

# INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

*"to create theatre that is full of terror, beauty, love, and belief in the innate human potential for change."*  
-Anne Bogart

## A LITTLE ABOUT US

### Instructor: William Lewis

[william.lewis-2@colorado.edu](mailto:william.lewis-2@colorado.edu)

Will is a PhD student in the Department of Theatre and Dance. He received a MA in Theatre from CUNY-Hunter College and BFA in Performance from University of Memphis. He Directs, Designs and Produces Theatre, Film and Digital Media projects. Will is currently researching political theatre and alternative performance forms incorporating digital technologies.

### Office Hours:

M 12:00-1:15PM

W 9:45-10:45AM

**Office:** University Theatre C336

**Sign Up Here For Office**

**Hours:** [CLICK HERE](#)

### T.A.: Kaily Anderson

[kaily.anderson@Colorado.edu](mailto:kaily.anderson@Colorado.edu)

Kaily is completing the final semester of her MA degree in theatre. After undergrad she spent a few years working with theatre companies in Chicago and then getting her teaching license in Denver. Her research is primarily focused on theatre for youth. If you ever need anything as you complete your coursework, feel free to send an email or set up an appointment.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will provide you with an overview of world theatre history and practice. Readings will cover aspects of production such as acting, directing, design, and playwriting, as they are practiced throughout the world. We will examine how theatre traditions have been created, as well as how they have adapted, especially in our contemporary global community.



In this course, we will pursue some fundamental questions: What is theatre? Why and how do artists make theatre? Why and how do we attend and study theatre? How does theatre influence, shape, transform, and enrich our identities? How is theatre influential in the shaping of our culture, and how does our culture shape our theatre?

You will work as both theatre practitioners and theatre scholars. You will act as theatre critics, seeing and analyzing four live performance events. You will act as directors, performers, dramaturgs, or designers, forging your own creative processes and presenting your work in front of the class. As theatre scholars, you will be responsible for the readings/viewings and take two in-class exams—exercises that give you an opportunity to think critically about the material we cover throughout the semester.



## ASSESSMENTS

The University of Colorado, Boulder requires that a grade evaluating your accomplishments and progress in the class be turned in to the registrar's office at the end of the term. To that end, the following is a list of activities by which you will be evaluated. They can also serve to help motivate, engage and inspire you:

Activity	Number	Value	Max
Quizzes*	20*	15 each	225*
Exams	2	Mid Term - 75 Final - 150	225
Performance Response Papers	4	1st - 50 2nd- 100 3rd- 100 4th - 50	300
Playwriting	2	25 Play 50 Perform/Paper	75
Group Presentation	1	50	50
In Class Activities	3	Various	55
In Class Participation		70	70

<b>Total</b>		<b>1000</b>
<b>Extra Credit** +</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+110</b>
<b>Extra Quizzes *</b>		



## TEXT BOOK

- **Think Theatre**  
Mira Felner  
ISBN: 9780205869596

## PLAYS

- **The Blue Dragon**  
Robert Lepage  
ISBN: 9781770890374
- **A Doll's House**  
Henrik Ibsen  
Frank McGuinness Edition  
ISBN: 9780571191291
- **Medea**  
Euripides  
Robin Robertson Edition  
ISBN: 9781416592259
- **Woyzeck**  
Georg Buchner  
Dan Farrelly Edition  
ISBN: 9781904505020
- **Angels In America 1&2**  
Tony Kushner  
ISBN: 9781559362313
- **Matsukaze**  
Kan'Ami (D2L)

## VIDEOS

- **MacBeth**  
PBS Online
- **Angels in America**  
HBOGO, Amazon Prime
- **Yellow Face**  
David Henry Hwang  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Krlv9cyn9Hc>
- **Fires in the Mirror**  
Anna Deavere Smith  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnkrUJny0CE>

## QUIZZES (225 points\*)

Quizzes will be delivered through **I-Clicker** questions given during class as well as through in-class exercises. The quizzes will cover assigned reading and viewings. Quizzes will be calculated out of a cumulative of 225 points. There will be 20 quizzes during the semester worth 15 points each. If you do not miss any quizzes and receive a 100 percent on each you will receive 75 points extra credit.

