

THR 492 - SENIOR SEMINAR

COURSE SYLLABUS

FALL 2015

F 10:20 – 12:10

CLASSES HELD IN: SNY C201, WELLS HALL B102 & STUDIO 60

KIRK A. DOMER

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OFFICE HRS: By Appointment

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Preparation for a career as theatre professional, encompassing topics in contemporary theatre, dance, performance theory and practice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course you will expand, evolve and examine your work as a theatre practitioner.

PROJECTS:

- Each student will complete the following:
 - Theatre Resume (+ 2 revisions) (Drop Box Available on D2L - **.pdf ONLY**)
 - Business Resume (+ 1 revision) (Initial Hardcopy Due IN CLASS)
 - 5-Year Plan (+ 1 revision) (Drop Box Available on D2L)
 - Relocation Materials (+ 1 revision) (Drop Box Available on D2L)
 - Cover Letter (+ 1 revision) (Drop Box Available on D2L)
 - Creative Activity Portfolio (Web Design) (Information is listed on D2L)
 - Minimum Requirement: Main Page, Resume Page and Portfolio Page
 - Outreach and Engagement Project (OEP)
 - The OEP must be linked with the “community”. The idea is that you take your “art” to the public. Examples of MSU’s current outreach and engagement initiatives can be found at:
<http://outreach.msu.edu/program.aspx> AND <http://msustatewide.msu.edu/>
AND <http://theatre.msu.edu/senior-sem>
 - Projects will either be assigned OR approved by Instructor.
 - **DUE ONE WEEK following your OEP project/presentation:**
 - Project Abstract & Photos (one submission per group)
(Drop Box Available on D2L)
 - Writing Portfolio
 - The writing portfolio is a compilation of writing across multiple THR courses that uniquely addresses a type/style of writing within the discipline. The portfolio will incorporate both formal and informal writing assignments of varying lengths and include varying ways to approach revising/editing.
 - Reflective/conceptual writing: Student writing as spectator OR as artist
 - Self-evaluation/assessment writing: Student critically assessing his/her own artistic endeavor
 - Comprehensive analytical writing: Student writing textual analysis of play, or analysis of a particular historical era, or an analysis of a particular theatrical construct
 - Resumes, Cover letter writing: Student writing from career-based perspective

COURSE POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS:

- Class begins promptly at 10:20 and in the location listed below as we move A LOT!
- Each phase of a project's process will be discussed in class. Your participation in these discussions is very important, and will be part of each project grade. In other words, your attendance and participation is required at all class sessions.
- Portions of each project are due prior to the completion date. You will find it easy to complete these projects if you keep up with the weekly schedule of project progress. At certain project phases you will be asked to give a formal presentation of your work.
- Critiques of weekly assignments should be available on the Monday (following the class in which they are due) in the Senior Seminar Mailbox located in 113 AUD.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- Attendance is **Mandatory** and will be taken at each session. Being present and receptive to the information, discussions, and critiques presented during class sessions is essential to the successful completion of the course. More than one **(1)** absence will result in the lowering of your semester's grade by .25 of a grade point. *Each additional unexcused absence will lower your semester grade by .25 of a grade point.*
- University sanctioned activities and religious holidays are understood with appropriate documentation prior to the event. If documentation concerning an absence due to an unforeseen life circumstance is provided, I will take it into consideration. However, I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences.
- Late arrivals will be noted and every three **(3)** late markings will equal one absence. Please be courteous to your instructor and fellow students by arriving on time.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE CLASS/REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE POLICY

- Our primary focus is your education. Classes should take precedence over production. To ensure that this focus remain balanced we have instituted a "no class attendance means no rehearsal policy" for all BFA and MFA Actors and Stage Managers.
- Every course has different attendance guidelines. This policy is related to the number of allowed absences in any THR or DAN class. If you exceed the number of allowed absences for any individual class, the Director of the production that you are involved with will be notified regarding the break of policy and you will not be permitted to participate in that evening's rehearsal or performance. Please check the attendance policy carefully on all THR and DAN syllabi.
- As an example, most acting classes allow two unexcused absences. You may use these at any time and it will not affect your attendance at rehearsal or performance. If you miss class again and have exceeded your limit of allowed absences, you will not be allowed to attend that evening's rehearsal or performance. This is related to all THR and DAN classes.

DESIRE2LEARN:

- Course information is housed on D2L. If you are absent, you are responsible for checking D2L for missed information. Do not ask the instructor for lost or missed handouts and information.
- If you have technical difficulties please contact MSU Distance Learning Services at (517) 355-2345 as soon as the problems arise. <https://d2l.msu.edu/>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

