

2014

# THTR 100-01 Introduction to Theatre

Dave Zlatic

Follow this and additional works at: [http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/  
music\\_theatre\\_syllabi\\_fall\\_2014](http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/music_theatre_syllabi_fall_2014)

---

## Recommended Citation

Zlatic, Dave, "THTR 100-01 Introduction to Theatre" (2014). *Music Theatre Syllabi Fall 2014*. Paper 27.  
[http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/music\\_theatre\\_syllabi\\_fall\\_2014/27](http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/music_theatre_syllabi_fall_2014/27)

This Restricted-Access Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Music Theatre Syllabi 2014 at Exhibit. It has been accepted for inclusion in Music Theatre Syllabi Fall 2014 by an authorized administrator of Exhibit. For more information, please contact [exhibit@xavier.edu](mailto:exhibit@xavier.edu).

# THTR 100 – Introduction to Theatre

## Contact Information

**Professor** – Dave Zlatic  
**Office Number** – 513-745-3613  
**Cell Number** – 513-324-0750  
**Office** – Gallagher Student Center #10  
**Email** – zlatidc@xavier.edu

## Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday – 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
I am also typically available in the Shop Monday-Friday in the afternoons. More specific times to be listed at a later date  
Other times available by appointment

**Course Overview** – The purpose of Introduction to Theatre is to increase students' understanding, appreciation, and critical perceptions of the theatrical production and the study of the various elements that make up a theatrical event. Introduction to Theatre covers the study of theatre history, dramatic literature, and the process of play production. Through this study and first-hand experience of live performances, the student will learn to participate in a theatre production as an educated, discerning, and appreciative audience member. Readings and lectures will focus on the elements of theatrical practice; artists and innovators of theatre throughout history; and on the theatre's development as an art form and a social phenomenon. This course is a part of the University Core Curriculum.

**Course Objectives** – By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1.) Identify basic plot structure in plays
- 2.) Interpret themes in dramatic literature
- 3.) Examine the creative production process essential to theatre.
- 4.) Compare and contrast theatre to other art forms such as novels, film, and television
- 5.) Critique theatrical performances
- 6.) Recognize connections between plays and the social and historical contexts in which they emerged.
- 7.) Investigate diverse cultural perspectives by reading and watching a variety of plays and productions
- 8.) Understand and experience the group process that leads to theatrical collaboration
- 9.) Evaluate theatre as a potential lifelong interest as an audience member, professional or amateur theatre artist
- 10.) Analyze script, directorial concept, design elements, & acting styles of a variety of plays
- 11.) Describe the functions of the various theatre personnel
- 12.) Develop an appreciation for theatre as an art form and a reflection of society

## Class Procedure

Introduction to Theatre will be a combination of lecture, class discussion, and class participation. Student input is always welcomed, and encouraged. **STUDENT interaction will make this class more enjoyable!!!**

## Grading Breakdown

- Exams – 45%
  - Three Exams – weighted equally
- Quizzes – 15%
  - Multiple quizzes based on required play reading
  - Lowest Quiz Grade is dropped
- Final Project – 15%
- Godspell Analysis – 7%
- Black Fly Spring Analysis – 7%
- Class Participation – 6%
- Assignments – 5%

## Grading Scale

	89-87: B+	79-77: C+	70-60: D
100-93: A	86-83: B	76-73: C	59-0: F
92-90: A-	82-80: B-	72-70: C-	

Students can expect a grade of “C” for meeting the requirements stated in this syllabus. To earn above a “C”, students must demonstrate above average (“B”) or outstanding (“A”) performance.

## Course Requirements / Expectations

- 1.) **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN CLASS.** Exception for closed water bottles
- 2.) **NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.** Please turn off all phones when entering class.
- 3.) **Exams** – Exams will cover information covered in that segment of the class. The Final Exam will cover mainly the last segment of the class but will be comprehensive.
- 4.) **Class Participation** - Students are expected to actively participate in each class and contribute to the overall class experience.
  - a. **Students are expected to be on time to class and to stay for the entire session.** You should not leave class during our scheduled time, and never during a quiz, exam or presentation. Class is only 50 minutes, so please take the necessary precautions prior to the start time.
  - b. The use of electronic equipment (cell phones, computers, ipads, etc) for anything except class purposes will result in being marked tardy for that class
  - c. Disruption of class or inappropriate behavior will result in being marked tardy for that class. Serious disruption or inappropriate behavior will result in being marked absent for that class.
  - d. For each time that you arrive late or leave early (by leaving early, I also mean stepping out of the room for any reason during class time), you will be counted tardy. Two tardies will equal one absence for the course.
- 5.) **Class Attendance** – The understanding of theatre is learned mainly from participation in class and attendance. Therefore, class attendance is required. **More than three unexcused absences** will result in the loss of 3% points from your final grade. For each additional class missed, an additional loss of 2% points will occur. If problems do occur (ie sickness, family problems, etc) please contact me so we can make arrangements.
  - a. Excused absences will only be granted with a doctor’s note, excusal letter from another XU department or obituary listing.
  - b. See Section 4 regarding other ways students could be marked as absent.

