USC School of Dramatic Arts

GESM 111: STAGES OF HEALING

THE WORLD OF THEATRE AND THERAPYWhen:SP 2022 — TTH — 10:00 – 11:50 amWhere:MCC 102 / ZOOMInstructor:Brent Blair, PhDOffice:MCC 101bOffice Hours:TH 2:00 – 3:00 pm by appointment onlyContact Info:bblair@usc.edu; (323) 356-2552

Course Description and Overview

Dramatic arts and community healing have been linked since long before either became a professional calling. Theatre as therapy predates Aristotle and extends far beyond ancient Greece to include civilizations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and indigenous societies in America and Australia. This course examines theories and contemporary practices through global case studies, including work with addicts, prisoners, and genocide survivors.

Learning Objectives

The intersection of theatre and therapy will be investigated through a study of its rich global history, theory, and practice, with an emphasis on group ritual, post-trauma work, psychodrama, and "Rainbow of Desire" – a Theatre of the Oppressed technique. Guest speakers will be both practitioners and participants with diverse experiences in matters of gender, addiction, violence, and criminal justice. The class will hold Skype sessions with drama therapy practitioners from Rwanda, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iran, India, France, and the U.K.

Core GE Learning Objectives (See Appendix)

The Personal as political: A declaration of interdependence

"Ideally, liberation suggests interdependence. The liberation of one is inextricably tied to the liberation of all; everyone involved will change in the process. Liberation implies interconnectedness between personal, social, economic, and political realms. For many, it is also connected to spiritual liberation." - Mary Watkins and Helene Shulman, 'Toward Psychologies of Liberation'

This course understands healing in a broad framework wherein the personal mental, spiritual, and emotional health of the individual occurs in the context of a complexly interconnected social, economic, and political structure.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

All texts are excerpts of material primarily found in the public domain and available free of charge on Blackboard.

Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

Weekly readings

Each reading comes with a specific prompt for a few paragraphs of reflection.

REFLECTION PAPERS MUST BE IN THE FOLLOWING FORMAT:

- MS Word (only) attached with this title: 2digitweek#.your surname.assignment.docx – so for me: "01.blair.derrida.docx"
- 2. Header clearly identifies the assignment: i.e. "Structure, Sign, and Play: Derrida"
- 3. Body of response includes DIRECT QUOTE from the reading to which reader is responding
- 4. Submit via Blackboard ONLY (This is a PAPERLESS CLASS. No hard copies, please.)

Critical Papers

- 1. Critical papers are designed to be research papers on a theme or thesis (established problem), relating directly to the course material (including lecture notes).
- 2. MLA or APA format only (please review online or contact the Writing Center at USC for help)
- 3. All concrete statements made MUST BE CITED and REFERENCED. Minimum 4 5 sources.
- Critical papers must be submitted in MS Word attached with this title:
 2digitweek#.your surname.paper1.docx so for me: 06.blair.paper1.docx

FINAL REFLECTION PAPER: 5 pages

DUE Tuesday, 5/7/20, 2:00 p.m.

See page 9 for description of this assignment.

10%	A = 94 - 100 A = 90 - 93
20%	B + = 87 - 89
15%	B = 84 - 86 B- = 80 - 83
15%	B = -80 - 83 C = 77 - 79
10%	C = 74 - 76
15%	C = 70 - 73 D = 60 - 69
15%	F < 59
100%	
	20% 15% 15% 10% 15%

Assignment Due Dates & Grades

Late assignments, projects, exams, papers, or exercises *shall be accepted* with advanced notice or prior arrangements between the student and the teacher, or under exceptional circumstances. Otherwise, assignments are due on date listed in the syllabus, and late assignments up to one week will be accepted at 50% credit, and will not be accepted after that.

Presence in class:

This work is co-participatory. As much of the work this semester is done in group collaboration, attendance is necessary for the class' success. Make every effort to make every class. Only medical conditions excuse absences.

