



School of Liberal Arts

Theatre 120

Introduction to Theatre

Fall 2025

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Ben Charland, BFA, MA	OFFICE HOURS	By request, in-person or online
OFFICE	N/A	CLASSROOM	TBD
E-MAIL	benoit.charland@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Tues/Thurs, 1-2:20pm
TELEPHONE	N/A	CRN	10137
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the theatre: from its history, its place within literature and the performing arts, and its theoretical foundations, to how it is actually developed and produced around the world and right here in the Yukon. Students learn the fundamentals of university-level theatre criticism in tandem with the roles, techniques, movements and dilemmas of modern theatre. Students will be asked to both read and attend plays, read other material, and actively engage in class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no university-level prerequisites for this course.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

For information about course transferability please refer to the BC Transfer Guide at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or contact the School of Liberal Arts office at (867) 668-8770.

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- identify and define the separate theatrical elements involved in a theatrical production
- gain an understanding of the history of theatre and an insight into its relationship to culture and traditions
- read play scripts and understand the job of bringing the words to life
- bring a greater understanding to the theatre and art they encounter in their daily lives

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This course is delivered on campus, in person. You are expected to attend class and may be required to complete assignments and/or activities online or individually. There may be no facility for including students at a distance.

Expectations & Workload

If you read the material, attend live performances of plays, show up to class, and participate in our discussions, I will do everything I can to help you succeed.

R - Read. We are going to read plays and other material. There is no way around that.

E - Engage. Think about what you read and see. Look things up. Investigate. Explore.

A - Attend. Come to class. Be open to the unique thoughts and experiences of others.

D - Discuss. Contribute to our discussions and offer your own perspective.

In addition to regular classes, you can expect to devote an average of 1-2 hours per week of reading and attending plays, plus an additional 1-2 hours per week for writing the critiques, developing and rehearsing your presentation, and preparing for the exam.

These averages are estimates, and time required for successful course completion will vary.

EVALUATION

Students must receive a passing grade for each component to pass the course.

Engagement and Participation — 30%

The heart of this course is discussion. You will be graded on your personal engagement with the material and your effort in sharing it with the class. Specifically, I will note each student's willingness to engage in class.

Critiques and Presentation — 40%

You must attend the live performances of two plays in Whitehorse. For the first, you will write a Short Critique of 300-500 words, worth 10% of your total grade. For the second, you will write a Long Critique of 1000-1500 words, worth 15% of your total grade. The Long Critique should be formatted like an essay. Each Critique must be submitted along with a receipt or ticket stub for the play you attended.

Then, towards the end of the class, you will deliver a presentation to the class on both of your critiques, worth 15% of your total grade. Each presentation should take 5-10 minutes, followed by questions from the instructor and class. You may not simply read your critique(s) out loud.

DUE DATE FOR SHORT CRITIQUE: 11:59pm, Sunday September 28

DUE DATE FOR LONG CRITIQUE: 11:59pm, Sunday October 26

Unless an extension is granted, late submissions will immediately receive a 10% penalty to the final grade. For each additional day that a submission is late, a 3% penalty will be applied. When the total penalty reaches over 50% (15 days), submissions will not be accepted and the assignment will receive a final grade of 0.

Exam — 30%

The exam will require you to answer a small number of questions with in-depth responses. You will be asked about various plays and concepts that we have discussed in class. The exam is not meant to be arduous. You will have three hours to complete it.

You will not be permitted to bring any electronic devices, books or notes to the exam.

EXAM DATE: TBD

Engagement and Participation	30 %
In-class contribution to discussion and learning	
Critiques and Presentation	40 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Critique 10 % Long Critique 15 % In-class presentation of Critiques 15 % 	
Exam	30 %
In-depth written responses to a small number of questions.	
TOTAL	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All course materials are provided on Moodle.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until **October 31** (when two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed). Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

www.yukonu.ca

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Students who submit work that bears clear signs that they did not write it themselves, including work that has been written partially or in full by AI tools, will be given a grade of 0 and will not be allowed to make another attempt.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca. [Text updated 16 November 2022]

TOPIC OUTLINE

Specific readings for each week will be assigned throughout the course.

Week – Dates	Topic	Notes
1 – September 4	Introduction	
2 – September 9-11	How We Make Theatre	
3 – September 16-18	The Ancient Greeks (<i>Oedipus Rex</i>)	
4 – September 23-25	Theatrical Space	Short Critique Due: Sept. 28
5 – September 30 – October 2	The Renaissance (<i>Hamlet</i>)	
6 – October 7-9	Directing and Staging	
READING WEEK		
7 – October 21-23	Realism (<i>A Doll's House</i>)	Long Critique Due: Oct. 26
8 – October 28-30	Acting	Withdrawal date: Oct. 31
9 – November 4-6	Modernism (<i>Mother Courage</i>)	
10 – November 13	Technical Theatre and Design	Presentations 1-3
11 – November 18-20	Theatre of the Absurd (<i>Waiting for Godot</i>)	Presentations 4-6
12 – November 25-27	Theatre Movements Today	Presentations 7-10
13 – December 2-4	Contemporary Theatre (<i>Blood Relations</i>)	Presentations 11-14
14 – December 9	Exam Prep	Presentations 15-16
EXAM – TBD	Location: TBD	