



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Course Prefix, Number and Title: Introduction to Theatre

Course CRN # and Section 20528 / THEA 102:01

Semester Taught (including year): Spring 2019

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: none

Course Time (if applicable): 11:00 T/Th

Building and Room Number (if applicable): Rahall 318

Professor: Karen Vuranch

Office Location: Alex. Fine Arts M108

Office Hours: T/TH 12:30 – 2:00 and

Wed. 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

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**College/Department Website:
<http://www.concord.edu/comm/>**

Course Description/Rationale: The student will develop an appreciation and understanding of theatre. The course will be a survey: the first half of the semester, the history of theatre will be discussed and in the second half, students will learn about the artistic and technical components of a theatre production.

Course Management System (Blackboard/Moodle or other systems): Blackboard

Hardware/Software Needed (include privacy policies, if applicable): none

Text requirements: *The Creative Spirit*, Stephanie Arnold

A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen

Joe Turner's Come and Gone, August Wilson (in your textbook)

Scripts as provided by the instructor

Concord University Educational Goal(s) This should address at least one of the areas (skills, knowledge, or attitude) for each course. Similar courses with different sections should have the same goal(s).

The student will develop an appreciation and understanding of theatre. He or she will learn about the history of theatre and how all art is created by reflecting the world around it. They will be able to analyze a play and understand what influenced the author. The student will also learn about the technical and artistic components that comprise a play and be able to critique a live stage production.

National Standards (if applicable) For example, NCTM, IRA, CAEP, etc.

Specific Learning Outcomes

In accordance with the Concord University Learning Outcomes Rubrick, the student will develop and ability to interpret events and trends in theatre within historical contexts, learn to discern the reciprocal influences of environments, cultural beliefs, attitudes and societal institutions and practices and recognize the complex interactions between human being and their environments. Students will also develop an awareness of the aesthetic principles, methods, materials and media employed in artistic performance and the creation of works of art.

Course Requirements

Course requirements as indicated in the syllabus may be changed or added to at the discretion of the instructor. The student's grade for the course will be based on the completion of the following:

1. **Exams (180 points total):** Four short tests will be given and one final exam. Each of the short tests is worth 30 – 40 points and the final is worth 40.
2. **Web Seminars (20 Points Each):** There are 2 classes that will be replaced by a Web Seminar, assigned on Blackboard. If bad weather cancels class, another Web Seminar will be added. An email will be sent if class is cancelled and a Web Seminar assigned.
3. **Essay on a Play Attended (50 points):** *Godspell* will be presented on campus this semester on **April 10, 11, 12, 13 at 7:00 pm and April 14 at 2:00 pm** in the HC Paul Theatre. It is free to CU students. After seeing the play, you will write an essay about the performance. **The essay is due April 24.** The assignment is NOT to tell me the story of the play. It is to evaluate the production aspects of a play. It should contain the following information:
 - A brief description of the story.
 - Staging techniques – lights, sound, costumes, props
 - Actor's performances
 - Your critique and reaction to the performance
 - 2 pages double-spaced with 12-point font and 1-inch margins.
 - It must be typewritten
 - You do not need to cite sources. This is your opinion of the play.

If you miss this performance, you may attend another production. You will need to find the play to attend. Please confirm with the instructor if the play you will see meets the requirements.

4. **Attendance at two other plays (20 points each):** *The Vagina Monologues*, presented in cooperation with Title IX, will be performed February 20, 21 and 22 and a murder mystery, *Reunited for Murder*, will be presented March 6 and 7. You do not need to write anything, just show up to see the two shows. Attendance will be taken.
5. **Team Presentation (50 points):** Team Presentations will begin **April 16**. There will be three students on each team. The team will be assigned a play and will present the following information to the class:
 - Begin with a **one-sentence summary** of the play. What is the central idea of the play?
 - A synopsis of the play and a presentation that will help the other students understand the story.
 - A discussion of the playwright, including a short biography, influences in his or her life that are evident in the play, other plays he or she has written and themes often addressed in his or her work.
 - An overview of what influenced the playwright that could include the historical time period or the cultural context in which the play was written and gives framework to the play.
 - Something creative! You can perform a scene or some other way to bring it to life. This is worth 15 points of the 50. If you choose not to do something creative, you can still earn 35 points total.
6. **Written paper on your assigned play (100 points):** Each student will individually write a paper that will cover:
 - Synopsis of the play – one or two paragraphs
 - Information about the author
 - What influenced the author
 - **At least three sources, including the play itself**
 - Your vision for producing this play. Describe your set, the lights and costumes
 - A cast list using famous actors and describing why you would cast that person.
 - At least 4 – 5 pages, double-spaced
 - **All papers are due April 16.**
7. **Whose Line Is It Anyway (20 Points):** On **April 30**, the students will participate in theatre and acting exercises. Really, it is fun. 20 participation points will be awarded
8. **Class Participation (50 points):** Students are expected to participate in class discussions and activities. Attendance and class participation will affect your grade. If you have an unavoidable conflict, contact the instructor **in advance**. **A student is permitted 3 missed classes**. That does NOT mean in addition to ones that have a good excuse: **THREE ABSENCES** - including ones with a valid excuse. Every additional absence results in a deduction off the final grade. Repeated absences will cause a drop in grade.