| Week | Date | Topic | Assignments & Due Dates |
|------|----------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 9/4 SNY C201 | <p><u>Course Introduction</u> <i>Due:</i> Initial Theatre Resume <i>Discuss:</i> Syllabus, Course Expectations and Resumes <i>Announce:</i> OEPs, “What is a Writing Portfolio?” and Web Design Research <i>Presentation:</i> Formatting Word Docs</p> <p>Outreach Presentation by Dionne O’Dell Advising Q&A for Graduation Requirements</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Theatre Resume <p>Reminders... Due 9/11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Theatre Resume |
| 2 | 9/11 WH B102 | <p><i>Due & Discuss:</i> Revised Theatre Resume <i>Announce:</i> 5-Year Plans, Relocation Project and Cover Letters</p> <p>Photoshop Tutorial</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Theatre Resume <p>Reminders... Due 9/18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Theatre Resume Web Design Research |
| 3 | 9/18 WH B102 | <p><i>Due & Discuss:</i> Final Theatre Resume and Web Design Research</p> <p>Web Design Workshop with Brian Adams from CAL ED Tech</p> <p><i>Kirk at STRATFORD with Friends of Theatre</i></p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theatre Resume Final Web Design Research <p>Reminders... Due 9/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial 5-Year Plan Photoshop Assignment Start Website |
| 4 | 9/25 WH B102 | <p><i>Due & Discuss:</i> Initial 5-Year Plan, Photoshop Assignment and Web Design Research</p> <p>Web Design Workshop with Brian Adams</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial 5-Year Plan Photoshop Assignment Web Design Research <p>Reminders... Due 10/2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Relocation Project Initial Cover Letter |
| 5 | 10/2 SNY C201 | <p><i>Due & Discuss:</i> Initial Relocation Project and Initial Cover Letter</p> <p>Business Resumes with Becky Brewer From Career Services</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Relocation Project Initial Cover Letter <p>Reminder... Due 10/9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised 5-Year Plan OEP Identification & Work Plan |
| 6 | 10/9 SNY C201 | <p><i>Due:</i> Revised 5-Year Plan and OEP Identification & Work Plan <i>Discuss:</i> Writing Portfolio Index</p> <p>Tax Day with Jordan Sutton from Sutton Advisors, PLC</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised 5-Year Plan OEP Identification & Work Plan <p>Reminder... Due 10/16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing Portfolio Index |
| 7 | 10/16 AUD 60 | <p><i>Due:</i> Writing Portfolio Index</p> <p>Stratford Guest Roundtable (Studio Theatre) 10:00am-12:00pm</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing Portfolio Index <p>Reminders... Due 10/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Relocation Project |
| 8 | 10/23 AUD 60 | <p><i>Due:</i> Revised Relocation Project</p> <p>imáGEN Guest Roundtable (Studio Theatre) 10:00am-12:00pm</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Relocation Projects <p>Reminders... Due 10/30:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Cover Letter |
| 9 | 10/30 SNY C201 | <p><i>Due:</i> Revised Cover Letter <i>Discuss:</i> Writing Portfolios, Website and OEP Updates</p> | <p>DUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Cover Letter <p>Reminder... Due 11/6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Business Resume (HARD COPY IN CLASS!) |

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|----|----------------------|---|---|
| 10 | 11/6 SNY C201 | <i>Due:</i> Initial Business Resume Becky Brewer & Career Services One-on-One Business Resume Critique <i>Kirk at BIG TEN Chairs Meeting in Maryland</i> | DUE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Business Resume (HARD COPY IN CLASS!) Reminders... Due 11/13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Business Resume Writing Portfolios Website Questions for Brian |
| 11 | 11/13 WH B102 | <i>Due:</i> Revised Business Resume Due: Writing Portfolios must be complete! Web Design Q&A with Brian Adams | DUE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Business Resume Writing Portfolios Reminders... Due 11/20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Web Design |
| 12 | 11/20 SNY C201 | <i>Discuss:</i> OEP Updates Due: Present Final Web Design | DUE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Web Design Reminder... Due 12/4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEP Abstract and Photos |
| 13 | 11/27 XXX | NO CLASS THANKSGIVING | NO CLASS THANKSGIVING |
| 14 | 12/4 SNY C201 | Due: Present OEPs (must be completed by this date!) | DUE: OEP Abstract and Photos |
| 15 | 12/11 SNY C201 | Course Wrap-up and Evaluations Exit Interviews for 2015-16 Graduates | Course Wrap-up and Evaluations |

EXAM TIME: Wednesday, December 16: 12:45pm-2:45pm

GRADING SYSTEM:

- Each assignment grade is evaluated on three criteria: “application of course materials”, “quality of work”, and “completion of work.” Feel free to inquire about your grade standing at anytime.
- For all **FINAL DUE DATES...** Late work will devalue your assignment grade by 25% if one class period late and an additional 25% for each additional class. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of 0.0.

% BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE:

- Writing Portfolio – 40%*
 - Theatre & Business Resumes (492)
 - 5-Year Plan and Revision (492)
 - Relocation Plan and Revision (492)
 - Cover Letter and Revision (492)
 - Creative Activity Portfolio (Web Design) – 25%
 - Photoshop Project – 5%
 - Outreach and Engagement Project – 30%
- *Writing Portfolio includes past writing assignments.*

GRADING SCALE:

- 93%-100% = 4.0
- 88%-92% = 3.5
- 83%-87% = 3.0
- 78%-82% = 2.5
- 73%-77% = 2.0
- 68%-72% = 1.5
- 60%-67% = 1.0
- 0%-59% = 0.0

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

1. **Academic Honesty:** Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, **The Department of Theatre** adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; the all-University Policy on *Integrity of Scholarship and Grades*; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in **THR 492 – Senior Seminar**. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>)

2. **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** (from the *Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)*): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("RISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.
3. **Drops and Adds:** The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is **9/28/15**. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is **10/21/15**. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.
4. **Commercialized Lecture Notes:** Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.**
5. **Attendance:** Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.
6. **Internet:** Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site.
7. **Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.3.5 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.3.10 of the [AFR](#) states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](#) states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

**Note: The Code of Teaching Responsibility requires instructors who permit students to commercialize their class lecture notes to include a statement in their course syllabi that gives such permission. Absent such permission, students may not do so.

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades

At its February 24, 2009 meeting, Academic Council approved a motion from the University Committee on Academic Policy to revise the policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades. This policy is located in the Academic Programs catalog at <https://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s534>.