**Due to this policy there will be no make-up quizzes.**



If you have a verified and excusable conflict for the Mid-Term exam, you must make arrangements no less than 14 days prior to the exam. The state of Colorado requires we have a scheduled class during the Final exam period. Due to this policy, there will be no accommodations made for taking the test at another date or time. If you have a schedule conflict with another class during the Final exam period, you must make arrangements no less than 14 days before the Final exam.

## PERFORMANCE RESPONSE PAPERS (300 points)

Performance response papers will be assigned for three University of Colorado Department of Theatre and Dance productions plus one performance of your choosing. There will be a list of acceptable performances given for the additional performance. If you would like to see a performance not on the approved list please discuss with your instructor to receive permission. The purpose of these papers is to encourage theatre spectatorship while helping the student develop an eye and vocabulary for understanding and describing theatrical performances. **All Performance Response Papers**

**will be due at 11:59 PM the night of the last performance.** If the last performance is at 2pm on a Sunday the paper is due at 11:59 PM that evening. There will be a 2 pt deduction for every hour late up until the class period the following day. We will discuss the production during the class period following the last performance and therefore no papers will be accepted after this class. Papers must be submitted via D2L dropbox in Word (doc / docx) format on the assigned date. Ticket from show required.

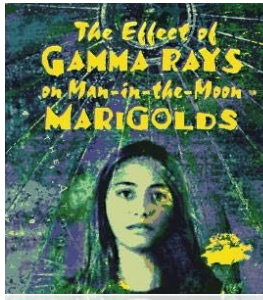
## EXAMS (225 points)

Exams will be given once during middle of the term and also during the scheduled day of finals. The Mid-Term exam will consist of all material covered up until that date. The Final Exam will cover material from the entire semester with 3/4 of the exam being new material and 1/4 being review from the Mid-Term exam. The exam format will be a combination of True/False, Fill in the Blank, and Short Essay questions.





The Required Performances Include:



**The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds by Paul Zindel**

(50 points)

The Loft Theatre - January 28-Feb 1 - (Only 6 Performances Available)

The paper due for this performance will be a 300 word performative response. We will go over the guidelines for this paper in class as well as being listed on D2L.

**Tartuffe by Moliere (100 points)**

The University Theatre - Feb 13-22 - (Only 8 performances available)

The paper for this performance will be a 500 word personal and critical response. We will go over the guidelines for this paper in class as well as being listed on D2L.



**Jesus Christ Superstar by Andrew Lloyd Webber (100 points)**

The University Theatre April 10 -19 (Only 8 Performances)

The Paper for this performance will be a 750 word critical and analytical response. We will go over the guidelines for this paper in class as well as being listed on D2L.

**Additional Performance Response (50 points)**

Performance of your choice that can consist of Theatre, Dance, Multimedia, Performance Art, etc.

The Paper for this performance will be a 400 word response in the style of your choosing following the guidelines given for the three previous papers. Consult the guidelines before attending your performance so you are able to take the appropriate notes. This paper is may not be submitted before February 6th.

**All Papers must adhere to most Current MLA guidelines for formatting and citations. A 10% reduction in grade will occur for any MLA errors.**

**For MLA Guidelines see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.**

Tickets for Theatre and Dance productions are available in person at the CU Presents Box Office in the University Club during the day, or at the University Theatre Box Office which opens an hour before each performance. You can also buy tickets by calling 303.492.8181 or online. All students enrolled in Theatre and Dance classes will receive a special discount of \$2 off CU student ticket prices by telling the ticket agent the code word "XXXXXXX" at the time of purchase. More information about purchasing tickets will be available on the D2L website for this course.

**IN CLASS ACTIVITIES (55 points)**

To truly experience the various elements of the theatre one should do more than just study its facts and figures. We will engage in several creative activities which will allow you to get a taste of what it is like to write a play, design a set or costume, act and even direct. These activities will take place primarily within the class period. Some of the experiences will take only 10 minutes while others will use the entire class period and they will be a combination of individual and small group efforts.