Course Schedule: A weekly breakdown		(101 actuils, 3	ee the page on Bi	искобитиј
ASSIGNMENT COLOR GUIDES: WRITTEN RESPONSE	READ ONLY	READ & DISCUSS	WRITTEN WORK	ACTIVITY
Week One Introduction: On Rupture			Ja	n 11 & 13
Rupture or problem? Response or solution? We ex nuanced meaning out of an increasingly black & w needs healing? And what are some useful and less	/hite, "fix it"	world. What's "br		
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11		INTRODUCTION	S, GENERAL INFOI	RMATION
Class conversation about the course, about healin	g and what i	s "not healing".		
For next class read: "Structure, Sign, Play" – Derr	ida (6 pgs)		Due T	hu, 1/13
Title your submission: 01. your surname. c	<mark>lerrida.docx</mark>			
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13		DER	RIDA, CENTERS, R	UPTURES
Class reviews Derrida article, reminder of persona	l "rupture" a	irt projects due ne	ext class.	
Week Two On Stages of Healing: Symbolic	c Responses	to Diabolic Events	s Jan	18 & 20
Responding to rupture implies being a witness to hurtful, witnesses to friends, family, and communi <i>Rupture Art Projects</i> in class.	-			-
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18		ON BEING / NO	T BEING A GOOD	WITNESS
Class exercise about witness. Share Rupture – Art	<i>Projects</i> in cl	ass.		
Due in class: "Rupture – Art Project"			Due T	ue, 1/18
Title your submission: 01. your surname. r	upture.docx			
<mark>Read: "Performing Emergency" – Salverson, J. (</mark> 7	pgs)		Due	Tue, 1/18
Title your submission: 02. your surname.salve	rson.docx			
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20			RISK	Y STORIES
Class exercise on seeing ourselves.				
"Hearing vs Listening" written assignment			Due T	hu, 1/20
Title your submission: 02. your surname.h	nearlisten.do	<mark>ocx</mark>		
Week Three On Theatre: Seeing Ourselves	in situ		Jan	25 & 27
The Latin word for human being (homo sapiens sa	ipiens) remir	nds us that we not	only "know," but	that we

The Latin word for human being (homo sapiens sapiens) reminds us that we not only "know," but that we "know that we know". Primary to the world of dramatherapy is the advent of stepping outside our role to see ourselves "in our own situation" (in situ). This week we discuss Augusto Boal's understanding of the theatrical / healing space.

theatrical / healing space.	
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25	SHARING RISKY SPACE
Class dialogue about last class paired witness events, explore Boal's notio	n of theatre as "seeing ourselves"
outside of ourselves (Xua Xua story).	

Read: Fable of Xua Xua – Boal (7 pgs)

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

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Title your submission: 03.your surname.xuaxua.docx

For Tue, 1/25

(For details, see the page on Blackboard)

Redu. My milee medined Experiences Dour	101 1110, 17
Title your submission: 03.your surname.xuaxua.docx	
Week Four On Rainbows, Images, and the Numinous	Feb 1 &
This week takes an in-depth look at the world of theatre and therapy from the pe Boal's <i>Theatre of the Oppressed</i> . There is a particular emphasis in the importance techniques.	
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1	RAINBOW OF DESI
Review of the theories of Augusto Boal and Rainbow of Desire techniques.	
Read: Rainbow of Desire (pp. 1 – 39) – Boal, A. (39 pgs)	Due Tue, 2
Title your submission: 04.your surname.rainbow.docx	
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11	IMAGE THEAT
Class exercises on Image Theatre.	
Read: "Imago" (Draft) – Blair (48 pgs)	Due Thu, 2
Title your submission: 04.your surname.imago.docx	
Week Five Healing Stories: Making Memories and Histories	Feb 8 & 1
The role of memory in healing from critical events such as trauma is a tricky and	varied one. Boundaries b
between "truth" and "fiction," mostly depending on who is constructing the narr	ative of the past. In this
between "truth" and "fiction," mostly depending on who is constructing the narr week, students will explore the political framework and the role of the state in "c	-
	constructing" memorials
week, students will explore the political framework and the role of the state in "o	constructing" memorials Afghanistan to explore
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Theatre of the Oppressed as a methodology. Special focus on the *Rainbow of Desire* experience in Sweden.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

