This syllabus is for the online version only!

THEATRE 100-202: INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE
Online version

Dates: Fall 2019
Credits: 3 (~120 hours)
Location & Meeting Time: Online
Instructor: Alvaro Saar Rios
Contact Information: riosa@uwm.edu
Office: Theatre 280, Peck School of the Arts, UWM
Office Hours: By appointment
Teaching Assistant: Brittany Curran bncurran@uwm.edu

Catalogue Description: Introduction to the theatre as a form of artistic, social and human expression from point-of-view of both theatre audience and theatre artist.

Course Description: Theatre 100 provides a general introduction to theatre as a performing and collaborative art. It is designed to provide students with a background, framework, and vocabulary for seeing and discussing live theatre events. In this course, we will examine each major area of theatrical production (directing, acting, design, etc.) and will gain a working understanding of the various elements—historical, textual, and performative—that inform theatrical practice.

- This book has been placed on order at uwm.ecampus.com
- No other editions will be accepted for this course.

Grading Policies: Your final grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown.
- 2 exams: 15% each for 30% total
- Writing assignments #1: 2 % (2 points)
- Writing assignment 2-6: 25% (5 points each)
- Writing Assignment #7: 10% (10 points)
- 6 quizzes: 18% (3 points each)
- Final project: 15 %

If you have a condition that requires special accommodations, please submit your ARC documentation as soon as possible. We will make an appointment to discuss accommodations. I am happy to make accommodations for documented disabilities. However, please note that: 1) official documentation (ARC) must be provided in order to have accommodations made; 2) I will not retroactively provide accommodations; and 3) accommodations cannot be made unless and until you have formally discussed implementation with me. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.

Make-up Policy and Unit Completion Policy: As described above, there are no make-ups for required coursework in this class. If you miss a quiz, forget an exam, fail to complete a response, etc., you miss the points. As a general rule, all Unit material will be open to you for the duration of the Unit (that is, either one or two class weeks, as indicated
in the schedule). Therefore, you will have multiple days in which to complete your coursework, and all deadlines are listed on the syllabus. Class weeks generally run Monday-Sunday (**Exam weeks are exceptions**). You cannot complete Unit work once the Unit has closed.

- **It is your responsibility to keep up with course material, and to submit all assignments on time.** You should always keep a close eye on your own schedule to ensure that you make class deadlines. **All assignments are due on their respective deadlines based on Central Standard Time (CST).** **NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN IF AN ASSIGNMENT IS TURNED IN LATE.**

- **Keep backup copies of all your written assignments!** Never compose your work on the Canvas site without backing it up in some way! It’s your responsibility to ensure that assignments are posted in complete and readable formats.

- **Extra credit will be available for this course.** Possible options for extra credit include seeing a UWM Theatre production or a professional production. Once the “Extra Credit” dropbox closes, no more extra credit assignments will be accepted.

**Assignments:**

**Exams (GER Assignment):** Two exams will be given over the course of the semester. These exams will consist of objective questions (multiple choice, T/F, and the like) and short-answer questions. The exams will be timed tests that you will take via Canvas. Review sheets will be provided prior to exams. **Since you know when these will occur, and since you will have about a week to complete them, exams cannot be made up.**

**Writing Assignments (GER Assignment):** Over the course of the term, you will have 7 opportunities to communicate your ideas with me and with your classmates via the Canvas site. Writing assignments #1 is worth 2 points, #2-6 will be worth 5 points and #7 is worth 10 points. The format of these responses will vary depending on the needs of the course: some will be 250-300 word, focused responses to questions I provide, and you’ll post and discuss your answers on the Canvas site. Some assignments will consist of short paragraphs that you’ll submit. In all cases, specific assignments and instructions will be provided to you well in advance of the due date. **Since you know when these will occur, and since you will have a significant amount of time in which to complete them, these responses cannot be made up.** **Remember also that these are formal writing assignments, and therefore, a formal writing style is expected and required.** Any assignments attached to a discussion post or submitted to the dropbox **must be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format.** Rubric for GER grading is included at the end of this syllabus.

**Quizzes:** There will be 6 quizzes given throughout the semester. Quizzes will be worth 3-points and given via the Canvas site. Quizzes may cover any portion of class material (assigned reading, lecture content, clips or visual material, online discussions, etc.). **Since you know when these will occur, and since you will have about a week to complete them, quizzes cannot be made up.** You’ll need to budget your time and watch your schedule to ensure you complete them on time. The quizzes are time-limited so you should study for them as astutely as you would an in-class, closed book quiz. **WARNING:** **Do not attempt to take**
a quiz on your phone. Wifi can very unreliable. If you lose your wifi connection, you will not be able to complete the quiz. Your instructor will not open the quiz again.

