

# USC School of Dramatic Arts

Theatre in America – THTR 295 – 63012D – SPRING 2017  
**Mondays** —4:00 PM and show times at various theatres  
**Location:** KAP 138 and Theatre Locations.

**Instructor:** Professor Frank Catalano

**Office:** School of Dramatic Arts

**Office Hours:** (By Appointment or before/after class)

**Contact Info:** [fcatalan@usc.edu](mailto:fcatalan@usc.edu)

## Course Description and Overview

Introduction to the basic components of Theatre Arts from the audience perspective including basic concepts of performance, production, staging, design and criticism as it exists in the Los Angeles Theatre community.

## Learning Objectives (no prerequisite for this course)

Enable the student to better understand live theatrical performance by exploration of

Unique qualities of live performance

Role of audience and Critic

Role of the Actor, Director and Producer

Role of the Playwright, Designers and Staging

Role of Music in Theatre Arts

Audience Interaction with live Theatre

**Required materials:** Course pack - Theatre In America - AVAILABLE AT <https://students.universityreaders.com/store/>

## Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments:

### 50% Exams and Production Review:

Two Written Exams: One general vocabulary and **Final Exam/ project**. Both based upon class lectures, discussions and productions attended.

ONE **PRODUCTION REVIEW** on an assigned aspect or topic focusing on those productions attended during the semester.

**OPTIONAL MAKE UP FOR A MISSED Exam or missed class:** (You may only do one per semester)

If you miss any of the written exams given during class, (EXCLUDING THE FINAL) you may do **ONE OPTIONAL MAKEUP PRODUCTION REVIEW ASSIGNMENT**. Your makeup review must be on a play production currently running during our semester **and not seen as part of our class**. In order to receive full credit, **YOU MUST FOLLOW APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENT FORMAT AND ATTACH A TICKET STUB WITH DATE AND TITLE OF PRODUCTION**. This is not a shared assignment and must be done individually - one student - one ticket per review. If you choose **not to do a MAKE UP ASSIGNMENT** for a missed test, you will receive an "F" GRADE for that test. **MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN OUR LAST CLASS**. In the event of illness, you may have someone drop off your written work during class time.

### 50% LECTURE / PRODUCTION PARTICIPATION - ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETION OF ASSIGNED ACTIVITY SHEETS

Active participation in class discussions. This portion of your grade will be dropped ONE LETTER GRADE FOR EVERY LECTURE CLASS MISSED. Being absent does not excuse you from the ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES, OR TESTS INDICATED IN THIS SYLLABUS. If you have to miss class, make arrangements to obtain a copy of the notes or have assignments turned in.

*Grading Scale: A = 4; A- = 3.7; B+ = 3.5; B = 3; B- = 2.7; C+ = 2.5; C = 2; C- = 1.7; D = 1; F = 0. When the average falls between two grades, the grade will be weighted toward the positive end of the scale.*

### **NOTE:**

**EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO DISTRIBUTE TICKETS TO YOU DURING CLASS PERIODS. HOWEVER, IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE STUDENTS DO NOT RECEIVE TICKETS IN CLASS, tickets will be placed in **your name** at the "WILL CALL" window of the box office of the of the theatre where the event is playing.**

## Assignment Submission Policy

All assignments are submitted hard copy in writing during class – no email submissions.