Read: My Three Theatrical Experiences – Boal

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For Thu, 1/27

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Class exercises in clowning / conversation about Medical Clowning. (It is also the Jewish holiday of *Purim* today, very appropriate!). Guest: Zach Steele, Director, Medical Clowning Program, USC SDA *Review: "Doutores da Alegria" (English subtitles, 1:50) Due Tue, 2/15*

MEDICAL CLOWNING

Title your submission: 05.your surname.doutores.docx

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Explore shamanism and clowning, and the ergic and ludic functions (Victor Turner) relative to healing.

CRITICAL PAPE	R I: 5 page paper – "Rupture and Play"	DUE: Thu, 2/24
WRITE A FIVE P	AGE CRITICAL PAPER with footnotes or endnotes i	n APA or MLA format on the theme
"rupture and pl	ay". Look back at the material covered so far in cla	ss, and pick a personal experience with
which you have	a particularly strong connection. How might you in	magine playfulness or infusing play into
the core of this	potentially painful experience in a way that might	bring about healing?
Title your s	ubmission: 06. your surname.paper1.docx	
Week Seven	Role Play: The Ecology of Imagination	Feb 22 & 24
This week, role	play and the role of imagination in the ecology of t	hought. How do we imagine ourselves,
	tell / re-tell / read our stories? How does this imag f look at role play as found in Playback Theatre.	gination contribute or detract from
TUESDAY, FEBP	RUARY 22	(RE)TELLING OTHER'S STORIE
Review of the c	oncepts of the global movement known as Playbac	k Theatre, from Jonathan Fox's
groundbreaking	g work to the demands and challenges of intercultu	Iral story telling.
Review: "Every	one Has a Story" –Salas (YouTube TEDxSIT)	Discuss Tue, 2/2
THURSDAY, FEI	BRUARY 24	IMPROV for PLAYBACK THEATR
Class exercises	in improvisation, a fundamental tool Playback Thea	atre.
Read: "The Eco	logy of Role Play" – Papadoupoulos	Discuss Thu, 2/2
Read: "Your Sto	ory, My Story, Our Story" – Dennis	Due Thu, 2/2
<mark>Title y</mark> a	our submission: 07. your surname.dennis.docx	
Week Eight	Mask & Mystery: Invisible Guests	Mar 1 & 3
-	and masks that speak. The world of mystery holds t easier in today's "must know" culture.	space for healing, if the task of letting go
TUESDAY, MAR	ICH 1	Mystery and Mas

Class discussion on "invisible guests" and the childlike imaginative world of play-pretend. Is it healing for children to have make-believe friends? What about adults? The role of make-believe as psychopomp. **Read: "On Holding Holy Converse..." – Watkins (11 pgs) Due Tue, 3/01 Title your submission: 08.** your surname.watkins.docx

