

SYLLABUS FOR THEA 3385/J-TERM 2024
Including required readings, assignments, and daily schedule

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Housing – I am staying in the same hotel, which means I am available to meet outside of class to discuss the materials, schedule, and assignments. I have been teaching in London for a decade and am happy to share my knowledge of the city with students. There are multiple cafes, pubs, and green spaces in the neighborhood where we can enjoy a coffee and a conversation.

Welcome to **THEATRE ALIVE**, a seventeen-day class held in London and Oxford.

During this short class, we'll explore the connection between theatre (art, industry, popular entertainment) and London. We'll read plays and see productions, attend galleries and museums, visit historic palaces and homes, walk the streets and green spaces, and talk *a lot* about the coupling of city and theatre.

We'll also discuss ways that tourism, women and bodies, and William Shakespeare are wound through and about the seven plays we'll attend.

Whether you've taken multiple theatre courses or none, been onstage or not, you'll be able to participate in our class discussions.

Whether you've been to London or not, you'll become familiar with the public transportation, galleries and museums, history, and entertainment London offers.

We plan to transform you from a tourist to a fledgling local by the end of this program.

Class meetings will be split between Dr. Smith's lectures on background and thematic connections and lively discussions about the plays, productions, site visits, and interpretations of the above. It is expected that all students will contribute to in-class discussions daily – which means preparing the readings.

Before arriving in London, it is recommended that all students read the plays and the Kennedy article and examine the historic maps of London.

REQUIRED READING (digital versions acceptable)

PLAYS (*in the order we'll discuss and read them*)

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

ARTICLES and SHORT PIECES

"The Spectator as Tourist" by Dennis Kennedy (chapter)

Swan Lake summary - original + Matthew Bourne version

Brick Lane readings (chapters)

Historic maps and images (London & Shakespeare)

OTHER

Buy a **map** of London: a paper/foldable map of London - *not* on your phone.

Example: https://www.amazon.com/StreetSmart-London-Map-VanDam-attractions/dp/1934395544/ref=pd_bxgy_img_d_sccl_1/141-8814620-7371221?pd_rd_w=JYSSY&content-id=amzn1.sym.7746dde5-5539-43d2-b75f-28935d70f100&pf_rd_p=7746dde5-5539-43d2-b75f-28935d70f100&pf_rd_r=JA5JGDNXRA8XFYZBFK9H&pd_rd_wg=tcpzY&pd_rd_r=c3757b71-e75b-4b04-8a41-97b736270360&pd_rd_i=1934395544&psc=1

ASSIGNMENTS

PARTICIPATION: 15%

All students are expected to participate daily in class, lending their voice to the lively discussions about the readings, productions, site visits, and events of the course. This not only means sharing your personal viewpoints and discoveries but treating everyone in the program with respect.

Be aware of the schedule and arrive to class or meeting sites on time; being late will cost you points in this area.

REVIEWS: 45% (15% each)

Each student will write 3 reviews of productions seen during this course.

1. A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM – due Saturday, January 4 at the start of class
2. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST – due Wednesday, January 8 by 10am
3. CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF or THE TEMPEST – due January 15 at the start of class

I have uploaded the template for reviews and will go over the assignment in class. You will speak from your response to the production: you can hate it, love it, find it “meh” – but you must present an articulate response to various elements in the production. ***To do so, you are required to buy the program at each event*** (roughly 5GBP)

FINAL PRESENTATION: 40%

Rather than give a traditional “final exam,” I am instead requiring each student to give a final presentation, a 20-minute oral/visual “Letter from London” summing up their experiences. In that twenty minutes, each student will connect their experiences to the themes of the course, share their transformation from “tourist” to semi-local, and articulate some of their cultural, aesthetic, and intellectual discoveries during their time in London. *This assignment includes submitting completed worksheets for site visits. More information to come.*

HELPFUL NOTES for the course and events

Basic Expectations

1. Be on time -- with all necessary items (phone, Oyster card, etc.) for the events of the day.
2. Be respectful and tolerant to the leaders and to each other.
3. Take care of yourself: eat, drink, and sleep in the best way to make sure you stay healthy for the whole trip. When you have a free morning, afternoon, or evening use it to relax and catch up on the course reading.
4. Breakfast is available in hotel everyday: make time!
5. Prepare the day's readings and assignments.
6. Speak up in class: share your opinions, thoughts, questions, enthusiasms.
7. Keep your phone charged and on, use WhatsApp, and stay in touch with the group.

Before arriving in London

1. Read all plays
2. Read "The spectator as tourist"/Kennedy
3. Buy a map of London
4. Watch on YouTube or streaming the clips or programs noted below
5. Download *Citymapper* (free app that shows best way/routes to get around cities, incl London)

Watch before you arrive

1. *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF* starring Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, and Burl Ives
2. *SLINGS AND ARROWS*, Season 1 (Canadian TV show, 6 episodes) Funny take on Shakespeare festivals, theatre, and *Hamlet*.
3. *SHERLOCK*, Season 1, episode 1: TV series starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, set in contemporary London: Mark Gatiss was creator, producer, writer and actor (Mycroft Holmes) in series.

Some information you may find useful:

1. The London Underground (subway) generally runs between 5am and midnight Monday – Saturday, with reduced hours on Sundays and holidays.
2. London cabbies/black cabs will cost the same *or less* than UBER – plus they will get you where you are going more quickly and accurately. They take credit cards, too.
3. Bring an umbrella, waterproof shoes, and a rainproof/windproof coat. Temperatures during this period are generally between 40 and 55degrees Fahrenheit. A warm hat and gloves will help, too.
4. **Don't** bring logo wear: SMU or other university, sorority/fraternity, etc. This will quickly identify you as a tourist and potential mark for pickpockets.
5. One nice outfit for theatres and afternoon tea; obviously, you can bring more than one. Both events will be slightly more formal than our regular daily walks/museum visits.

