

**THEA 41095**  
**SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE: NEW YORK CITY THEATRE EXPERIENCE**  
**SPRING 2012**

**2 credits (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11AM-12:15PM), D206**  
**(January 9-March 24, 2012, with the final presentation week, March 27 - 29)**

**Instructors:**

**Professors Eric van Baars ([fvanbaar@kent.edu](mailto:fvanbaar@kent.edu))**

**Yuko Kurahashi ([ykurahas@kent.edu](mailto:ykurahas@kent.edu))**

**OBJECTIVES**

The class is geared for students who have not experienced New York and want to explore the options of the city as a permanent home and a cultural Mecca. Class trip will follow as structured itinerary, some of which will be planned during the course with the input from students who will have the opportunity to create activities through research and investigation prior to the trip. The four- day trip is tentatively scheduled to depart Kent on Friday morning, **March 16 and return evening of Monday, March 19, 2012.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This special topic course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to visit the world-renowned New York theatre community to gain information and insight of history, culture, and arts of the city. We will study the dynamics of New York City's performing arts (theatre, film, music, dance); and visual arts (painting, sculpture, photographs, multimedia installation, and other types of exhibitions). A four day trip to New York will focus on attending theatre performances, post-show discussions, pre-arranged workshops, cultural tours, and visiting museums and industry related venues. Portions of the lectures and discussions prior to the trip will be conducted via **BLACKBOARD**.

Itinerary is subject to change and will be determined by available resources, current productions, and both permanent collections and special exhibitions.

**STUDENT COSTS:**

Students are required to make a payment of \$ 350.00 in advance to the School of Theatre and Dance by January 20, 2012. This non-refundable fee is in addition to the regular tuition.

The fee would cover 3 night accommodations in New York (shared room- occupancy, approximately \$50-80 per night) and entrance fees into all required exhibits and activities. Meals, local ground transportation and optional performance tickets are not covered. **In addition, you are responsible for purchasing a flight from Akron/Canton-New York (currently approximately \$250) and return transportation. This purchase will be done in class.**

Please note that each student is responsible for purchasing theatre tickets of his/her choice (with the instructors' approval) either on site or in advance.

**Students with disabilities:** University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit [www.kent.edu/sas](http://www.kent.edu/sas) for more information on registration procedures).

**Cheating and Plagiarism Policies:** It is the policy of the University that students enrolled in the University are to perform their academic work according to standards set by faculty members, departments, schools and colleges of the University. Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which **appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied**. This policy applies to all students of the University. University policies concerning student cheating and plagiarism can be found in [the Administrative policy and procedures regarding student cheating and plagiarism](#).

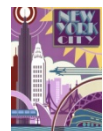
**Registration Requirement:** University policy requires all students to be registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published University deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her official class schedules (using Student tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. It is the student's responsibility to ensure proper enrollment in classes. You are advised to review your official class schedule during the first two weeks of the semester to ensure proper enrollment. Should you determine an error in your class schedule, you have until the end of the second week of the fall or spring semester to correct it with your advising office and the Office of the Registrar. If registration errors are not corrected by this date and you continue to attend and participate in classes for which you are not officially enrolled, you are advised now that you will not receive credit for the course at the conclusion of the semester.

**Course Withdrawals:**

- To drop or withdraw from a course, access <http://flashline.kent.edu/>
- Withdrawals are subject to deadlines stated in the University's semester schedule and available at the University Registrar's web site:  
[http://www.kent.edu/registrar/calendars/stu\\_spring.cfm](http://www.kent.edu/registrar/calendars/stu_spring.cfm)

**Course Refunds:**

- Please refer to the Bursar's web site: <http://www.kent.edu/bursar/Refunds/Refund-Policy.cfm> for information on the University's refund policy.



## **ASSINGMENTS, DISCUSSION, PARTICIPATION AND POINTS**

|   |                |            |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Participation   | 10x 25 points  | 250 points |
| Blackboard discussion Posts                           | 6 x 50 points  | 300 points |
| New York Book Report                                  | 1 x 100 points | 100 points |
| Career Goals Statement                                | 1 x100 points  | 100 points |
| Theatre Report  | 1 x100 points  | 100 points |
| Group Presentation                                    | 1 x 150 points | 150 points |
| Daily entry in journal (4 total)<br>(during the trip) | 4 x 50 points  | 200 points |
| Theatre activities (2 total)<br>(during the trip)     | 2 x 50 points  | 100 points |
| Final Presentation                                    | 1x100 points   | 100 points |

**Grading Scale:** Your work will be graded by the number of points earned during the semester. The maximum number of points possible is **1400**. This course uses a weighted grading scale, so please keep track of your grades. This will help you along the way in figuring out how you are doing in class. Of course, you are welcome to see either instructor at any point if you are concerned about how you are doing so far.

|           |    |           |    |
|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| 1302-1400 | A  | 1078-1119 | C+ |
| 1260-1301 | A- | 1022-1077 | C  |
| 1218-1259 | B+ | 980-1021  | C- |
| 1162-1217 | B  | 938-979   | D+ |
| 1120-1161 | B- | 840-937   | D  |
|           |    | Below 839 | F  |

**Attendance --** You are allowed **One (1)** unexcused absence from class. More than 1 unexcused absence will be penalized by taking 50 points per absence from your final grade. Excused absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Students will need to provide a written excuse from a doctor or other instructor to obtain an excused absence. You may be tardy **TWO (2)** times with no penalty. After 2, your final grade will be lowered by 50 points each time. **Attendance of all group activities during the trip is also required. Missing an activity will be counted as an unexcused absence.** Please do not ask the instructor for the missed class notes; contact a classmate for any missed notes. If any handouts are missed, the instructor will provide a copy. Please make an effort to let me know by e-mail if you are going to be absent.

**In Class Participation** (25 points/ in-class meeting day and trip) -- This category is one of the most important in the class. Please come to class alert, prepared and ready to participate, including having read the assignment that corresponds to any lecture or activity. We will be having many open-discussions about New York and your thoughts and ideas regarding planning are crucial to the rest of the class. Theatre is a collaborative art, and it is important that we all

work together. (Note – you cannot receive these points if you are absent, sleeping, talking, texting, doing homework for another class or reading a newspaper).

**Theatre/Cultural Activities for New York seminar may include and are not limited to the following:**

- Guided tour of Actors Equity Association
- Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts
- Walking tour of Broadway Theatre District
- Walking tour of Rockefeller Center, including Radio City Music Hall
- Attending theatre performances
- post-show discussions
- pre-arranged workshops with industry professionals
- Cultural tours of New York neighborhoods and landmarks such as
  - Chinatown
  - Harlem
  - Little Italy
  - The East Village
  - The West Village
  - Soho
  - Times Square
- Specific Museums
  - The Metropolitan Museum of Art
  - Museum of Modern Art
  - Museum of Broadcasting
  - Museum of the City of New York
  - Brooklyn Academy of Music
- Industry related venues such as ASCAP, The Screen Actors Guild, Chelsea Studios-Audition and performance spaces, The Drama Bookshop
- Iconic New York Tourist/ Cultural destinations:
  - Empire State Building
  - Statue of Liberty
  - Ground Zero
  - Ellis Island
  - Central Park