

# USC School of Dramatic Arts

Theatre in Los Angeles – **THTR 295 –62840R – FALL 2018**

**Mondays** —2:00 PM and show times at various theatres

**Location:** VKC 101 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) or [fc@frank-catalano.com](http://fc@frank-catalano.com)

## 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 Los Angeles - AVAILABLE AT

<https://students.universityreaders.com/store/>

## Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments:

### 50% Exams, Projects and Production Review:

Two Written Exams: One general vocabulary and **ONE 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. **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.

### 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 must be submitted hard copy on original course pack sheets in writing during class – no email submissions. **ACTIVITY SHEETS CANNOT BE TURNED IN LATE.**

**LECTURE, ASSIGNMENT AND PRODUCTION CALENDER**

Mon – 8/20 2:00 PM	Class Introduction –WHAT IS THEATRE?	Class meets at VKC 101
Mon – 8/27 2:00 PM	<b>Basic Terminology</b>	Class meets at VKC 101 Activity Sheet #1 Due
Mon – 9/3 2:00 PM	<b>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</b>	
Mon – 9/10 2:00 PM	<b>LECTURE - The Unique Qualities of Theatre Test #1 –</b>	Class meets at VKC 101 – Reading Chapter 3 <i>The Unique Qualities of Theatre</i> – <b>ACTIVITY SHEET #2 DUE</b>
<b>WED 9/19</b> 8:00 PM	<b>Production of AIN'T TOO PROUD MUSICAL at Ahmanson Theatre</b>	CLASS MEETS AT AHMANSON THEATRE AT 8:00 PM 135 N GRAND AVE.
Mon 9/24 2:00 PM	<b>LECTURE – Role of the Critic – We are all Critics</b>	Class meets at VKC 101 Reading: Chapter 4 – <i>The Role of the Critic</i> - <b>ACTIVITY SHEET #3</b>
Mon – 10/1 8:00 PM	<b>LECTURE: THE PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCE</b>	Reading: Chapter 5 <i>The Performing Arts Experience</i> and - <b>ACTIVITY SHEET #4</b> Class meets at VKC 101 <i>The Audience Response</i>
Fri – 10/12 7:30 PM	Production: <b>STREET SCENE by Elmer Rice – on campus at the Bing Theatre</b>	Class meets at BING THEATRE AT 7:30 PM
Mon 10/15 2:00 PM	LECTURE – Role of the Audience in the Creative Process	Class meets at THE PANTAGES THEATRE - Reading Chapter 6 –Activity Sheet #5 <b>Production Review Due</b> (on one of the previous 2 productions)
Fri 10/26 7:30 PM	Production of <b>PENELOPIAD</b> AT ON CAMPUS AT THE MCCLINTOCK THEATRE	Class meets on campus at MCCLINTOCK THEATRE AT 7:30 PM
Fri 11/2 7:30 PM	Production of <b>HAPPY END by Kurt Weill ON CAMPUS AT BING THEATRE</b>	Class meets on campus at BING THEATRE AT 7:30 PM
Mon 11/5 2:00 PM	LECTURE – THE THEATRE AS A COLABORITIVE ART	Reading: Chapters - 7-10 – <i>Theatre as a Collaborative Art</i> <b>ACTIVITY SHEET #6 DUE</b>
<b>WED 11/14</b> 8:00 PM	Production of <b>DEAR EVAN HANSEN</b> at the Ahmanson Theatre	Class meets at the Ahmanson Theatre at 8:00 PM
Mon 11/19 2:00 PM	THE FUTURE TOTAL INTEGRATION Final Project Review	Reading Chapters 11 – The Producer and 12 The Future – Total Integration.
Fri 11/30 8:00 PM	Production of <b>COME FROM AWAY</b> at the Ahmanson Theatre	Class meets at the Ahmanson Theatre at 8:00 PM
Mon – 12/10 2:00PM	Final Exam – 2:00 PM SHARP (NOTE IF YOU MISS THE FINAL FOR ANY REASON – YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDIT.)	Class meets at VKC 101

**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 THEATRE, 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).

**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.

**Required Course Pack ordering information:**

The required course materials for **THTR 295** are published and distributed by University Readers Custom, an imprint of Cognella, Inc. The materials are now available to purchase through the publisher's online Student Store.

To purchase your course materials, please follow the instructions below. (Video instructions for placing an order are available at: <https://vimeo.com/195821361>) Course Pack Price \$19

- 1: Visit <https://students.universityreaders.com/store/>
- 2: Create an account or login if you have an existing account
- 3: Select your state and then your university from the dropdown menu
- 4: Scroll to find your course listing and select your materials from the list. Follow the checkout instructions to complete your purchase. (Payment can be made using all major credit cards.)

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