Grading Policy and Scale, Make-up Policy, Late Work

Grading - Students will earn points for completion of each assignment. Grades will be given on a 10% grading scale:

Essay on <i>Godspell</i>	50
Team Presentation & paper	150
Attendance at Vagina Monologues and Reunited for Murder	40
4 tests @ 30 - 40 points each	140
Final exam	40
Whose Line Is It Anyway	20
Web Seminars	40
Participation Points	<u>50</u>
Total points available	530*

- If classes are cancelled due to bad weather, there will be a Web Seminar worth 20 points, added to the total points.

Late Work, Communication and Assignments:

- It is YOUR responsibility to communicate with the instructor if you need to miss class or an assignment.
- Some assignments may be accepted late, with 10% penalty, unless advance arrangements were made.
- **Absolutely and without exception – No written work may be submitted Finals Week.** All work must be completed by the last day of classes.
- Assignments may be turned in by Blackboard, email or hard copy. If emailed, you will get an email confirming it was received. If you do not get a confirmation, it was not received.
- **All assignments MUST be typewritten**
- Messages will be sent to you through email. If, for some reason, you are not getting messages, call the instructor. Phone numbers are provided at the beginning of this syllabus.

Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

Jan. 15 Review of course syllabus and requirements.

- Jan. 17 Introductory lecture / *Read **Sorry Wrong Number*** in class – script provided by the instructor
- Jan. 22 Lecture: Theatre in Ancient Greece
- Jan. 24 Lecture: Roman Theatre / Theatre in the Non-Western World
- Jan. 29 **First Test** - Exam will cover Introduction, Greek, Roman, and Theatre in the Non-Western World
- Jan. 31 Lecture: The Medieval Era / Lecture on how to write a college-level paper and essay
- Feb. 5 Lecture: Renaissance Theatre – England and Shakespeare
- Feb. 7 Lecture: Understanding Shakespeare’s Language
- Feb. 12 Lecture: Renaissance Theatre – Italy and France
- Feb. 14 **Second Test:** Medieval and Renaissance Theatre
- Feb. 19 Lecture: Transition to Modern Drama and Realism
- Feb. 21 **No class – Web Seminar: *A Doll’s House***
- Feb. 26 Lecture: *A Doll’s House* - **Bring your script to class**
- Feb. 28 **No Class – Web Seminar**
- Mar. 5 Lecture: Modernism / / Team Presentations assigned
- Mar. 7 Lecture: Modernism/ Read *Trifles* in class (script provided by the instructor)
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- March 12 & 14 **No Class – Spring Break**
- Mar. 19 Lecture: Musical Theatre
- Mar. 21 **Third Test** – Test will cover Realism, Modernism and Musical Theatre
- Mar. 27 Lecture: The Playwright
- Mar. 28 Lecture: The Director
- Apr. 2 Lecture: Technical Theatre - Theatre Architecture / Set Design
- Apr. 4 Lecture: Technical Theatre - Lights and Sound
- Apr. 9 Lecture: Technical Theatre - Costumes
- Apr. 11 **Fourth Test** – Test will cover Playwrights, Directors and Technical Theatre
- Apr. 16 **Team Presentations – all papers due at this time**
- Apr. 18 **Team Presentations**
- Apr. 23 **Team Presentations**

- Apr. 24 Lecture: The Actor/ Unions and the Business of Theatre
- Essay on *Godspell* due**
- Apr. 30 Karen Vuranch's version of ***Whose Line is It Anyway***
- May 2 Exam review
- May 7 **Final Exam – 11:30 am**

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All

students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:
<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."

Miscellaneous:

Snow Policy:

If the weather is bad, please confirm that class is cancelled. Check your email or call the instructor. **If class is cancelled, there will be an assignment on Blackboard.**

Cell Phones:

Cell phones will not be tolerated in class. You must act professionally and give your full attention to the class. If you are blatantly texting or using your phone, you automatically lose 10 points off your total grade.