

THTR 701: Research
Methods Fall 2016
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Cambridge Introduction to Theatre Historiography by Thomas Postlewait
A Short Guide to Writing About Theatre by Marcia L. Ferguson

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, graduate students will learn the research and writing skills they require to successfully complete their course work and thesis project.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the research skills and tools necessary for scholarly work in theatre and performance studies.
- To become familiar with the main kinds of primary and secondary sources available to performance scholars.
- To enhance the creative work of the students as theatre artists.
- To build skills in scholarly thinking and writing and the connection to creativity.
- To prepare for a scholarly/performance career by experiencing the development and presentation of a conference paper.
- To build well-constructed original ideas and fully-developed analytical papers that reflect the objectives listed above.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will earn their grade based on the following formula:

10% Attendance, Participation, Discussion of assigned readings.

20% Archive Presentation

10% Literature Review: Article

10% Ethnography Presentation

15% Conference Proposal

15% Twelve Crux Reflection

20% Final Reports: Conference Presentations

Attendance and Participation

All students are expected to regularly and respectfully participate in class discussions and projects. Failure to attend class and to participate will negatively impact your grade. For the

purposes of this course, participation includes thoughtful and insightful comments and questions about the course materials and class discussion as well as active involvement in group projects. Your comments should demonstrate that you have done the course readings. Small in-class activities based on the course material will also contribute to your participation grade. If you are not in class, you cannot participate.

Archive Presentation

In this presentation students will report on their findings in their archival research in special collections. Your presentation should be at least 10 minutes and include images of your findings.

Literature Review: Article

Students write a short one-paragraph review of an article on a topic of their choosing from a major journal in theatre studies.

Conference Proposal

In this assignment students will write a proposal for their final presentation, as if it was to be sent for application to one of the major conferences in the field. The finished papers will be given on the last two days of class in our mini-conference.

Ethnography Presentation

In this presentation students will present the short papers resulting from their interviews with classmates.

Twelve Crux Reflection

In this short writing assignment, students will reflect upon a paper they have written in a previous course (perhaps theatre history) in light of Postlewait's twelve cruces in *Theatre Historiography*.

Final Reports: Conference Presentations

On the last two days of class we will hold our own mini-conference. Students will present their 20 minute research papers and provide feedback for and questions on each other's work.

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>.

Late work:

I will not accept any late work in this class.

CALENDAR:

| | READINGS DUE | ASSIGNMENTS DUE |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Friday, September 2 Intros, Discussion of production Thesis research. | | |
| Friday, September 9 Library Introduction | | |
| Friday, September 16 Archival Work Work in Special Collections | | |
| | | |
| Tuesday, September 23 Archival Work Work in Special Collections | | |
| Friday, September 30 Archives Presentations | | Archive Presentations Due |
| Friday, October 7 Primary Evidence: Pictures, Paintings, Vases, Playbills and Programs. | Erenstein "Theatre Iconography: An Introduction". Bring to class a program from a production you have seen. | |

