

THEA41113

Theatre in a Multicultural America

Spring 2014 TR 12:30-1:45PM Music and Speech D305

Instructor: Dr. Yuko Kurahashi, ykurahas@kent.edu 330 672 9483

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00 AM-12:30PM, 2:00-3:00PM

Course Objectives: By reading and discussing diverse materials created by artists of the following ethnic groups—African American, Latino American, Asian American, Native American, Middle-Eastern American—we will examine culturally and ethnically specific issues that are manifested in the texts and performances. In addition to reading the texts and conduct literary analysis, the students are expected to learn and understand the changing demographic, economic, political, and cultural fabrics of the United States and to understand the interrelationship between dramatic works and sociopolitical. In order to obtain knowledge and ability to engage in theatre and performing arts in global society, students are encouraged to learn different contemporary multicultural theatre activities in the world.

Theatre in a Multicultural America as a Diversity Course:

This course may be used to satisfy the University Diversity requirement. Diversity courses provide opportunities for students to learn about such matters as the history, culture, values and notable achievements of people other than those of their own national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability, and social class. Diversity courses also provide opportunities to examine problems and issues that may arise from differences, and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them.

Required Texts available at the [University Bookstore](#) or [Amazon.com](#):

- Yuko Kurahashi, *Multicultural Theatre* (Kendall/ Hunt) 1st edition
- Lorraine Hansberry *A Raisin in the Sun* (Trade)
- August Wilson, *Radio Golf* (Trade) (African American)
- David Henry Hwang, *Chinglish*
- Lynn Nottage *Ruined* (TCG) (also available on Blackboard)
- Milcha Sanchez-Scott, *Roosters* (Dramatist's Play Service) (Chicana) (also available on Blackboard)
- Nilo Cruz *Anna in the Tropics* (web) (Cuban American)
- *Love in Afghanistan* (Blackboard) (African American, global)
- *The Gospel According to James* (Blackboard) (African American)
- *The Star Quilter* (Native American) (Blackboard)
- *American Gypsy* or *Pushing Bear* (Native American) (Blackboard)
- Betty Shamieh, *The Black Eyed* (Blackboard)

Electronic Reserves:

In addition to the textbook, we will be reading **some plays (not all of them)** found in KSU library's Ereserves.

1. Follow this link to the Ereserves website: [KSU Ereserves](#)
2. Type Password multicultural24
3. You will find a number of materials there. We will be reading:

- *A Sunday Morning in the South, Aftermath*
- *Paper Angels*
- *Grandchildren of Buffalo Soldiers*

Additional readings might be added in the syllabus. Some of them will be uploaded to Blackboard.

Required Assignments and Grading Scale:

Your work will be graded by the number of points earned during the semester.

1. Attendance/Participation in Discussions

Participation in class discussion. It is extremely important for you to participate in class discussion.

Demonstrate active participation in class discussion with discipline, critical thinking, and enthusiasm. I also value your positive and respectful attitude. 10 points per active participation.

An unexcused absence is subjected to a deduction of 20 points per absence from your final grade. In order for your absence to be excused, you need to request a written excuse from a doctor or an appropriate contact person within 48 hours and deliver the document to your instructor. Two occasions of tardiness will be counted as one absence.

- Quizzes:** There will be one or more quizzes each week which cover(s) the lecture(s) and readings. Quizzes will be given online **or** in class. The instructor will inform prior to the lecture/discussion.

Online Quiz Guidelines: Quizzes may only be taken one time and there is a 5-10 minute time limit per quiz, depending on the number of questions. **There will not be enough time for you to reference the notes for the quiz.** You will have to read and study the lectures carefully to fully prepare for the quizzes. **Complete lecture notes** can be found under the "Notes" tab in the left-hand column of the slideshow. After submitting your quiz, your overall score will be available immediately. After all students have completed the quiz, a specific breakdown of correct/incorrect responses will be available for your review.

3. A performance review of the following (choose one)

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|--|---|----------------------|
| <i>Ceremonies in Dark Old Men (Classic Drama)</i> by Lonne Elder III | January 31 – February 23, 2014 Preview Performance - Thursday, January 30th @ 7:30 PM | Karamu House |
| <i>The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Satire) (Ohio Premiere)</i> by Kristoffer Diaz | March 14 – April 6, 2014 Preview Performance - Thursday, March 13th @ 7:30 PM | Karamu House |
| <i>Breath and Imagination</i> | February 14 - March 9, Allen Theatre | Cleveland Play House |
| <i>Knock Me A Kiss</i> | January 31st - February 23rd | Ensemble Theatre |

or

- Exam 1 and 2 (50 points each)**
- Creative or Research Project.** Honors students are required to choose the Creative project.

