THAR 201:
INTRODUCTION TO WORLD THEATRE
Fall SEMESTER 20XX
Meeting Times: TBA as per scheduling

Dr. Michael L. Greenwald  
m-greenwald@tamu.edu  845-6153  
218 LAAH  845 5163  Office Hours: Wed: 11:30-2:30pm

Purpose:
WORLD THEATRE is an introductory (core) course designed for a general student population that will acquaint you with the origins and evolution of non-Western theatre, drama, and the performance modes of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. The course satisfies the Creative Arts component of the state-mandated core curriculum requirements. By its very nature, the course also satisfies the International Cultures and Diversity Requirement.

Course description: Non-Western theatre, its origins and continuing influence on society and Western theater; emphasis on the theaters of India, China, Japan, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes
We begin with the proposition that “ART SHOWS US WHO WE ARE” as we undertake this exploration to:

• Survey and become conversant about the diversity of world cultures that produce rituals, theatrical events, plays, and a variety of performances that illuminate the human condition;
• Explore why theatre as an art form exists throughout the world and how it is universally used to address ethical issues;
• Explore how theater and the arts are often used to address social and justice issues within a given culture and, by extension, our culture;
• Compare the cultures of other countries and their influence on Western theatre and how other cultures may be influenced by Western theatre;
• Learn and implement proper theater etiquette to become more informed audiences for all forms of theatre and public performance by attending and discussing live performances with other patrons, thereby contributing to the creative process;
• Examine and thereby increase our knowledge of globalization through the world’s many rituals, its dramatic literature, and variety performances to appreciate how these forms transmit the beliefs, values and traditions of the culture that creates them;
• Enhance our critical thinking and aesthetic appreciation skills by observing/reading a variety of material and performances modes that are beyond our Western experience.
Texts:
- THAR 201 Premium Website with eBook for
  *The Longman Anthology of Drama and Theater for Texas A&M University Greenwald*
  (00220007271684592) You may purchase a card at the Bookstore that will allow you access to
  this e-Reader
- **IF YOU HAVE THE HARD COPY OF THIS TEXT, YOU MAY USE IT:**
- Additional essays, play scripts, and related material will be posted on e-Learning (see calendar)

Requirements/Assignments:
1. **Attend all classes regularly and promptly.** Because the course incorporates visual material that can be seen only in class, attendance is critical. Exam questions and unannounced quizzes will include reference to visuals shown in class and/or lab assignments. Your letter grade will be lowered by one grade (e.g., an 'A' reverts to a "B") for each absence in excess of two (2) unexcused absences. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing class, please provide a written explanation of the reason for the absence and the name of an authorized person (and phone number) who can verify your excuse; your excuse must be submitted within two classes of the missed class. See [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/Rule 7 re TAMU's attendance/absence policies](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/Rule 7 re TAMU's attendance/absence policies).

2. **Readings & Videos:** Complete assigned readings and/or see assigned videos prior to class (see calendar). Assigned videos are accessed through Media Matrix and can be watched at your convenience. See instructions for accessing Media Matrix at the end of the course calendar.

3. **Exams and Quizzes:**
   - **EXAMS:** There will be three in-class exams; tests are not cumulative. Each test is worth 100 pts (with potential for bonus pts) and comprises one-quarter of your final grade.
     - **EXAM 1:** Introductory material, the origins of theatre, and the Theatre of India.
     - **EXAM 2:** The Theatres of China, Japan,
     - **EXAM 3:** The Theatres of Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Latin America.
     - Two weeks before the first test you will receive instructions re taking the test; you will also receive some sample questions.
     - You may use one non-electronic notebook during the test; you may not have any electronic device in your possession during the test.
     - **If you miss an exam:** You may make up the exam (an alternative version of the original exam) at my convenience, but within 30 days of the scheduled exam.
   - **QUIZZES:** There will be 5 unannounced pass/fail quizzes throughout the semester. Most will require only a 1-2 sentence answer for which you will have 2 minutes to answer the prompt. If you have seen/read the assigned material, you should have no trouble answering the prompt. You must pass four of these quizzes to get 100 pts (25 pts each). You will receive a bonus 25 pts for each quiz you pass after 4 (i.e., 125 pts possible). **Quizzes may not be made up unless there is a valid excuse (see Student Rule 7),** so it important that you attend class and are prepared for all quizzes. If you take a quiz and leave class early without permission, your quiz will not be graded and you will be charged with an absence. The cumulative 4 passed quizzes comprise one-quarter of your final grade.
4. Theatre/Performance Events:

