

Course: THTR 702, Graduate Seminar, The Creative Process

Text: The Empty Space by Peter Brook required

Class 1-January 22

Introduction

Class Format
Expectations
Outside Assignment

Discussion:

1. What are your individual experiences with Art outside of theatre?
2. Why is there Art? In other words, why does art exist?
3. What areas do you consider to be art?
4. Why did you choose theatre?
5. Do you create art?
6. How? In relation to 5.
7. Are all who work in theatre artists?
8. What should theatre, your chosen vocation, do?
9. Is interpretation different than creation?

Class 2-January 29--FILM

Class 3—February 5

Creation of Art

1. Can one create art?
2. What is the impetus behind creating something “artistic”?

Guest Lecturer

Music Composition

Questions for Guest

Is the composer the only person creating art? What of musicians?
Each of you must have one question for the guest. Typed out and turned into instructor at beginning of class.

Class 4 –February 12

What does an artist attempt to say?

Visit art gallery.

Read – “The Deadly Theatre” in The Empty Space.

Class 5—February 19

The “PROCESS”. What does this mean?

1. Guest Speakers—ways of approaching creation.
2. What do you learn from other artists?
3. Discuss “The Deadly Theatre”

Class 6—February 24

ARCHITECTURE---guest speaker

1. What does an architect actually do?
2. Is architecture Art?

Guest Speaker—each of you must have one question relating to an architect’s way of creating. Have question typed and turned in to instructor by beginning of class.

Class 7—March 4

***READ COMPLETELY ***

THE EMPTY SPACE by this date

1. Discussion of Book
2. Application to arts other than Theatre
3. Is the book relevant 50 years later?
4. Who is Peter Brook? How did he change theatre—if he did?

Class 8—March 11

Discussion subUrbia with director and production team.

PLEASE RESEARCH subUrbia AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WHY THIS WAS WRITTEN AND IF IT HAS RELEVANCE TODAY.

Class 9—March 18

OPERA

Guest Speaker

1. How does opera differ from theatre?
2. Why did opera develop?
3. Apply Brook to opera?
4. How are different types of opera?
5. Is opera about the story/plot or the singing?
6. Process???

Each of you must have one question typed and turned in to instructor by beginning of class.

Class 10—April 1

Jazz

Guest Speaker

1. Roots of Jazz.
2. Playing/Creating Jazz
3. What Makes Jazz different?

Guest Speaker

A thought—given the way Jazz is presented/performed, might this be the purest form of “artistic creation in music other than composition?”

Class 11—April 8

View Film Breaking Las Vegas

Class 12—April 15

We are fortunate to have the writers, director, producer, and members of the production company of the film. They will visit. Question them about the film, its creation, problems, whether they were creating a commercial product, etc. Is that bad? Would it be different if they tried to produce art? What is the creative process for each aspect—if any?

Is Filmmaking the New Art?

Discussion of “Movies and Film”

Class 13—April 22

Creative Writing

Guest speaker(s)

1. What is the creative spark for a writer?
2. How does a writer “write”?
3. Depending on the writer’s area (novel, play, film, etc.) how do outside influences (editors, actors, etc.) effect the work?

NOTE: There will most likely be an outside reading assignment of the writer’s work prior to class.

Class 14—April 29

Guest Lecturers- Visual Art

1. What caused them to get “into” visual art?
2. How has their art changed over the course of their career?
3. Has their process change?
4. What similarities do you find between what the visual artists’ process and your, and other artists’. Processes/

Class 15—May 6

Presentations, 5 minutes each, of the artist you choose to speak with/interview.

Additional Information

- A. The syllabus is subject to change with advance notice.

Grading and Additional Assignments

1. You will be graded 50%, on your class participation.
2. You will be expected to interview 5 different artists in 5 different disciplines and write a one page, typed, summary of how they work in the creative process. One paragraph, must comment on whether their approach to “creating” could apply to you. In short, what did you learn, or add to your “toolbox”? (These artists cannot be guests we had in class.

The following are acceptable areas:

- A. An area in theatre other than your own.
- B. Painting/Drawing
- C. Sculpture
- D. Ceramics
- E. Photography
- F. Graphic Design
- G. Music Composition
- H. Singing
- I. Instrumentalist
- J. Dancer
- K. Choreographer
- L. Playwright
- M. Fiction writer
- N. Conductor—Music
- O. Architect—Interior, Landscape, Architect

- P. Film Editor
- Q. Film Director
- R. Entertainment Engineering
- S. Classical Musician
- T. Contemporary Musician

This is not an all exhaustive list. If you have another area, just check with the instructor.

Dates due: February 26, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29

You will also do an in depth interview with an artist OUTSIDE of theatre and present your findings on May 6 to the entire class. Details to be provided.

These should not be students!!!

These papers are due as follows:

- 2 no later than March 2.
- 2 no later than April 13.
- 2 no later than May 4.

These will account for 50% of your grade.

Attendance is key! Lack of attendance means you are not participating.

CLASS GOALS

1. To expose you to way various artists create or perform.
2. To provide an understanding of how artists make choices.
3. To assist you in developing yur own process.
4. Offer you a chance to appreciate other artists.
5. To assist you in becoming a more discriminating “participant” in other arts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to appreciate the work of artists in areas other than their own.
2. Identify differences between creative interpretation and creation of new work.
3. Students will be able to apply new approaches to their own creative endeavors.
4. Understand how an artist’s personal life and influences can inform their creations/performance.

5. Identify influences that may have a positive or negative effect on their art.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Misconduct—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within** the first 14 calendar

days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or **within** the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call [702-895-3177](tel:702-895-3177). The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER GADGETS- Distracting technological devices such as cell phones are not permitted to be out or used during class time (laptops are acceptable). This means that cell phones should be put away, ringers should be turned off, and people should not make calls, answer calls, or text message during class. In the case of an emergency (e.g., family member in the hospital), please talk to the instructor before class. Under no circumstances will technology such as cell phones, PDAs, iPods', or laptops be allowed during exams.