

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

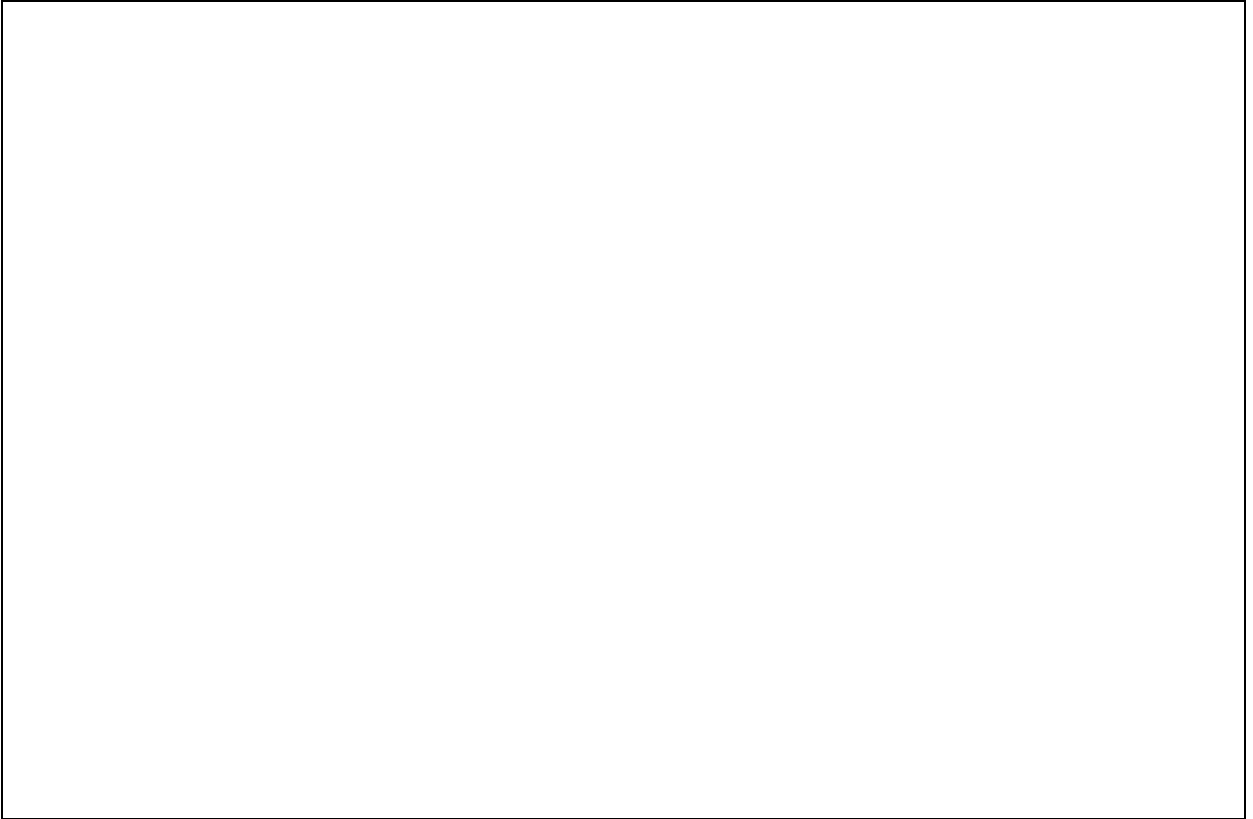
Course Code: THST 1040 - 01	Course Title: Introduction to Performance	Date of Offering: F'20
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: Virtual Classes will take place online Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 to 12 noon, and will consist of a short lecture followed by a short open discussion, followed by breakout groups to discuss specific topics to bring back to the whole class for presentation.
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Brief Course Synopsis: The question before us is this: why theatre? Is theatre still relevant in the digital age, and if so what good is it? Using Peter Brook's four categories as a starting point for analysis, we will examine deadly theatre, rough theatre, holy theatre and immediate theatre, always with an eye to the difference between drama, live performance and disembodied performance (i.e. digital apps and film). We will let Jordan Tannahill define deadly theatre for us, and then apply Auslander's ruthless critique of liveness to the present day state of performance. We will examine plays online as well as digital performance: is live performance relevant anymore, and in the age of recurring pandemics, is it even possible? Reception theory may help us discover what will challenge us in any medium (or what may not). We will examine Brecht, Cage and surrealism as we explore rough theatre, and Artaud, Schechner, Greek tragedy and Shakespeare as we examine the holy theatre. Finally, we will try and discover what if anything can be immediate about live performance in this digital world, through Adorno, Diana Taylor, Boal and Baraka.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

- introduce yourself: Short write up about yourself and your attitude to theatre/experience with theatre 5% (300 words)
- 4 performance analysis papers worth 24% total (600 words)
- 6 log entries (one every two weeks: 3 are 300 words, 3 are video format) worth 36% total
- final essay worth 25 %. (1500 words)
- participation worth 10%



Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.) All of the course readings and performances for analysis will be available to students online and a list of the sources and how they will be accessed will be provided in the final course outline, including these sources: Jauss, Taylor, Ausländer, Brecht, Cage, Adorno, Boal, Tannahill, and Baraka

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details): online synchronous delivery