Because theater and performances are communal events that depend on an audience for their completion, you are required to attend live performance events. You are asked to attend the event with classmates and/or friends and discuss the performance, its intentions, the quality of the performers, etc.

- For students wishing to earn an “A” in the course, you must see THREE live theatre/performance/dance/ritual/festival events that relate to the material covered in the course. [E.g., in November you may attend the Brazos Valley World Fest.]
- Students wishing to earn a “B,” must see TWO events;
- “C” students must attend one event

On the back of your grade/attendance sheet, record the date, title of the event, and a one paragraph summary and commentary on what you saw and discussed with your companions. NOTE: Please check with me before you see an event; only those events that are legitimately related to the course (especially those with an international component) may be used for this assignment. E-mail me about events that are suitable for the class and I will announce them and reward the first 3 students to respond with 20 bonus pts, yet another aspect of the Teamwork component of the Core Curriculum requirement.

Grading:

| Exam (per 100) | 300 pts (75% of grade) |
| Quiz (pass 3 for 100 pt: see above) | 100 pts (25% of grade) |
| Live Performances A’s: 3 live events | B’s: 2 live events |
| Grade Distribution: | C’s: 1 live event |
| A = 360-400 pts (90%) + 3 live events | B = 320-359 pts (80%) + 2 live events |
| C = 280-319 pts (70%) + 1 live event | D = 240-279 pts (60%) No live events |

Attendance Reminder: Your final letter grade will be lowered one full grade for each unexcused absence after two. See student rule No. 7 re excused/unexcused absences: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/Rule 7

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Academic Integrity Statement

The Honor Code, based on the long-standing affirmation that an Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal nor tolerate those who do, is fundamental to the value of the A&M experience. Know and follow the Code. The Aggie Code of Honor: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do." Infractions of the Honor Code will be reported to the Office for Academic Integrity.

