
THEA 4094 02

Special Topics: Theatre

Production for Young Audiences

CRN: 23116 Spring 2018
TR 9:30 AM – 10:50 AM / PAC 184

Instructor: Dr. Victoria (Vicky) P. Lantz
E-Mail: vplantz@shsu

Phone number: 294-4339
Office: PAC 284-I
Office Hours: **Sign up on my office door

Catalogue Description

A course for the undergraduate student which will allow a student to pursue particular areas beyond the limits of current course offerings. Credit 3.

Course Description

During this course, students will gain insight into the philosophies, purposes, and processes of developing theatre for youth and young audiences. The course will explore teaching drama to youth, devising and physicalizing stories, acting styles and techniques, and production design and management. The class will culminate in a fully realized production of *Just So...And Other Stories Tales from Around the World* by Burgess Clark, produced and performed by the students, for visiting elementary school populations.

This is an **Academic Community Engagement (A.C.E.)** course in which you will not only learn skills for performance, but also actively apply these skills as you collaborate on a production of *Just So...And Other Stories Tales from Around the World* that will make a difference in our community.



COURSE TOPICS AND GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- **Ensemble Building:** How do we define ensemble? Why does teamwork matter?
- **Philosophy and Purpose:** What is theatre for youth and young audiences? Is it to educate, entertain, or both?
- **Play:** How do children use play to interact, learn, and develop?
- **Introducing Children to Theatre:** How might we teach youth about the theatrical experience?
- **Characterization, Physicalization, and Storytelling:** How might we as performers engage a young audience?
- **Devise, Adapt, Design:** What are the initial ingredients for putting on a show aimed at young audiences?
- **Produce, Publicize, Perform:** What are the elements of putting on a production for young audiences?

Course Goals:

By the end of this course you will:

- Rehearse, design, and perform a quality play for young audiences.
- Increase understanding of history and practices of theatre for young audiences.
- Create and implement a comprehensive outreach program for teachers and students at elementary schools.

Course Content:

- Each student will take on a vital role in the production process of the chosen play for young audiences (actor, director, designer, outreach, crew).
- Plan and implement a plan to successfully reach Huntsville elementary schools.
- Load, set up and strike at the schools, returning any production components to storage.
- Attend and participate in Old Town Theatre and school performances.
- Read a variety of children's dramatic literature.

MANDATORY PERFORMANCE/LESSON DATES**OFF-CAMPUS ELEM. SCHOOLS:**

4 Student matinees (during class time) – Days/Times TBD

Student-led lessons (during class time) – Days/Times TBD

Classroom Etiquette

I believe that students learn best when they take responsibility for their own learning. I also believe in creating a classroom atmosphere that is participatory, active and interactive, as well as cooperative and supportive. I expect you to help maintain that classroom atmosphere by attending every class, participating in activities, and remaining collegial with your classmates.

We are working to develop a class dynamic built on respect and communication. Laptops need to stay off, meaning you will need to print out all or part of the PDF readings for class. Cell phones stay off (not vibrate, OFF). No texting, IM-ing, or reading texts or IMs. We'll also be physically interacting, so we have to be respectful of the way we interact.

Texts

You will have required readings, posted as PDFs to Blackboard

Recommended Reading

Theatre for Young Audiences: 20 Great Plays for Children, edited by Coleman Jennings

Into the Story: Language in Action Through Drama, by Carole S. Miller, Juliana Saxton

Theatre for Children in the United States: A History, by Nellie McCaslin

Grade Breakdown	Points
Participation	300
Story Drama Mini-Lesson Leadership	100
Production of <i>Just So...And Other</i>	450
<i>Stories Tales from Around the World</i>	
-Includes development, performance, and outreach	
Stories for Young Audiences Lessons	100
Final Reflection Paper	50
1000 TOTAL	

GRADING SCALE

900-1000 pts — A

800-899 pts — B

700-799 pts — C

600-699 pts — D

599 and below — F

BONUS POINTS: 5 points for attending each of the five UTC fall productions = 25 points max

- Easy; just show ticket stubs to me.

Participation (300 pts / 20% of Final Grade): This is a production class and therefore your attendance is necessary and performance attendance is mandatory. During the first part of this class, it is essential that you fully participate in classroom discussions and production development. During production, you must attend required performances.

I expect you to leave any negativity or low energy you might be feeling at the door. Even a single day with a bad attitude or a reticence to participate in class could hinder your learning process, and to that of the others in the class.

You will receive THREE participation grades, worth 100 points each, throughout the semester as progress reports on how you are doing in class. You will be assessed on the following scale: 100 for exceptional class work, 95 for good work, 85 for mediocre work, 70 for low energy or bad attitude, 50 or less for sleeping, negativity, hostility, etc.

Story Drama Mini Lesson (100 points each / 10% of Final Grade):

Throughout the semester, you will practice your lesson leadership and lesson planning skills in pairs, creating and leading a brief lesson on a story of your choosing (but Vicky approved!). You will get a detailed set of assignment guidelines.