**IN CLASS PARTICIPATION (70 points)**

Your opinions and reactions to the material and ideas we encounter are very important and should be shared. To get the most out of this course it is essential that you come prepared and ready to engage in discussion with your fellow classmates. Always bring questions and responses to the material you have read with you to each class and be prepared to share them. Part of your grade is dependent on your discussion participation. For certain discussion days groups may be assigned to lead discussion on readings and viewings. You may also be asked to read parts from the play we read for that day.

**PLAYWRITING (75 points)**

You will be assigned a group in which all of you will write, stage, rehearse and perform a short play of approximately 5 minutes. All of the group members must contribute to the creation of the performed piece as either actor, director, designer and/or playwright. You may use props and small set pieces if you wish. Your group will be given time to rehearse during specifically scheduled class times and you will be expected to schedule a minimum of 3 additional hours outside of class. Your grade will be determined by points calculated from a combination of contribution to the overall project, professionalism and dedication to the final performance. Each member of the group will be required to submit a 250 word response of their individual contribution to the project.

**GROUP PRESENTATION (50 points)**

During the three days of this course, you will have the opportunity to get together with five or six other students from this class to present on a topic chosen from a list provided. Your group will be asked to research, prepare and present a 10-minute presentation on the topic selected. Your presentation should be exciting, dynamic and informative and involve the whole group. You may use visuals such as slides and up to 4 minutes of video, which you should narrate.

## EXTRA CREDIT \*\*(35 points possible)

You will be given the option of attain extra credit in a multitude of ways. You may write a 250 word personal reflection on each full length play in the *Angels in America* series. A rubric for this assignment will be given during the semester. You may also achieve additional credit for other theatrical related activities. Verification of activities are proven through documentation and discussion with the Instructor or TA in office hours. Discuss with the Instructor to see what is best for you individually. The purpose of extra credit is to encourage involvement in theatrical activities and improving your theatrical literacy.

Examples Include.:

Attending an additional theatrical performance.

Volunteering time to help work on a theatrical performance in any capacity.

Auditioning for a live theatrical event.

## ATTENDANCE

A vital part of the experience of this course takes place in the classroom. There will be no opportunities to make-up for any of the events you might miss in class should you be absent, including discussions, presentations, quizzes, and in class participation and activities. Because you have the ability to attain extra credit on the cumulative quiz grade the undergraduate policy on attendance is fully complied to. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please acquire any notes from one of your fellow students.

**Final letter grades will be calculated according to the number of points earned as follows:**

940 - Higher A	730 - 759 C
900 - 939 A-	700 - 729 C-
860 - 899 B+	660 - 699 D+
830 - 859 B	630 - 659 D
800 - 829 B-	600 - 629 D-
760 - 799 C+	Lower - 599 F



Please note all material submitted in hard copy form will be kept on file for a maximum of 45 days after the end of the term. After 45 days, I will destroy the papers and your grade is final, not subject to appeal.

Date	Topic	Reading/Viewing Due	Assignment Due / In Class Activity
M Jan-12	Introduction, Guidelines, Syllabus		
W Jan-14	What is theatre?	Chapter 1	
F Jan-16	The What and the Why	Chapter 14 p.326-336, Funding Clips, Funding Articles	
M Jan-19	<b>No Class</b>		
W Jan-21	Get to Know Your Neighbor		Intro Monologue / <b>Present Monologue</b>
F Jan-23	The Audience	Chapter 2. p.20-37	
M Jan-26	The Critic / Performative Writing	Chapter 2. p. 38-45	
W Jan-28	Theatre Spaces	Chapter 9	
F Jan-30	Theatre Design	Chapter 10	
M Feb-2	Discuss Marigolds		Performative Review - Marigolds
W Feb-4	Scenic Design	Chapter 11, Scenic Design Clips	
F Feb-6	Thinking Visually Discuss Blue Dragon	<i>Blue Dragon</i> , Lepage Clips	Group Survey Due
M Feb-9	Costume Design/Lighting	Chapter 12/13	<b>Designs In Process</b>
W Feb-11	Understanding Plays	Chapter 3	
F Feb-13	Understanding Plays	"EF's Visit to a Small Planet" (D2L), Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i> (D2L)	<b><i>Doll House</i> Scenes</b>
M Feb-16	Discuss <i>Doll House</i>	<i>Doll House</i> , <i>DH</i> Clips	
W Feb-18	European Genres - Tragedy	Chapter 4	Design Project <i>Doll's House</i>
F Feb-20	Greek Drama		<b><i>Medea</i> Scenes</b>
M Feb-23	Genres - Comedy Discuss <i>Tartuffe</i>		Tartuffe Review Due
W Feb-25	Discuss <i>Medea</i>	<i>Medea</i> , Clips	
F Feb-27	Exam Review		