A. Community-engaged project (150 points)

You can work, as a volunteer, in the community (Kent, Ravenna, Stow, Cuyahoga Falls, and beyond). Arrangements should be made through the Office of Experiential Education and Civic Engagement. The contents of your volunteer works need to be approved by the instructor. The guidelines will be provided soon.

Based on your experience and interviews with community people you meet, you are asked to write a short play (5-10 mins).

B. Research project (150 points)

You are asked to write a research paper on a subject of your choice. Your subject has to be in one of the following categories:

- African American
- Asian American
- Latino American
- Native American
- Middle-Eastern American
- Community-based theatre

6. A response paper to the performance (300 words) (50 points)

Assignment Category:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Attendance/Participation | 10x21=210 |
| Quizzes | varied |
| Performance Review | 100 |
| Exam 1 and 2 | 100 (50 each) |
| Research/Creative Project/ Response | 200 |
| Total | 610 plus quiz points |

Percentage conversion for each letter grade:

| | | | |
|----|------|----|-----|
| A | 93 % | C+ | 77% |
| A- | 90% | C | 73% |
| B+ | 87% | C- | 70% |
| B | 83% | D+ | 67% |
| B- | 80% | D | 60% |

Important Policies, Rules, and Information

Email: Primary communication for this course will take place using the Blackboard email or messages.

Make-Ups and Late Submissions: There will be **no make-ups**. All assignments must be turned in **on time** or will be deducted 20 points each day after the due date from your total score unless you have an emergency which can be verified with **written documentation**, at which time we will discuss your due date.

Online Etiquette: When participating in Blackboard, it is important to remember several points of etiquette that will smooth communication between students and their instructors.

- ☐ Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive. Language can be easily misinterpreted in written communication. If a point must be stressed, review the statement to make sure that an outsider reading it would not be offended before posting the statement. Humor and sarcasm may easily be misinterpreted as well, so try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible.
- ☐ An online classroom is still a classroom. Though the courses may be online, appropriate classroom behavior is still mandatory. Respect for fellow classmates and the instructor is as important as ever.
- ☐ The language of the Internet. Though still a fairly young type of communication, certain aspects of this form of communication are becoming conventional. For example, do not write using all capital letters, because it will appear as shouting. Also, although the use of emoticons can be helpful when used to convey nonverbal feelings (example: :) or :-(), please restrain from overusing them.
- ☐ Consider the privacy of others'. Ask permission prior to giving out a classmate's email address or other information.
- ☐ No inappropriate material. Do not forward virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. to classmates or instructors. The sharing of pornographic material is forbidden.

(Adapted from Source: <http://www.kent.edu/dl/Technology/Etiquette.cfm>)

Fair Use and Copyright: In this course, you are asked to do the world theatre project. Some images may be restricted by copyright law. Make sure to cite the source of the information/ materials you use. I

There will be no cell phone usage in this class. This includes text messaging. Please turn your cell phone off (NOT TO VIBRATE) when you enter the classroom. **Other technological devices such as laptops and I-pads should also be turned off.**

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 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.](#)

It is easy for anyone to copy and paste an essay, paragraphs, and sentences from various websites. However, copying someone's work is an act of stealing and you are going to face serious consequences as explained above. You need to make a habit of composing your own sentences and paragraphs. If you need to use information, phrases, and sentences found in other people's writings, you need to cite the sources and make sure to integrate what you quote into your own writing. However, simply placing a citation after a borrowed phrase and sentence does not make your essay free from plagiarism. For example, a series of quotes even with citations shall be considered a simple note-taking, thus your score on that assignment will be zero.

Registration Requirement: 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. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

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

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.