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3	ł			PLAY WITH MASK
•	ndigenous cultural perfo ressive midwife to unsp	•	-	e role of rhythm,
Read: "The Aesthetics	s of Narrative in Igbo M	lasquerades" - Nwab	ueze	Due Thu, 3/0
Title your sub	omission: 08.your surna	me.igbomasks.doc0		
Midterm Exam (Avail	able after 3/03)			Due Thu, 3/1
Title your sub	omission: 09. your surna	me.midterm.docx		
Week Nine Su	ch Stuff as Dreams			Mar 8 & 10
	e dream, what does it m al (and collective?) ruptu			
TUESDAY, MARCH 8			Is	This The Real Life
Class discussion on dr unconscious.	eam theatre, dreams, a	nd the healing proper	ties of the personal /	collective
Read: "Dreaming Tog	ether" – Lipsky (pp. 1-3	2)		Due Tue, 3/0
	omission: 09. your surna	-		
THURSDAY, MARCH 1	0			Dream Theatr
Class participates in a share and work on in	dream theatre worksho a theatrical way.	pp. Students are invite	ed to bring dream mat	erial to class to
Read: "Waking Drear	ns" Watkins (excerpt)			Due Thu, 3/1
Week Ten Th	e Theatre of Prison			Mar 22 & 24
	cs of healing risky storie	s within the penal sys	tem.	
TUESDAY, MARCH 22			Ethics of Prisons / Et	hics of Prison Wor
Presentation on the P	rison Industrial Complex	x – challenges, dehum	nanizations, slavery. W	/herefore healing?
Watch: 13 th – Docum	entary – by Ava Duvern	ay (Available free on	YouTube)	Due Tue, 3/2
THURSDAY, MARCH 2	24			Prison Shakespear
	out the ethics of workin	g with incarcerated p		-
we are doing it. Topic healing? Class convers who runs regular thea	bars." It's a thing. But a s of culture, identity, ap sation about the work o atre programs for inmate bout doing theatre in pri w.	propriation, invitation f Australian founder o es of Borallon Correct	n, and expression com of <i>Queensland Shakes</i> , tional Facility in Brisba	ne in here. Is it <i>peare Ensemble,</i> ane. What is healin
Read: "Prison Shakes	peare" – Pensalfini (Ch	4 & 5, pp. 107-187)		Due Thu, 3/2
Title your sub	omission: 10. your surna	me.prisonshakespea	re.docx	
	omission: 10. your surna	me.prisonshakespear	re.docx	

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Week Eleven Prison / Education: Challenge, Conflict, and Power

PAPER TWO: 5 page CREATIVE paper – "Memory and Imagination"

story, fable, narrative, journal, pretend interview, short play, etc. Title your submission: 10.your surname.paper2.docx

"How to create spaces of liberty inside the walls of a prison? Prisoners have the freedom to analyse their past...and to invent their distant future....But what about the present?" Boal, Games for Actors...

WRITE A FIVE PAGE CREATIVE PAPER on the theme "memory and imagination". Look back at material covered during weeks 5 - 10, and pick a collective or shared (cultural?) experience with which you have a particularly strong connection. How have you noticed memory being used either in helpful (healing?) or hurtful ways? What role might imagination play in this instance to either further the pain or perhaps alleviate it and even bring about healing? Tell your story in any CREATIVE way you choose - poem, epic

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Class discussion about the nature of prisons as hosts of hostility and isolation; the panopticon as pathology. Wherefore healing in this environment? What are some ethical concerns?

Read: "Teaching to Transgress" – bell hooks (excerpt)

Title your submission: 11.your surname.hooks.docx

THURSDAY, APRIL 2: Possibilities

The power of Restorative Justice. A deep dive into a new modality of healing and the arts, using Theatre of the Oppressed with Restorative Justice through a partnership with Healing Dialogue and Action.

Week Twelve **Into Action**

"This theatre should be a rehearsal for action in real life, rather than an end in itself." Augusto Boal, The Aesthetics of the Oppressed.

What are the ethics of moving someone from observation to action? The power of dramatherapy is framed by ethical considerations. Students explore the possibilities and constraints of the application of Theatre of the Oppressed within a therapeutic context.

Read: "Chap 37: Therapy" – Blair, Brioc, Schutzman (pp. 343-354) Title your submission: 12.your surname.ch37therapy.docx

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Class participation in another technique that made the body of work Rainbow of Desire world renowned.

Read: "Postscript" to Games for Actors... - Boal (pp. 298 - 301) Title your submission: 12.your surname.postscript.docx

Trauma Drama Week Thirteen

"...the attempt to understand trauma brings one repeatedly to this peculiar paradox: that in trauma the greatest confrontation with reality may also occur as an absolute numbing to it..." Caruth, Trauma: Explorations in Memory

