

Engaging Theatre Through Community
TART 391
T-R 9:45-11:00
Dance Studio
Professor Ann Muse
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Learning Goals for Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

- 1) Acquire the art and practice of collaboration through developing and producing theatre and dance performances.
- 2) Attain skills and understanding to contribute to lifelong learning.
- 3) Contextualize Theatre and Dance in the history of the human condition.
- 4) Develop critical thinking skills and intellectual depth by reading, analyzing, and producing theatre and dance
- 5) Commit to the work with rigor, discipline and care

Course Description

Can theatre change the world? Will the bridge to civil discourse and understanding be through theatre? This course introduces students to Social Justice through Theatre. The goals are to learn performance development through Moment Work and interview techniques associated with the process. The final project is performance piece based on interviews of local public servants.

Course Objectives

- 1) To meet members of the local community who are public servants and share their stories
- 2) To learn the technique of creating new work through Moment Work
- 3) To learn theory and practice of artists who are dedicated to theatre for community and understanding
- 4) To introduce the Hendrix community to the narratives of these individuals through performance
- 5) To contemplate the power of theatre to change our lives

Required Texts

<i>Moment Work</i>	Moises Kaufman
<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Moises Kaufman, and Tectonic Theatre Project
Selected Readings	Augusto Boal, Luis Valdez, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Free Southern Theatre, Bread and Puppet Theatre

Evaluation

1) Preparedness and active participation in classroom activities and discussion, journal.	10%
2) Attendance and active participation in Moment Work Workshop	10%
2) Presentations of assigned theatre artists	15%
3) Preparation for final project components	
• Outreach to community individuals for interviews	
• Interview questions	
• Interview	
• Raw material from interviews	
• Development of scene using Moment Work in class	
• 1 st draft of material	
• Final draft	
	35%
4) Presentation of Moments accompanied by required documentation and participation in creative process	<u>30%</u>
	100 %

Workshop: The foundation for the creative work we will do in this class is based on Moment Work. Moment Work is a process of discovery and creation developed by Tectonic Theatre Project in New York. A teaching artist will be at Hendrix specifically to teach the process of Moment Work the weekend of September 13-15. The workshop is required for students to learn the methodology of Moment Work.

Final Project: The students will engage public servants in the larger community of Conway and Faulkner County. Public servants are defined as those working in the government or non-profit organizations that serve in the community—for example, law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMT, nurses in critical care units, nursing homes, homeless shelters, women and children’s shelters, and animal rescue organizations. These vocations can bring students into contact with public servants who come into direct crisis regularly for the good of the community.

Attendance policy: after one unexcused absence 2% will be deducted from your final grade for each following unexcused absence. School Sanctioned Activities must be discussed in advanced in order to prepare for missed class work.

Late Work: some of the assignments are impossible to turn in late. Others will receive 10% grade deduction for each day the assignment is late.

Journals: For each reading assignment, students will be asked to bring questions and observations to class (at minimum 2). These reflections will be kept in a journal along with notes from the class discussion and follow-up reflection. Each assignment should be 200 words. Periodically, these will have a check-in. Those times are noted on the syllabus.

It is the policy of Hendrix College to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Students should contact Julie Brown in the Office of Academic Success (501.505.2954; brownj@hendrix.edu) to begin the accommodation process. Any student seeking accommodation in relation to a recognized disability should inform the instructor as soon as possible.

The Academic Integrity Policy for Hendrix College will be found at https://www.hendrix.edu/Catalog/2019-2020/Academic_Policies_and_Regulations/Policies_and_Appeals/Academic_Integrity/

Student Code of Conduct is posted on Moodle.

	Lab (what we will do)	Assignment (what you should do)	Required Events Or Event of Interest
August			
27	Syllabus; introduction; business;	Read <i>Moment Work</i> Introduction—28, Essay—Andy Paris, Jimmy Maize;	
28	Discuss the reading—bring two questions and observations;	Read 29-53; Handout: <i>Free Southern Theatre</i> ; videos (Moodle); Essay Fondakowski and Kaufman	
September			
3	Discuss <i>Moment Work</i> reading; bring two questions and observations;		
5	Discussion— <i>FST</i> ; Question/observations;	Read <i>MW</i> 53-90; Pierotti and Simpkins	
10	Discuss <i>MW</i> reading; questions/observations;	Read 91-124 <i>MW</i> Handout— <i>El Teatro Campesino</i> ; videos (Moodle)	
12	Discussion—Luis Valdez/ <i>ETC</i> ; questions observations; <i>MW</i>		
13-15	Workshop		Workshop
17	Debrief; Introduction to interviewing. Assignment for final presentation discussion.		
19	Guest.	Read Handout <i>Negro Theatre Ensemble</i>	
24	Discussion <i>NTEC</i> ; bring questions/observations. Begin making questions for interviews	Reading National Theatre of the Deaf	

	Lab (what we will do)	Assignment (what you should do)	Required Events Or Event of Interest
26	Discussion <i>NTD</i> ; assign artist presentation; check in for journals	The San Francisco Mime Troupe (handout)	
October			
1	Guest for interview		
3	Discuss SFMT	Bread and Puppet Theatre (handout)	
8	Discuss BPT Assign Report for theatre company (due 10/29-31)	Choose your report topic Read Level Two in <i>Moment Work</i>	
10	<i>Moment Work</i> model Report for interviews		
15	<i>Moment Work</i> model	Read Level Three in <i>Moment Work</i>	
17	Fall Break		
22	<i>Moment Work</i> model Report for interviews	Read <i>The Laramie Project</i>	
24	<i>Laramie Project</i>		
29	Reports		
31	Reports		
November			
5	Transcribing interviews Examples	Begin Transcribing interviews	
7	Bring something to class from interviews	What do you need for the Moment Work? Props, costumes?	
11	Collecting props, costumes, etc.	Bring a moment.	
13	Begin our moment work		
19	Moment work		
21	Presenting Moments		
26	OFF		
28	Thanksgiving		
December			
3	Presenting and reworking moments		
5	Presenting moments		
7	Final 8:30-11:00		