**Final Project:** The final project is intended to give you a taste of what it might be like be a designer for a production. You will be able to select a design role and create a design concept. You will also be expected to write a short paper discussing your design concept. Your final grade for this project will be based on two components: the presentation and the individual paper.

**Grading scale:** Exam grades, project grades and final course grades are calculated on the following scale (note that quizzes and written exercises are graded on a point system as described above):

- 100-93: A
- 92-90: A-
- 90-87: B+
- 89-87: B+
- 86-83: B
- 86-83: B
- 79-77: C+
- 76-73: C
- 72-70: C-
- 69-67: D+
- 66-63: D
- 62-60: D-
- Below 60: F

**Contacting the Instructor:** The fastest and most effective way of getting in touch with me is via email (riosa@uwm.edu), I generally respond within 24 hours at the maximum, but please note any e-mails sent on Sunday will not be replied to until Monday morning. Please put “Theatre 100 online” as your subject header: I get a ton of email every day, and I would not want to miss yours in the shuffle!

**Online Course Information:** This course is offered entirely online. While you are responsible for obtaining the text (above), all other course materials will be accessible online for reading and viewing. All assignments, including quizzes, exams, writing assignments, and projects, will be completed and graded online.

**Computer Skills and Resources Needed:**

**Skills:** You will need basic word processing skills, the ability to send and receive email through your email account, and a simple understanding of how to access and browse Web sites, including our course site on Canvas. A word to the wise: checking your ePanther account and our course Website regularly is crucial to your ability to do well in this course!

**Resources:** You will need access to a computer that has a broadband connection or a campus network connection to the Web. **Note: Dialup access is NOT sufficient to pass this course!** You will find yourself unable to obtain course materials and complete course requirements. The computer you use must be able to view Adobe PDF files and video files on Canvas and YouTube.

**Apportioning Your Time:**

If you’re taking this online course because you think it will be easier or take less time, please think again! Students are often surprised to find that online courses require at least as much weekly time, and sometimes more, than face-to-face classes! While you are not physically attending class or traveling to and from campus for this course, you will need to devote several hours per week to the completion of course tasks.

It will be up to you to organize your time effectively in order to complete your work in a self-motivated fashion. This can be difficult to do in an online course, though I will try to help keep you on track! **But please be aware: if you have the tendency to put things**
off or to be disorganized—especially where computers are concerned—this course may not be suitable for you.

You should plan to spend, on average, **6 hours per week** working on this course. Even though we will not be meeting as a group at traditional times, I suggest that you **set aside regular times each week** to complete your coursework. Here are some typical course tasks, and the amount of time you should plan to complete them (bearing in mind that these guidelines presuppose that you are a motivated student who is comfortable with technology):

- **Reading text and online lecture material, viewing clips:** 4 hrs/unit
- **Reviewing material for quizzes:** 2 hrs/unit
- **Preparing and posting written assignments:** 2-3 hrs/unit
- **Reading the boards and contributing responses:** 2 hrs/unit
- **Studying for exams:** 5-8 hrs/exam
- **Final Project:** Variable, but expect 15-20 hrs.

**Academic Integrity** (read this section carefully, as it outlines the penalty you can expect to receive if you violate the policy): Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty is neither condoned nor tolerated at UWM. UWM’s Academic Misconduct policies and procedures will be enforced in this class; this policy can be read at [https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/](https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/). *If you violate these policies you will receive a grade of F in this course, and will be reported immediately to the Academic Misconduct Hearing Committee, which has the option of recommending even higher sanctions.*

*Don’t forget to see the Frequently Asked Questions on page 7 & 8*
**COURSE SCHEDULE**

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced to you via the Canvas site.

**Unit 1: The Beginning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9/2 -</td>
<td>1. Download and read the course syllabus, posted on Canvas</td>
<td>1. <strong>Writing Assignment 1—Introduce Yourself:</strong> Complete by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 9/8.</td>
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<td>Sunday 9/8</td>
<td>2. Explore the course site</td>
<td>No credit will be given for late assignments!</td>
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<td>3. Read “Unit 1 Lecture” on Canvas</td>
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<td>4. Read <em>Theatre Experience</em> Chapter 1 pages 4-10, 13, 16-18</td>
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**Unit 2: Genres in the Theatre**