Production of *Amazing Adventures of the Marvelous Monkey King* (450 pts total / 45% of Final Grade):

Each student will be assigned critical roles for the production. The grade will be broken down in stages with detailed assignment guidelines provided. Almost all the work will be developed in class. Lateness and absences will seriously affect your grade. Assignments may include:

- Actor (physical ensemble) / Narrator
- Design / Props
- Educational Outreach
- Stage Manager(s)
- Other Roles TBD

Stories for Young Audiences Lessons (100 points each / 10% of Final Grade):

During the last couple weeks, you will develop and present a on a folk tale or story that you think . You will get a detailed set of assignment guidelines.

Final Reflection Paper (50 points each / 5% of Final Grade):

At the conclusion of the course, students will write a reflection paper examining their new understanding of theatre for young audiences and their role in the creation of the semester's production.

Journal: I strongly recommend that you keep a journal during this class/process. This will be helpful when you write your final assessment paper.



CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance Policy: By university policy for classes that meet two times each week, you may not be penalized for up to 2 absences, nor may you be penalized for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance.

UNLESS YOU MISS ONE OF YOUR PERFORMANCE DAYS.

- After 2 absences, you will be penalized 1/3 letter grade from your final course grade for **each** additional absence, unless there is written communication (email with specific dates, times, and reason) from the Dean of Students Office. Example: 5 absences turns a B into a C+.

However, more than 8 absences, for any reason, and you will not pass course.

You cannot miss presentation days, performance days, lesson days.

Classroom Readiness: Have all class material with you (including printed PDFs from Blackboard). Late work is not accepted. Dress comfy!

Talking with me: Great idea!

Weekly Schedule (Subject to Change as Production Schedule develops)**Week 1**

R 1/18 Introduction to course, syllabus, assignments.

Week 2

T 1/23 TYA/Drama lessons in classrooms // Vicky Story Drama

Read for Class: 4 TYA Articles (PDFs on Blackboard), DUE: 5 Key Take-Aways about TYA

R 1/25 **Read for Class: *Into the Story* PDF // Story dramas and lesson planning**

Week 3

T 1/30 Sorting Roles and work duties for *Just So ...*

Read for Class: *Just So...And Other Stories Tales from Around the World*

R 2/1 Rehearsal/Build/Development of *Just So ...*

Week 4

T 2/6 Rehearsal/Build/Development of *Just So ...* // Sample Mini Story Lesson

R 2/8 Rehearsal/Build/Development of *Just So ...* // Leading Lessons

Week 5

T 2/13 Build and Create Day for *Just So ...* // DUE: 1 Mini Story Lesson

R 2/15 Rehearsal/Build/Development of *Just So ...* // DUE: 2 Mini Story Lesson

Week 6

T 2/20 Rehearsal/Build/Development of *Just So ...* // DUE: 3 Mini Story Lesson

R 2/22 Build and Create Day for *Just So ...* // DUE: 4 Mini Story Lesson

Week 7 KCACTF (Vicky might not here, but class will meet)

T 2/27 Final Rehearsal/Run of *Just So ...*

R 3/1 Final Rehearsal/Run of *Just So ...*

Week 8 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

T 3/6 Elementary School Visit

R 3/8 Elementary School Visit

*****Spring Break 3/12-3/16*******Week 9 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

T 3/20 Elementary School Visit
 R 3/22 Elementary School Visit

Week 10 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

T 3/27 Elementary School Visit
 R 3/29 Elementary School Visit

Week 11 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

T 4/3 Elementary School Visit
 R 4/5 Elementary School Visit

Week 12 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

T 4/10 Prepping Folk Tale Lessons
 R 4/12 Prepping Folk Tale Lessons

Week 13

T 4/17 Folk Tale Lessons
 R 4/19 Folk Tale Lessons

Week 14

T 4/24 Youth Theatre Across America
 R 4/26 Theatre for Young Audiences: An International Tradition

Week 15

T 5/1 Final In-class Reflection
 R 5/3 No Class: Juries



The instructor reserves the right to change or alter the calendar to meet the individual and unique needs of the course. You are responsible for noting any and all changes to the syllabus.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES**Academic Honesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Any students found cheating on exams, or plagiarizing papers will FAIL the course.

Classroom Environment

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and peers with respect and dignity. Section 5.2.22 in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines classroom disturbances as any activity which proves distracting to the learning environment including but not limited to the use of cell phones or text messaging; the reading of materials (newspapers, magazines, texts) not assigned to the class; the use of profanity or abusive behavior toward the instructor or other students; having off-topic conversations which disturb or disrupt the learning environment; the use of computers and/or other electronic devices (Ipods, MP3 players, etc.) during classroom instruction, therefore, as a result, under no circumstances are cell phones or any other electronic devices to be used or seen during

classroom instruction or examination. Even the visible presence of such a device during an examination will result in a zero on that examination. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during class. **Violations of the code of conduct will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with this policy will result in expulsion from the classroom and may at the instructor's discretion result in the student(s) being referred for disciplinary action to the Dean of Students.** Any assignments missed because of disciplinary action cannot be submitted for a grade.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.