Theatre in a Multicultural America Schedule Spring 2014

| Week | | What we do | Date |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Introduction: What is Multicultural Theatre? African American Theatre Jan 14, 16 | Introduction African American Theater (General Information) Ethnic Representation | Write self-introduction in a posted discussion. | By Tuesday Evening 11PM |
| | | Go over the syllabus Read “Multicultural Theatre” Essay. View youtube “ Ethnic Notions ” with its Transcript . Introducing Articulate Presentation: How to study with a narrated power point. | Tuesday |
| | | African American Theatre in <i>Multicultural Theatre</i> (18-32, 35-37, 41-52) Lecture: “African American Theatre” Quiz 1 | Thursday |
| | | | |
| 2. African American Drama Early 20th century Jan. 21, 23 | Plays about Lynching (Early 20 th Century) | Discuss <i>A Sunday Morning in the South</i> and <i>Aftermath</i> (both on ereserve) Quiz 2 | Tuesday |
| | Lynching Play in the 21 st Century Instructions for Final Project | <i>The Gospel According to James</i> Quiz 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description Guidelines Sample | Thursday |
| 3. African American continued Jan 28, 30 | Lorraine Hansberry | <i>Hansberry and her legacy</i> Discuss <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Quiz 4 | Tuesday |
| | August Wilson, <i>Radio Golf</i> | Discussion <i>Radio Golf</i> Quiz 5 | Thursday |
| 4. African American Theatre Feb 4, 6 | | Discuss <i>Ruined</i> Quiz 6 | Tuesday |
| | Final Project Step 1 | Discuss <i>Love in Afghanistan</i> Quiz 7 Learn how to retrieve scholarly articles and performance reviews by using KSU databases. | Thursday |

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| | | Select one scholarly article which is related to your topic or area. | |
| Latino Theatre | | | |
| 5. Latino Theatre Feb. 11, 13 | General Information of Latino American Theatre Background of the Chicano Movement | Read <i>MT</i> 2-16 View the lecture, Chicano Theatre View the film “Fight in the Fields” Quiz 8 (MT 2-16) | Tuesday |
| | <i>Roosters</i> | Read <i>Roosters</i> <i>Read a scholarly article on Roosters</i> Quiz 9 Discussion <i>Roosters</i> | Thursday |
| | | | |
| 6. Latino Theatre Nilo Cruz Feb. 18, 20 | <i>Anna in the Tropics</i> | Read <i>Anna in the Tropics</i> Discussion of <i>Anna in the Tropics</i> | Guest Lecturer James Weaver |
| | | Read <i>The School of Americas</i> Post your comments on the play by Saturday, 11:00PM | Blackboard class Thursday |
| Asian American Theatre | | | |
| 7 . Asian American Theatre Feb. 25, 27 | | Discuss <i>The School of Americas</i> in class | Tuesday |
| | | Exam 1 | Thursday |
| | | | |
| 8. Asian American Theatre March 4, 6 | | Read <i>MT</i> (58-77, just before the section of “Denise Uyehara”) View Lecture: “Asian American Theatre” Read the excerpt from <i>A History of Asian American Theatre</i> by Esther Kim Quiz 10 | Tuesday |
| | | Read <i>Joy Luck Club</i> Quiz 11 | Thursday |

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| 9.Asian American March 11, 13 | | Read <i>Tea</i> Discuss <i>Tea</i> | Tuesday |
| | | Discuss <i>Chinglish</i> Quiz 12 | Thursday |
| 10.Native American Theatre Mar. 18, 20 | | Discuss <i>The Tiger Among Us</i> | Tuesday |
| | | Read <i>MT</i> (112-123) View Lecture Native American Theatre Quiz 13 Discuss <i>The Star Quilter</i> | Thursday |
| 11. Native American Theatre April 1,3 | | Discuss <i>Grandchildren of the Buffalo Soldiers</i> Quiz 14 | Tuesday |
| | | Read <i>The American Gypsy</i> | Blackboard |
| | Final Project Step 3 Outline | Submit the Final Project Outline | Sunday 11:00PM |
| | | | |
| 12 Middle-Eastern American Theatre, April 8, 10 | Middle Eastern American Theatre | Lecture: Middle-Eastern American Theatre, Discussion <i>The Black Eyed</i> Quiz 15 | Tuesday |
| | | TBA | Thursday |
| Community Based Theatre | | | |
| 13. Community-Based April 15, 17 | Community-based theatre | Community-Based Theatre Lecture Cornerstone Theatre The Medea Project Ping Chong’s Undesirable Elements | Tuesday |
| | | Read and Discuss Ping Chong’s Undesirable Elements | Thursday |
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| 14. Global Theatre April 22, 24 | | TBA | Tuesday |
| | | Exam 2 | Thursday |
| Global Theatre | | | |
| 15 Global Theatre | Performance, Presentation | Global Theatre/Review | Tuesday |
| | | Performance/Presentations | Thursday |