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9/9 -</td>
<td>1. Read Chapter 8 (Theatrical Genres)</td>
<td>1. <strong>Complete Quiz 1 on Canvas by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 9/15</strong></td>
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<td>Sunday 9/15</td>
<td>2. Read Unit 2 Lectures on Canvas</td>
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<td>3. Study for Quiz</td>
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<td>Monday 9/16 -</td>
<td>1. Review material</td>
<td>1. <strong>Writing Assignment 2, “Theatre in Your Life”:</strong> Initial post due by 11:59 pm, Wednesday 9/18; Follow-up post due by 11:59 pm, Sunday 9/22</td>
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<td>Sunday 9/22</td>
<td>2. See guidelines for Writing Assignment 2 on Canvas</td>
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**Unit 3: Styles and “-isms”**

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9/23 -</td>
<td>1. Read Wilson Chapter 1 pages 20-22 and Chapter 7 (Dramatic Structure &amp; Characters) pages 155-166</td>
<td>1. <strong>Complete Quiz 2 on Canvas by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 9/29</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 9/29</td>
<td>2. Read Unit 3 Lectures on Canvas</td>
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<td>3. Study for Quiz</td>
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<td>Monday 9/30 -</td>
<td>1. Review material</td>
<td>1. <strong>Writing Assignment 3, “Anti-Realism”:</strong> Initial post due by 11:59 pm, Wednesday 10/2; Follow-up post due by 11:59 pm, Sunday 10/6</td>
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<td>Sunday 10/6</td>
<td>2. Read guidelines for Writing Assignment 3 on Canvas</td>
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## Unit 4: The Art and Craft of the Director

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<th>Dates</th>
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<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| Monday 10/7 - Sunday 10/13 | 1. Read Wilson Chapter 5 (The Director & Producer) pages 95-112  
2. Read Unit 4 Lectures on Canvas  
3. Study for Quiz          | 1. Complete Quiz 3 on Canvas by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 10/13       |

### Midterm Activities

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| Monday 10/14 - Sunday 10/20| 1. Prepare for Midterm Exam  
2. Read guidelines for Writing Assignment 4 on Canvas               | 1. Midterm Exam must be completed on Canvas by 11:59 pm(CST), Friday 10/18  
2. Writing Assignment 4 (Midterm review) must be submitted by 11:59 pm, Sunday 10/20 |

## Unit 5: Design

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</table>
| Monday 10/21 - Sunday 10/27| 1. Read Wilson Chapters 9, 10, and 11 (The Designers)  
2. Read Unit 5 Lectures on Canvas  
3. Study for Quiz          | 1. Complete Quiz 4 on Canvas by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 10/27       |
| Monday 10/28- Sunday 11/3  | 1. Review material  
2. Read guidelines for Writing Assignment 5 on Canvas               | 1. Writing Assignment 5, “Responding to Visual Design”: Initial post due by 11:59 pm, Wednesday 10/30; Follow-up post due by 11:59 pm, Sunday 11/3 |

## Unit 6: Acting

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<th>Dates</th>
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| Monday 11/4 – Sunday 11/10 | 1. Read Wilson Chapter 4 (Acting)  
2. Read Unit 6 Lectures on Canvas  
3. Study for Quiz          | 1. Complete Quiz 5 on Canvas by 11:59 pm, Sunday 11/10            |
Unit 7: The Art of Spectatorship

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| Monday 11/18 - Sunday 11/24 | 1. Read Wilson Chapter 2 (Background & Expectations of the Audience) pages 27-37  
2. Read Unit 7 Lecture on Canvas  
3. Study for Quiz  
4. Work on Final Project | 1. Complete Quiz 6 on Canvas by 11:59 pm, Sunday 11/24                        |
| Monday 11/25 - Sunday 12/1     | 1. Review Material  
2. Read guidelines for Writing Assignment 7 on Canvas  
3. Work on Final Project | 1. Writing Assignment 7 “Plan a Night at the Theatre:” Due by 11:59pm, Sunday, 12/1 |

Unit 8: Conclusions—The Future of Theatre and Final Projects

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Monday 12/2 – Sunday 12/8 | 1. Read Wilson pages 264-265 and Chapter 14 (Contemporary Theatre) pages 312-329  
2. Read Unit 8 Lectures on Canvas  
3. Wrap Up Final Project work | 1. Final Project materials due by 11:59 pm, Sunday 12/8                      |
| Monday 12/9 – Friday 12/13   | 1. Read “Final Exam Review Sheet”  
2. Prepare for Final Exam |                                                                                 |

Final Exam

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 12/14 – Tuesday 12/17</td>
<td>1. Take Final Exam</td>
<td>1. Final Exam will open 12:01am, Saturday 12/14. It must be completed on by 11:59 pm (CST), Tuesday 12/17</td>
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</table>

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I really need the required book? Yes.

Can I turn in an assignment late? No. For this course, one minute late is still late. All deadlines are posted in the syllabus, please plan accordingly.