Date	Topic	Reading/Viewing Due	Assignment Due / In Class Activity
M Mar-2	Mid Term Exam		
W Mar-4	Shakespeare Lecture	<i>Macbeth</i> , PunchDrunk/Synetic Clips	
F Mar-6	Discuss <i>Macbeth</i>		
M Mar-9	Shakespeare Verse		<b>Shakespeare Verse Performance</b>
W Mar-11	Performance Traditions - Indian/Asian	Chapter 5 96-14, <i>Matzukaze</i>	
F Mar-13	Performance Traditions - Commedia / Puppet	Chapter 5 114-124, Puppetry Clips	<b>Objects in Performance</b>
M Mar-16	Discuss <i>Woyzeck</i>	<i>Woyzeck</i>	
W Mar-18	Alternate Paths to Performance - Solo/ Story	Chapter 6 126-143, Solo and Storytelling Clips	
F Mar-20	TBA	<i>TBA</i>	
M Mar-30	Discuss <i>Fires in the Mirror</i>	<i>Fires in the Mirror</i>	
W Apr-1	Alternate Paths to Performance - Digital/ Media	<i>Yellow Face</i> Act 1, Mediatized Clips	
F Apr-3	Discuss <i>Millenium Approaches</i>	<i>Angels in America : Millenium Approaches</i>	<b>Angels Scenes</b>
M Apr-6	Play Writing Workshop		<i>Angels In America</i> Extra Credit Due
W Apr-8	Alternate Paths to Performance - Musicals	Chapter 6 144-154, Musical Clips	
F Apr-10	The Director	Chapter 8	Short Play Writing Assignment
M Apr-13	Rehearsal		<b>In Class Rehearsal</b>
W Apr-15	The Actor	Chapter 7	
F Apr-17	Rehearsal	Chapter 14. p.337-347	<b>In Class Rehearsal</b>
M Apr-20	Rehearsal		<i>Jesus Christ Super Star</i> Review Due / <b>In Class Rehearsal</b>
W Apr-22	Short Plays		<b>Short Play Performance</b>
F Apr-24	Short Plays		<b>Short Play Performance</b>



Date	Topic	Reading/Viewing Due	Assignment Due / In Class Activity
M Apr-27	Group Presentations		Performance Review #4 Your Choice / <b>Presentations</b>
W Apr-29	Group Presentations		<b>Presentations</b>
F May-1	Final Exam Review		Choose Your Own Adventure Extra Credit Due (Additional Office Hours this day only)
W May-6	Final Exam	4:30 PM - 7:00 PM	

**\*\*THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\***

#### MATURE AND CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT MATTER

We will be reading, attending and discussing plays that may include adult language, violence and nudity, as well as issues surrounding gender, race, culture, sexuality, ideology and politics. If you do not wish to encounter this type of subject matter, please find an alternative course.

#### POLICIES OF RESPECT, CELLPHONE AND LAPTOP USAGE

Always be respectful of the abilities, opinions, focus and comfort of your fellow students. Please keep cell phones silenced and hidden from sight at all times while in the classroom. I encourage the use of laptops or tablets but ask that you do so only to engage in activities directly related to what is happening in the class at the moment, such as taking notes. Please full screen your word processor and turn off all notifications and alerts. If your device proves to be distracting for other students you will be asked to find an alternative method of taking notes.

#### HONOR CODE

All students of the University of Colorado Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

#### POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A DISABILITY

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, because the quiz scores are cumulative with a possibility to drop five quizzes and still achieve a perfect score, an accommodation for absence based on religious observance is already taken care of. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

#### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name, however I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).