COURSE SCHEDULE – December 28-January 14

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Arrive in London

Travel to the hotel, check in – contact Jude about arrival

17:00 – Introductions/Orientation in hotel lobby

18:00 -- Group Dinner (TBD). We'll walk over as a group from the hotel.

Monday, December 30, 2024

9:30 – Class (FSU London Ctr., 99 Great Russell Street)

Prepare - Kennedy, "The spectator as tourist"

Read summaries of *SWAN LAKE*

Discussion: Course schedule/program/assignments/themes
Kennedy article
SWAN LAKE, ballet as performance, walking tour
Performance Studies: what is it and why do we care?

13:30 - Afternoon walking tour with Joel Reid (Meet at rear entrance of British Museum)

19:30 - Performance: SWAN LAKE at Sadler's Wells (Tube: Angel)

Tuesday, December 31, 2023

9:30 – Class

Discussion: Production: *SWAN LAKE*
Bodies, Ballet, and dance
Tourism and theatre - Southbank, maps, Tate Modern

Bring your PAPER map to class

12:00 - Head to Borough Market for lunch & exercise

14:00 - Southbank Walk

Southwark Cathedral

Shakespeare's Globe complex (brief stop)

Tate Modern + exhibition

Millennium Bridge

National Theatre (maybe?)

TBD - New Year's Eve dinner with group -

(17:45 – New Year's Eve dinner – Côte Brasserie, St. Katharine's Docks)

Wednesday, January 1, 2024 - Free day!

Suggestion - read *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* by Shakespeare

Thursday, January 2, 2024

9:30 – Class

Read: *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*/Shakespeare

Read: webpages about Vincent Van Gogh and National Gallery exhibition

Discussion: *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* and performance
Van Gogh exhibition

12:00 - Lunch

13:30 - Meet in front of National Gallery, Trafalgar Square

14:00 - Enter Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers exhibition, National Gallery (60-90 minutes)

17:30 - Explore Barbican complex, get dinner

19:15 - Performance - *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*/Shakespeare (Tube: Moorgate)

Friday, January 3, 2024

930 - Class

Discussion: National Gallery exhibition
Barbican performance
Hampton Court, Henry VIII & wives, and *SIX*

12:00 - Lunch

13:30 - British Museum + exhibition (timed entry)

Free evening

Saturday, January 4, 2024

TBD – meet in lobby

Train to Hampton Court, the palace of Henry VIII and wives

10:00 – Hampton Court visit, incl lunch (audio guides)

15:00 – Return to London (TBD)

20:00 – Performance: *SIX* at Vaudeville Theatre

Sunday, January 5, 2024

10:00 - Walking tour with Joel Reid – meet Liverpool St Station, platform #9
Brick Lane, street art

13:00 – Lunch at Sheba, curry house on Brick Lane

15:00 - Dennis Sever's House, Spitalfields

Regroup at pub, time at Spitalfields Market

Monday, January 6, 2024

9:30 - Class

Read: *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*/Wilde

Discussion: *EARNEST* (script and Wilde)

SIX (performance)

Brick Lane/street art Dennis Sever's House (walking tour)

12:00 - Lunch

TBD - Meet at entrance, National Portrait Gallery

17:00 - Backstage tour, National Theatre

19:30 - Performance - THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST at National Theatre

Tuesday, January 7, 2024 – Free day!

Wednesday, January 8, 2024 – Oxford daytrip

7:48 – Oxford Tube

10:30 – University College, tour

12:00 – City walking tour, including colleges

TBD - Lunch

15:00 – Visit to Ashmolean Museum (TBD)

Visit to Blackwell's Bookstore (TBD)

17:00 - Evensong at Christ Church chapel

18:30 – Dinner at King's Arms (pub)

TBD – Tube to London

Thursday, January 9, 2024

10:00 - Victoria & Albert Museum

Raphael Tapestries

Theatre & Performance Galleries

Lunch at V&A cafe

15:00 - British Museum (TBD)

Free evening

Friday, January 10, 2024

9:30 - Class

Discussion: Oxford, V&A Galleries, British Museum

12:00 - Lunch

13:30 - British Library (Tube: King's Cross)

17:00 - Evensong, St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey (TBD)

Free evening

Saturday, January 11, 2024

9:30 – Class

Read: *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF*/Williams

12:30 – Backstage tour, Shakespeare's Globe

14:30 - Old Operating Theatre

19:30 - Performance - *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF* at Almeida Theatre (Tube:

Sunday, January 12, 2024 - Free day!

Monday, January 13, 2024

9:30 - Class

Read: *THE TEMPEST*/Shakespeare

Discussion: *THE TEMPEST* (text), *CAT* (performance), Drury Lane Theatre

Lunch

TBD - Backstage Tour, Drury Lane (or Royal Opera House)

TBD - Covent Garden sites

19:30 - Performance - *THE TEMPEST*/Drury Lane (Tube: Covent Garden or Leicester Square)

Tuesday, January 14, 2024

9:30 - Class

Round-up, final discussion

Lunch

TBD - Sky Garden viewing platform

TBD - Afternoon Tea, Brigit's Bakery London Sightseeing Tour

Free evening

Wednesday, January 15, 2024

9:30 - Class

Final exams/presentations

Lunch

Free afternoon

TBD - Farewell Dinner