If I miss a quiz, can I make it up? No. If you miss a quiz, you are highly encouraged to do extra credit.

If I miss an exam, can I make it up? No. It is in your best interest not to miss an exam. Some people have still passed the course even though they missed a mid-term or final exam. This was possible only because their quiz grades and writing assignments were excellent.
Can I take the quiz on my phone or a laptop with Wi-Fi? I don’t recommend it. If one decides to do this, one should also accept the consequences if the Wi-Fi goes out. Wi-Fi is not always reliable. If the Wi-Fi goes out, the system will log you out of the quiz. Once that happens, I am unable to re-open the quiz.

If I e-mail you on Sunday, when can I expect a response? You should expect a response within 24 hours. I do my best to respond as soon as possible but if the email is sent on Saturday or Sunday, I can’t promise I will respond the same day.

I bought my ticket for a UWM play online and didn’t get the student discount. Why is that? The box office only sells discounted student tickets in person. Make sure to have your student ID with you.

Can I get extra credit by seeing a professional play or musical production in my town? Yes. See the “Extra Credit Guidelines” located in Unit 4.

Can I get extra credit for a production I saw last summer or last year? No. Extra credit options are only for those production that take place while you are taking my course.

Can I get extra credit for seeing a high school production? No.

How do I log into Canvas? Where is the Canvas site?
1. Visit the UWM Canvas website directly by going to https://uwm.edu/canvas
2. Click the Log Into Canvas button.
3. When prompted, enter your UWM ePantherID (the first part of your UWM email address, before but not including the "@uwm.edu") and your password. Click the Login button to continue.

What do I do if I have problems with Canvas? If you have problems with your login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can’t get on) or if you run into any other difficulties with Canvas, help is available from the UWM Help Desk, not your instructor! You may do one of the following:
- Send an email to help@uwm.edu
- Call the UWM Help Desk at 414.229.4040

Why is your syllabus so loooooooooong? If this were an in person course, the syllabus would be a lot shorter because I would explain everything. Since this is an online course, it helps for me to write down everything in order to prevent confusion. My hope is that by explaining everything I can minimize the amount of time being utilized emailing back and forth.

**************************************************

GER Rationale: This course is part of the GER Breadth requirement it satisfies the Arts credit requirement and focuses on UWM Shared Learning Outcomes(SLO) as well.

This course addresses Arts GER Criteria. Students will be able to:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the choices (stylistic, historical, etc.) that influence theatrical production (Criteria #1)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the components of collaborative creativity, and the work of the collaborators themselves (Criteria #2)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the conventions that govern the creation, presentation, and consumption of theatre (Criteria #3)
THR 100 addresses the following SLGs:

SLG #1) *Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World:* THR 100 focuses on theatre as a cultural expression. Students demonstrate a working knowledge and how the elements of performance, design, and dramatic storytelling are found in everyday life.

- Assignment: Writing Assignment
- Assessment: See rubric at end of syllabus

SLG #2) *Critical and Creative Thinking Skills:* THR 100 focuses a broad view of how theatre functions as a creative art form. Students are required to demonstrate a working knowledge of theatre practices.

- GER Assignment: *Knowledge Acquisition: Exams*
- Assessment: The exam requires students to recall facts and information about theatre practices and process and to synthesize and analyze this information. Questions are posed and awarded points according to the difficulty and higher level thinking (basic fact recall, for example is awarded less weight than do short essays, which require students to create their own theories and perspectives. Therefore, to succeed on this exam students must be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the subject. Students successfully demonstrate competency with this SLO if they receive a C+ or better (A=100-90% of points; B=89-80% of points; C=79%-75%, C=74%-70%, D=69-60% below this % students receive an "F").

**Important Information for Students:** The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduates and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies. For more information, please see: [http://uwm.edu/secu/syllabus-links/](http://uwm.edu/secu/syllabus-links/)

**Writing Assignment #1**

Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exceptional A</th>
<th>Distinctive B</th>
<th>Successful C</th>
<th>Substandard D</th>
<th>Failing 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Points</td>
<td>75% of points</td>
<td>65% of points</td>
<td>50% of points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Response Only: clear; cohesive; thoroughly explained</td>
<td>clear but not thoroughly explained</td>
<td>some parts unclear</td>
<td>unfocused; minor typos; does not meet word count</td>
<td>unclear; many typos; late submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Response Only: thorough and timely response to a peer’s post;</td>
<td>timely response to peer’s post; clear but not thoroughly explained</td>
<td>timely response; unclear ideas</td>
<td>timely response; does not meet word count; minor typos</td>
<td>many typos; late submission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>