Course Syllabus

THEA 1040: 090 Section 001

FALL 2016 (Fall Break Intensive Flex Class)

Hugh Hanson, MFA Theatre Direction, MA Speech Pathology

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Office hours by appointment

**Course Description:** Fulfills Fine Arts Exploration. Students will explore television as a theatrical art form. Television will be examined and critiqued through multiple lenses, including historical antecedents, social impact and international media issues.

**Course Prerequisites:** None.

**Text:** No text book to purchase. All reading material is found online.

**Course Overview:** During this semester we will study the history and development of both live theatre and television. Most important, for our focus, is the manner in which the two intersect. The course will bring out how television has been a tool for both positive and negative in society and how its position as an avenue for artistic input affects the lives of most people in the world, regardless of status. Live theatre and television have each had a strong impact on social, political and artistic attitudes. The influences of both media are worthy of study and discussion.

**Course Objective:** At the end of the course a student will:

- Be able to discuss the ancient roots of theatre and complete an assignment applying the teachings of Aristotle to a specific television program.
- Have increased his/her knowledge of various historical theatre movements and be able to relate them to present day television.
- Be able to discuss the social implications that television brings and how this is comparable to similar implications brought to light by theatre.
Recognize and complete an assignment detailing both positive and negative effects of television, both on them individually and on people of all ages.

Be able to develop and use critical thinking skills in writing a paper that compares a specific live theatre event with a corresponding TV program.

**Teaching and Learning Methods:** This is a one week course, eight hours a day. There are some unique qualities inherent in taking a course in this manner. Attendance is key, as is participation in the class. Most work will take place during class period, with the exception short written assignment. The course includes the following activities: daily reading assignments with an accompanying written component. All reading material is found online.

**Assessment Items:** there will be two tests given in class. They are open book. You will have two hours to complete each test.

**Assignment Items:** Click on Assignments to access the material.

**Evaluation Methods and Criteria:**

**Daily assignments based on reading and lecture.** 10 or 20 points each

*to earn 10 points you must be on time and show evidence of critical thinking in your answer. The use of specific examples to support your ideas is required.

**Mid-term test.** 100 points

*consists of multiple choice, True/False, Short Answer and Short Essay questions.

**Final test.** 100 points

*types of questions similar to mid-term. It is not comprehensive in nature.

**Term paper.** 125 points

*1200 to 1500 words is required. This paper is a comparison between a live theatre performance and a television show of your choice. If you are in the Salt Lake area you should take advantage of U Artpass, which gives you a free ticket to any theatre department produced play on campus with your U card. You can find out about these shows at theatre.utah.edu. In lieu of a live production, we will watch several videos of live productions that you may use for this paper as well.
**Grading Scale:** Final grades will be based on the following percents figured using highest score attained in the class:

- 93-100   A
- 90-92     A-
- 87-89     B+
- 83-86     B
- 80-82     B-
- 77-79     C+
- 73-77     C
- 70-72     C-
- 67-69     D+
- 63-66     D
- 60-62     D
- 59 and below  E

**Required Texts:** No text to purchase. All reading material can be accessed online.

**Class Schedule:** In most cases, assignments are due either in class when we complete them together or some are due that night at midnight. I will accept late work with a deduction. The term paper may be done at any time before the due date, which is one full week after the class ends. You cannot take the tests outside of the time assigned for them. For the 2 tests there are NO make-ups allowed under any circumstances.

Each day will consist of lecture, analysis of viewed material from television, videos of live stage productions, reading assignments, discussion and participation. There will be eight total assignments, most of which can mainly be done during class time. Occasionally you will need to write a short assignment outside of class time.

**Reading Material Detailed:**

*Ancient Theatre: Aristotle  Professor Lecture*
*Commedia del Arte Professor Lecture
*Creating Theatre and TV Professor Lecture
*Theatre Jobs Professor Lecture
*Television Jobs Professor Lecture
*Screen Acting/Screen Actor Theatre’s Illegitimate Child: The Actor, Thomas Babson, MIT Press

*Disney on Time Square Disney’s Time Square: The New American Community Theatre, John Bell, MIT Press

E-reserve files: Marriott Library website (click “Web Link” on your Canvas homepage)

*American Television Drama: Hawes, William
*Broadcast Television as Sound and Image: McQueen, David
*Creating Television: Kubey, Robert
*Glued to the Set: Stark, Steven
*Living Theatre, Commedia del Arte: Wilson, Edwin

E-Journal articles: Marriott Library Research and Libraries


Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union
Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

**University of Utah Student Code**

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content.

According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

**Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is unwanted, unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. It is a form of discrimination and a violation of University policy, Student and Faculty Codes, and state and federal laws. Report any sexual harassment of which you become aware, and be sensitive to how others view what you say and do. If you feel you are being sexually harassed or are uncertain about whether you are experiencing sexual harassment, talk to a faculty member, University official, or contact the Office of Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 581-8365 (V/TDD).

**Accommodations Policy**

Some of the content of this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information on the University’s accommodations policy, visit [http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/9/9-7.html](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/9/9-7.html).