See http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

You must write your legal signature (not initials) on your grade sheet attesting that the grade sheet you submit on the last day of class is an honest, accurate record of your work and attendance.
| WK 1 | **M** Intro to course: “The Lion King”—the course in microcosm  
**W** Rituals Origins of Theatre etc. **READ:** Chap. 1 pp. 3-22  
**F** **LAB:** Video: *Ancient Mysteries: Rites and Rituals* |
| WK 2 | **M** Theater Vocabulary and Etiquette **READ:** “Styles and Conventions: p. 46-50  
**W** Animism and Masks: **RE-READ:** “Theatre as It Was and is” p. 5 (chap. 1)  
**F** **LAB:** Videos “World Religions: Animism” “Julie Taymor: Setting the Scene” |
| WK 3 | **M** Myths and Archetypes (The Trickster): **READ** “Myth and Meaning” and “Continuing Importance of Myth”  
**E-Learning.**  
**W** Origins of Theatre: Abydos Passion Play **READ** p. 10 (in Chap 1) Greek Theatre (pp. 56-58); Medieval Church Drama (p. 104-5);  
**F** **LAB:** videos: “India and the Infinite” (29 min) “Hinduism: The Elephant God” |
| WK 4 | **M** Intro to the Theatre of India and Conventions of Indian Theatre **READ:** pp. 550-557  
(exclude “Sakuntala” Spotlight)  
**W** India’s Epic Dramas: **READ** Spotlight: “The Sanskrit Masterpiece: *The Recognition of Sakuntala:* p. 554)  
**F** **LAB:** Video: *Bride and Prejudice* |
| WK 5 | **M** *Bollywood:* The World’s Largest Film Factory ; and A Modern Epic about India **READ** Essay and Plot Outline of *The Great Celestial Cow (E-learning)*  
**W** First Exam: Intro material and Theatre of India  
**F** **LAB:** video “Chinese Opera” |
| WK 6 | **M** Intro to the Theatre of China **READ** pp. 558-570. Spring Festival in China (p. 562-ff)  
**W** Chinese Opera and Its Influence: **READ** *The Qing Ding Pearl* (p. 571-ff)  
**F** **LAB:** video: “Performing Arts in Japan” |
| WK 7 | **M** Contemporary Chinese Theatre: **READ** “The Bus Stop” and essay on “White Haired Girl”  
**e-Learning**  
**W** The Theatre of Japan: Amuratsu and after; Japanese Festivals: “8 Million gods”  
**Read:** “The Tanabata Festival” (pp. 590-91)  
**F** **LAB:** Video: “Theatre in Japan” |
| WK 8 | **M** Noh Theatre and Its Influence: **READ** pp. 582-85  
**W** Kabuki Theatre: Read pp. 585-591 and *Kanjincho* (pp. 593-ff)  
**F** **LAB:** See Video *Puppets: Worlds of Imagination* |
| WK 9 | **M** Bunraku, Indonesia’s Wayang Topang, and Other Global Puppet Theatres  
**W** Second Exam: China and Japan  
**F** **LAB:** Video “The Hajj” |
| WK 10 | **M** Theatre of the Middle East **READ:** “The Donkey Market” (Egypt)  
(e-Learning)  
**W** Halloween/Samhain, Mexico’s Day of the Dead (**READ** p. 782) and Death Rituals: **READ:** “A Solid Home” (pp. 773-ff); Yaqui Easter: (p. 760)  
**F** **LAB:** Video “Voices of Serafina” |
WK 11
M The Theater of Africa: READ pp. 608-615; Yoruban Obatala p. 668.
W Township Theatre (READ p. 612-13) and Theatre as a Weapon in Africa
F LAB: Video (or read the play) MASTER HAROLD ...and the boys

WK 12
M Contemporary African Theatre: Soyinka and Fugard
W The African Diaspora and Caribbean Theater: READ: The Caribbean, pp. 708-13; “Trinidad Carnival” (738); Ti-Jean and His Brothers (pp.714 ff)
F LAB Video “The Maya”

WK 13
M The Theatre of Mesoamerica : The Maya and the Popul Vuh: READ: pp. 748
W The Aztecs, Sor Juana and Conquest Drama READ: The Devine Narcissus (p. 750-ff)
F LAB Video: Zoot Suit; READ: Essay re Zoot Suit (e-Learning)

WK 14
M Contemporary Chicano Theater; Valdez’ Zoot Suit;
W Contemporary Latino Theatre READ: pp. 741-43; “Popular Theatre in Lat. Am” (p. 746) & “Theatre Under the Gun” (e-Learning); READ: Paper Flowers (pp. 783-ff)
F Review for Test 3; Submit grade sheet; Course evaluations; Wrap up

Exam Week(s): Third Exam: Theatres of Africa, Middle East, Caribbean, and Latin America
Day/Time TBA as per University Exam Calendar

VIDEO STREAMING FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR ROOM:
You may watch assigned videos/DVDs on your computer or one in the library through Media Matrix (video-streaming). To access the video stream, please:

1. Type URL http://mediamatrix.tamu.edu
2. Log on with your NET ID and password.
3. Scroll down to see the list of published streams according to the class for which the video has been put on line: look for THAR 201. Be sure to sign in for the correct section: Sec 500 = 8am; 501 =10:20am)
4. Click the view link to watch/listen to stream.

WARNING: Video streaming can be unreliable: sometimes it doesn’t work, and at others video-streaming “times out” and the film may stop. Also, the quality of the picture and sound may be compromised. “Video streaming didn’t work” is not an excuse for failure to see the film.