TO & Restorative Justice

Apr 5 & 7

The ethics of theatre & therapy

Due Tue, 4/05

On Action

Due Thu, 4/07



Due Thu, 3/31

Mar 29 & 31

Transgression

Due Tue, 3/29

TUESDAY, APRIL 12	Guhahamuk
How does one navigate healing in a world of unspeakable harm and trauma	
Read: "The Inner World of Trauma" – Singer (excerpt)	Due Tue, 4/1
Title your submission: 13.your surname.singer.docx	
THURSDAY, APRIL 14	Unspeakable Museun
Class participation in the technique that was used in Rwanda called "Museur	
Review: "We Cry on the Inside" Fletcher, Blair (+description of the technique	ie) Due Thu, 4/14
Week Fourteen On Matters Personal and Political	Apr 19 & 2
" personal problems are political problems. There are no personal solution	s at this time. There is only
collective action for a collective solution." Carol Hanisch, "The Personal is Po	litical," 1969
TUESDAY, APRIL 19	Countering Amnes
How does one navigate healing in a world of unspeakable harm and trauma	
Read: "Liberation Arts: Amnesia, Counter-Memory" (34 pgs.)	Due Tue, 4/2
Title your submission: 14.your surname.liberationarts.docx	
TUESDAY, APRIL 21	Playful Resilien
Games and activities to build resilience and celebrate exemplary memory.	
Read: "Medicine Stories" Levins Morales (excerpt)	Due Tue, 4/2.
Title your submission: 14.your surname.medicinestories.docx	
Week Fifteen On Matters Personal and Political (2)	Apr 26 & 23
In-class presentations touching themes about ethics, personal evolution, and	d future dreams of the world.
TUESDAY, APR 26	Final Presentations (Group
First group presentations (Group 1).	
Self- Reflections Texts, ("Group 1")	Due Thu, 4/2
Title your submission: 15. your surname.SELFreflections.docx	
THURSDAY, APR 28	Final Presentations (Group
First group presentations (Group 2).	
Self- Reflections Texts, ("Group 2")	Due Tue, 5/.

or class meeting other than the electronic submission of this final paper.

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Title your submission: xx.your surname.finalpaper.docx

FINAL PRESENTATIONS: Tuesday and Thursday, 4/26/22 and 4/28/22, 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Final presentations using a mix of poetry, song, movement, aesthetics, and any other supplementary tools the student wishes, telling the narrative of the student's own understanding of the "rupture" that has helped make/shape their journey, along with the "evolution" they have undergone as a result of this experience, and finally their express dream/desire of the future path as a direct result of this life experience. These autobiographical, personal/theatrical expressions may be vague, obscure, artistically opaque so as to shield the personal story from the harsh light of conscious witness; however, students are encouraged to explore courageous expressivitiy in a social/cultural context. The idea is to be bold, inspiring, and honest. Texts that show these three parts (rupture, evolution, and dream/desire of future) are due the day of the 5 - 10 minute class performance / presentations. Expectation is that material is memorized and not read. The emphasis here is on performance, not on presentation.

FINAL REFLECTION PAPER: DUE Tuesday, 5/12/20, 8 a.m.

Final reflection paper is a culminating work based on your experiences in this class. Look back at the readings, the exercises, the conversations and anything else that has accompanied your journey through this course. What were the major learning experiences for you? What were the largest challenges for you during this course, and what did you do to surmount them? Connect your personal experiences in class with any of the reading material we have covered, the topics and conversations we have had, and your own personal opinions. Let this paper be an invitation for creative dialogue about difficult issues – that is, let this paper be a "stage of healing" for you.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" <u>policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b</u>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

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 (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Support Systems:

Campus Support & Intervention (CSI) – (213) 740-0411

Campus Support & Intervention is an office within Campus Wellbeing and Crisis Intervention. We are a team of professionals here to assist students, faculty, and staff in navigating complex issues. Whether you are here seeking support for yourself or someone else, we are available to help you problem solve, understand options, and connect with resources. https://uscsa.usc.edu

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <u>engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling</u>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <u>www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org</u>

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <u>engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp</u>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: https://titleix.usc.edu/

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086 Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <u>equity.usc.edu</u>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <u>https://titleix.usc.edu/</u>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. <u>diversity.usc.edu</u>

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. <u>emergency.usc.edu</u>

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. <u>dps.usc.edu</u>