*
R-- *Theatrical activities/drama games*

Week 06: September 28—October 02

- T-- *Read Wuthering Heights Chapters XV-XXIV, 80-115/*Page Creation*, 156-157.*
* *Lecture over Chapter 05. *A Day in the Life of a Theatre* 101-121.*
R-- *Drama games/Theatrical activities.*

Week 07: October 05—October 09

- T-- *Read Wuthering Heights Chapters XXV-XXXIV, 116-151.*
* *Lecture over Chapter 06. *The Playwright and the Script* 123-145.*
R-- *Drama games/Theatrical activities*

Week 08: October 12—October 16

- T-- *Begin reading *Shakespeare: Prefatory Remarks, Introduction & Henry V, Act I*. Peer mentor presentation on First-Year related topic*
* *Viewing of Wuthering Heights*
R-- *Viewing of Wuthering Heights continued*

Week 09: October 19—October 23



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T-- *Midterm Oct 20/In lieu of a comprehensive exam, students will have four weeks to make a theatrical mask (Further instructions will be provided). Half of summary/reflection essays due. Review film: Wuthering Heights. Read Henry V, Act II, Textual Note 166 & The Sources of Henry V 170.*

* *Lecture over Chapter 07. The Art of Acting 147-169.*

R-- *Drama games/theatrical activities*

Week 10: October 26—October 30

T-- *Read Henry V, Act III, Commentaries 211 & 217. Peer mentor presentation on First-Year related topic*

* *Lecture over Chapter 08. The Art of Directing 171-193.*

R-- *Drama games/Theatrical activities.*

Week 11: November 02—November 06

T-- *Read Henry V, Act IV, Commentaries 223 & 235. Peer mentor presentation on First-Year related topic*

* *Lecture over Chapter 09. The Art of Design 195-219.*

R-- *Drama games/Theatrical activities.*

Week 12: November 09—November 13

T-- *Read Henry V, Act V, Commentaries 249 & Suggested References 267. Peer mentor presentation on First-Year related topic*

* *Viewing of Henry V*

R-- *Viewing of Henry V continued*

Week 13: November 16—November 20

T-- ***Theatrical Masks due Nov. 20.** Review film: Henry V. Peer mentor presentation on First-Year related topics*

* *Lecture over Chapter 10. A Creative Life 221-235.*

R-- *Drama games/Theatrical activities.*

Week 14: November 23—November 27 (Thanksgiving Break—No Classes)

Read over the break--Chapter 11. The Many Types of Theatre 237-261.

Week 15: November 30—December 04

T-- *Peer mentor presentation over First-Year related topic*

* *Lecture over Chapter 12. The Musical 263-283.*

R-- *Drama games/Theatrical Activities.*



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Week 16: December 07—December 11

T-- *What to look for in Wizard of Oz.*

* *Viewing of Wizard of Oz*

R-- *Viewing of Wizard of Oz continued/Review thereof*

Week 17: December 14—December 18 (Finals Week)

Final Notebooks due

Finals period scheduled for Tuesday, December 15-3:00-4:50

Review film: Wizard of Oz continued

IV. List of required textbooks, readings, and other materials necessary for the course

Required Texts:

Downs, William M., Lou Anne Wright and Erik Ramsey. *The Art of Theatre: Then and Now* 4th Ed. Boston: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2017.

Assigned Play Readings:

Wuthering Heights: The Graphic Novel by Sean Michael Wilson. Classical Comics Ltd. [ISBN 9781907127120]

Henry V by William Shakespeare. Signet Classics Ed. [ISBN-0451522869] [Insert required textbooks, readings, and other materials.]

V. General description of the types of assessments used in the course (e.g., exams, papers, projects, experiential learning):

1. Participation in group discussions, presentations on first-year related topics, play analysis, MAPworks meetings w/peer mentor, play readings, filmed plays, in-class activities, etc. (Approx. 18 points per week which equals 300 points for the semester).
2. Attendance will not be factored into students' final grades as a percentage; however, students will not receive attendance/participation points when they are not in attendance. Make-up points are not available for un-excused absences. For excused absences, students are required to complete an equivalent make-up assignment and to provide some form of written documentation for an official UNI-sponsored function, Dr.'s appointment, jury duty, etc., in order to receive make-up points. For each unexcused absence after three, and beginning with four, the final course grade will be lowered by 1/3 of a letter grade. For example, if you have earned an A- but have missed four classes, your final grade is a B+.
3. An Essay on The Harlem Renaissance, due September 24. See instructions and instructor's expectations for college-level writing in "How to Proceed" below. Students will read articles/critical essays and make



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- some determination as to what they believe were the most significant contributions to the Harlem Renaissance (150 points).
4. Theatrical Mask—students will confront their “otherness” by making a theatrical mask that depicts some part of their inner selves. Assigned October 20 in lieu of comprehensive mid-term exam. Students will have four weeks to complete the assignment, which is due Nov 19. (150 points).
 5. Attendance at the fall SWT productions plus a minimum of three other on-campus events, three in-class films, or combination thereof w/accompanying reaction papers in which students write a summary and reflection on why they chose the event and whether it was worthwhile. Half are due by October 22, the week of Mid-terms, and the other half by December 03. These may include but are not limited to Design Presentations, Fines Arts events @ the CFPL, etc. (37.5 points each, which equals 150 points for the semester).
 6. For the Final-Students will gain an overview of the entire production process (See below).

A Final Notebook including information on a famous play in production (in lieu of comprehensive final exam). This assignment will require students to research both historical and general theatre information and to make some forays to the library. Choose from one of the assigned play readings or from any full-length play which the authors have cited in the textbook or which has met with the approval of your instructor. The notebook you prepare should include information on #01--Director, Production Designer, Director of Photography, etc., #02--Principal Actors, #03--Relevant information on the movie studio, sets, lighting and costume design and other pertinent information on the film including analysis, critical essays and reviews thereof, #04--Photocopies of scenes from the original film production and/or subsequent remakes, #05--Some judgment as to the film's "screen-worthiness" for a modern production.