- 6.) **Assignments** – Assignments will be distributed throughout the semester. Assignments are to be turned in on time. **Written work will not be accepted late without prior arrangements with the instructor.** All written work will be collected at the beginning of the class during which it is due. “Late” is defined as any moment after the material has been collected in class. If it is your intention to email any assignment, that email must carry a time stamp identifying the message as being sent before the class period in which it is due. Assignments will be marked satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If you are ill or have a medical emergency, you will not receive a “0” if you provide a doctor’s written excuse.
- 7.) **Final project** – The final project will be a group project based on one of the plays discussed and read during the class. Groups will be assigned during the semester. More detailed information will be included when the assignment is distributed.
- 8.) **Production Attendance** – The faculty of the Department of Music and Theatre agree that attendance at our program productions and performances is one of the more valuable educational experiences offered by our school. As students in this class, you are required to attend *Godspell* (October 17-19 & 24-25) and *Black Fly Spring* (December 4-7), both in Gallagher Student Center Theatre.
  - a. You are also encouraged to attend a music concert and an art exhibition during the semester.
  - b. A 1-2 page written analysis of the show will be required. Your ticket stub must be attached to this paper. **Without a ticket stub, the paper will not be graded.** More details regarding the paper will be disseminated later in the semester.
  - c. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.xavier.edu/theatre> or at the Music and Theatre Department Box Office.
  - d. **A SOLD OUT SHOW IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT ATTENDING THE PLAY. Please buy tickets in advance.**
- 9.) **Quizzes** – A Short 10 question multiple choice quiz will be given the day each play is assigned to be read. Quizzes will be given at the start of the class. If you are not present at the start of the class, you may not take the quiz. One quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. **Quizzes cannot be made up without an excused absence listed in 5.b.**

### **Academic Honesty**

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honest. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation. (2008-10 Xavier Catalogue, page 54.) See catalogue for full statement on academic honesty.

### **Learning Assistance Center**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the Learning Assistance Center at 513-745-3280 on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

## Required Texts

*The Art of Theatre: A Concise Introduction*. Third Edition. Written by Downs, Wright, and Ramsey.

Multiple Plays: (Most of these can be found online and I will also provide scanned scripts and links to these plays via Blackboard)

Sophocles, *Antigone*, circa 441 BC

Shakespeare, William, *Macbeth*, circa 1590

Moliere, *Tartuffe*, 1664

Ibsen, Henrik, *A Doll's House*, 1879

Sarte, Jean-Paul, *No Exit*, 1944.

Miller, Arthur, *Death of a Salesman*, 1947

Williams, Tennessee, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, 1947

Laurents, Arthur, Bernstein, Leonard, & Sondheim, Stephen, *West Side Story*, 1957

Wilson, August, *Fences*, 1983

## Curriculum Fulfillment - This course fulfills the following in the Core Curriculum

- Students will organize and express their ideas in writing and orally
- Students will analyze and interpret texts, images, objects, artifacts, and quantitative and qualitative data
- Students will describe the historical, cultural, mythological, and social contexts of texts, works of art, and theories
- Students will create, perform, and produce work that synthesizes technical execution and expressively communicates to its audience
- Students will recognize and interpret artistic and literary expression

# Class Schedule

(subject to change)

Week of August 25	Introduction to the class / Review Syllabus <b>August 27 – No Class</b> Chapter 1
Week of September 1	<b>September 1 – No Class Labor Day</b> Chapter 2 <i>September 5 – Antigone</i>
Week of September 8	Chapter 2 (continued) Chapter 3
Week of September 15	<i>September 15 - Tartuffe</i> Chapter 4
Week of September 22	<i>September 22 – Macbeth</i> <b>September 26 – Exam One</b>
Week of September 29	Chapter 5
Week of October 6	<i>October 6 – A Doll’s House</i> Chapter 6 <b>October 10 - No Classes – Fall Break</b>
Week of October 13	Chapter 6 (continued) <i>October 17 – No Exit</i> Chapter 7 <b>Godspell runs October 17-19</b>
Week of October 20	Chapter 7 (continued) <b>Godspell runs October 24-25 – Also Family Weekend</b>
Week of October 27	<i>October 27 – Death of a Salesman</i> Chapter 8
Week of November 3	Chapter 9 <b>November 7 – Exam Two</b>
Week of November 10	Chapter 10 <i>November 14 – A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Week of November 17	Chapter 11
Week of November 24	<i>November 24 – Fences</i> <b>November 26 &amp; 28 – No Class Thanksgiving Break</b>
Week of December 1	Chapter 12 <i>December 3 – West Side Story – Watch outside of Class</i> <b>Black Fly Spring runs December 4-7</b>
Week of December 8	<b>Final Project Presentations</b>
Week of December 15	<b>Final Exam Friday December 19, 10:00am – 11:50pm</b>