**LECTURE, ASSIGNMENT AND PRODUCTION CALENDER**

Mon – 1/9 2:00 PM	Class Introduction –WHAT IS THEATRE?	Class meets at KAP 138 Reading: Chapter 1 – What is Theatre?
Mon – 1/16	<b>NO CLASS – LABOR MLK</b>	
Mon – 1/23 4:00 PM	<b>LECTURE Basic Theatre Terminology</b>	Class meets at KAP 138 Reading: Chapter 2 - <b>Basic Theatre Terminology – Activity Sheet #1</b>
Tues – 1/24 8:00 PM	Production of <b>RENT</b> at the <b>PANTAGES THEATRE</b>	Class meets at the Pantages Theatre.
Mon – 2/6 4:00 PM	<b>Test #1 – Basic Terminology</b> <b>LECTURE - The Unique Qualities of Theatre</b>	Class meets at KAP 138 – Reading Chapter 3 <b>The Unique Qualities of Theatre –</b> <b>ACTIVITY SHEET #2 DUE</b>
Sun – 2/12 6:30 PM	Production of <b>MOTOWN MUSICAL</b> at the <b>PANTAGES THEATRE</b>	Class meets at the Pantages Theatre.
Mon 2/13 4:00 PM	<b>LECTURE – Role of the Critic – We are all Critics</b>	Class meets at KAP 138 Reading: Chapter 4 – <b>The Role of the Critic - ACTIVITY SHEET #3</b>
Fri 2/17 8:00 PM	Production of <b>ZUIT SUIT</b> at THE MARK TAPER FORUM	Class meets at the MARK TAPER FORUM.
Mon – 2/20	NO CLASS PRESIDENT’S DAY	
Fri – 3/3 8:00 PM	Production of <b>FUN HOME</b> at the <b>Mark Taper Forum</b>	Class meets at the Mark Taper Forum
Mon – 3/6 4:00 PM	<b>LECTURE: THE PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCE</b>	Reading: Chapter 5 <b>The Performing Arts Experience</b> and - <b>ACTIVITY SHEET #4 DUE</b> Class meets at KAP 138
Mon 3/13	<b>NO CLASS SPRING BREAK</b>	
Mon 3/20 4:00 PM	LECTURE – Role of the Audience in the Creative Process	Reading Chapter 6 – <b>The Audience Response Production Review Due</b> (on one of the previous 3 productions and Activity Sheet #5
Fri 3/31 8:00 PM	Production of <b>AN AMERICAN IN PARIS</b> at THE PANTAGES THEATRE	Class meets at THE PANTAGES THEATRE
Mon 4/3 4:00 PM	<b>LECTURE – THE THEATRE AS A COLLABORATIVE ART and FUTURE TOTAL INTEGRATION LECTURE</b>	Reading: Chapters - 7-10 – <b>Theatre as a Collaborative Art</b> <b>ACTIVITY SHEET #6 DUE</b>
Fri – 4/14 8:00 PM	PRODUCTION of <b>INTO THE WOODS</b> at the AHAMANSON THEATRE	Class meets at THE AHMANSON THEATRE
Fri – 4/21 7:00 PM	PRODUCTION of <b>SPRING AWAKENING</b> at the MCCLINTOCK THEATRE	Class meets at the MCCLINTOCK THEATRE – ON CAMPUS
Mon – 4/24 4:00 PM	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	Class meets in KAP 138
Mon – 5/8 4:00PM	Final Exam – 4:00 PM (NOTE IF YOU MISS THE FINAL FOR ANY REASON – YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDIT.)	Class meets at KAP 138

**OFF CAMPUS THEATRE DIRECTIONS** you are required to provide your own transportation to all productions. The following are general directions from campus:

**Los Angeles Theatre Center: Ahmanson/ Mark Taper Forum/Dorothy Chandler Pavilion:** 110 Freeway NORTH to 4<sup>th</sup> Street exit. Get off at 4<sup>th</sup> and make a left at GRAND BLVD. Take GRAND for three blocks until you reach the theatres. (213-972-7211)

**USC CAMPUS – BING, MCCLINTOCK AND SCENE DOCK THEATRES – ON CAMPUS**

**PANTAGES THEATRE:** 6233 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90028 - (323) 468-1770  
110 FREEWAY NORTH – TO HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY (101) – EXIT AT HOLLYWOOD BLVD – WEST – PANTAGES IS ABOUT 1 MILE ON THE RIGHT- HAND SIDE.

**Hollywood Bowl** - 2301 North Highland Avenue, just off the Hollywood Freeway – accessible via car, metro, park and ride and shuttle. Check Bowl website at <http://www.hollywoodbowl.com/visit/getting-to-the-bowl>

**NOTE:**

All tickets for productions attended will be distributed during the lecture/class periods at the end of class. When possible, (based upon availability) tickets for several productions will be distributed at one time. At that time, you will be provided tickets and your seat location will be recorded. If you cannot be present when tickets are distributed, you may arrange for someone to pick up your tickets at the lecture. If you are not present during ticket distribution, your ticket will be placed in your name at WILL CALL at each theatre. In addition, you can be provided your specific seat number via email and should bring this with you when you attend the production. However, if you do not pick your ticket up during lecture periods, it is your responsibility to obtain your ticket and there will be no refund provided to you if there is a problem at the box office.

**Academic Integrity**

Dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students, and the School of Theatre. Therefore, USC policies on academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Papers suspected of containing plagiarized material (the unacknowledged or inappropriate use of another’s ideas, wording, or images) will be verified for authenticity by the School of Theatre through Internet services. I expect you to familiarize yourself with the academic integrity guidelines found in the current USC Campus ([www.usc.edu/dept/publications/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/scampus)).

**Disability Services**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213-740-0776.

**OPTIONAL THEATRE REVIEW ASSIGNMENT - Theatre Production Review (to be used for makeup exam - General Guidelines and Format included in course reader should be followed.**

Must be a production not included as part of our class with event ticket stub attached at upper left corner. (Date and Title included)

**Required Course Pack ordering information:**

To purchase the required Theatre Arts Course Reader, please follow the instructions below:

**Step 1:** Log on to <https://students.universityreaders.com/store/>

**Step 2:** Click on the white "STUDENTS BUY HERE" button located in the "Student Store" section (upper right-hand corner of the page).

**Step 3:** Create an account or log in if you have an existing account to purchase.

**Step 4:** Easy-to-follow instructions will guide you through the rest of the ordering process. Payment can be made by all major credit cards or with an electronic check.

Orders are typically processed within 24 hours and the shipping time will depend on the selected shipping method and day it is shipped (orders are not shipped on Sundays or holidays). If you experience any difficulties, please email [orders@universityreaders.com](mailto:orders@universityreaders.com) or call 800.200.3908. Your Theatre in America Course Pack also contains “activity sheets”  
Activity Questions: Completed by hand – questions will be provided during the semester.