



Course: AL 210:003
Course Title: Democratic Discourse & Critique: Theatre & Social Justice
Term & Year: SS18
Instructor: Dionne O'Dell
Office Location: 542 Auditorium Road, #202
University Email Address: odelldio@msu.edu
Phone Number: 517-884-7794
Office Hours: M 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, TU 1:00-2:00 PM
COURSE INFORMATION
Course Location and Time: 41 Kresge, MW 12:40-2:30 PM
Description and Prerequisites
Arts and humanities contributions to identifying and solving social, cultural, and political problems. Various modes of participation and engagement by diverse groups in democratic discourse broadly understood. Political debate, public discourse, critique, protest, dissent, and artistic expression. Section 003 specifically examines drama/theatre as social and political intervention throughout history.
Prerequisite: AL 110
Textbooks and Required Materials
1. Gutmann, Amy & Thompson, Dennis. <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i> , Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ: 2004. ISBN 13-978-0-691-12019-5
2. Rogers, J.T. <i>Oslo</i> , Theatre Communications Group, Inc., New York, NJ: 2017. ISBN 978-1-55936-556-7
Technology Requirements
Access to Internet
COURSE OUTCOME & OBJECTIVES
BY THE END OF THIS COURSE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IDENTIFY THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY• ANALYZE AND DEBATE THE SUCCESS OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROCESS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA• EVALUATE PLAYS THAT GENERATE DIALOGUE REGARDING THE PEACE PROCESS• RESEARCH AND WRITE ABOUT THEATRICAL RESPONSES TO POLITICAL ISSUES THROUGHOUT HISTORY• IDENTIFY CURRENT THEATRICAL COMPANIES AND THEIR MISSIONS AS THEY RELATE TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INTERVENTION• PERFORM A THEATRICAL PIECE WITH PEERS• WRITE A THEATRICAL RESPONSE TO A CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUE• IMPROVE ANALYTICAL WRITING, PRESENTATION, AND DISCUSSION SKILLS



CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	1/8	Inventory, Expectations, Syllabus Pre-course Survey Activity	Read Chapter 1, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i>
	1/10	Spotlight: Y No habia Luz Chapter 1, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i> <i>Guidelines for Papers & Presentations</i>	Read Chapter 2 & 3, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i>
2	1/15	HOLIDAY	
	1/17	Spotlight: Trusty Sidekick Theatre Chapter 2 & 3, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i> Quiz 1	Read Chapter 4, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i>
3	1/22	Chapter 4, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i>	Read Chapter 6, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i>
	1/24	Spotlight: Penumbra Theatre Chapter 6, <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i> Quiz 2	Read John Kani's <i>Nothing But the Truth</i>
4	1/29	<i>Nothing But the Truth</i>	
	1/31	Spotlight: Lulis Alfaro <i>Nothing But the Truth</i> Quiz 3	Read <i>Classical Tragedy on Greek Prison Islands</i> selection
5	2/5	<i>Classical Tragedy on Greek Prison Islands</i> Discussion	Continue to work on Historical Papers and Presentations
	2/7	Spotlight: Stella Adler/Prison Program Group Activity 1	Read <i>Politics as Theatre in Shakespeare's Time</i> selection
6	2/12	<i>Politics as Theatre in Shakespeare's Time</i>	Read <i>Politics as Theatre in Shakespeare's Time</i> selection
	2/14	Spotlight: SITI Company <i>Politics as Theatre in Shakespeare's Time</i> Group Activity 2	Read <i>The Fervent Years</i> selection
7	2/19	<i>The Fervent Years</i>	Read <i>The Fervent Years</i> selection
	2/21	Spotlight: Double Edge Theatre Co. The Fervent Years Quiz 4	
8	2/26	Midterm Review	
	2/28	Midterm	
9		SPRING BREAK	Read <i>Theatre of the Oppressed</i> selection



10	3/12	Augusto Boal & <i>Theatre of the Oppressed</i> Historical Presentations 1, 2 & 3	
	3/14	Spotlight: Catherine Filloux Quiz 5 Historical Presentations 4, 5 & 6	Read <i>The Exception & The Rule</i> selection
11	3/19	Spotlight: Oily Cart Theatre London Bertolt Brecht and <i>The Exception & The Rule</i> Historical Presentations 7, 8 & 9	
	3/21	Spotlight: Plan B Theatre Co. Group Activity 3 Historical Presentations 10, 11 & 12	
12	3/26	Spotlight: Market Theatre of Johannesburg Group Activity 4 Historical Presentation 13	
	3/28	Spotlight: Cleveland Public Theatre Brainstorm Session: Political Response	
13	4/2	Spotlight: Theatre of the Oppressed NYC Brainstorm Session: Political Response	Read <i>Marisol</i> by Jose Rivera
	4/4	Spotlight: Epic Theatre Ensemble Jose Rivera: <i>Marisol & Motorcycle Diaries</i>	
14	4/9	Spotlight: Handspring Puppet Company Jose Rivera & <i>The Crooked Cross</i> Quiz 6	Be prepared to bring in questions for Jose Rivera
	4/11	Guest Speaker: Jose Rivera 5-7 PM Wharton Center	Work on Political Response Writing Project
15	4/16	Political Response Writing & Performance Project	Work on Political Response Writing & Performance Project
	4/18	Political Response Writing & Performance Project	Work on Political Response Writing & Performance Project
16	4/23	Political Response Writing & Performance Project	
	4/25	Sharing & Discussion of Final Project	

Final Exam: Monday, April 30, 12:45-2:45 042 Kresge

ASSIGNMENT & ASSESSMENTS



Assessment	Weight
Attendance & Participation	300
Historical Presentation	100
Spotlight Presentation	50
Midterm: Paper on Major tie in	100
Quizzes/In Class Activities	100
Writing and Performance Project	250
Final: Paper on Democratic Dialogue	100
Total Points	1000

Assignments are due when noted on the syllabus and projects or materials must be turned in at the ***start of class on that due date***. **Assignments *will NOT* be accepted after the due date without advance instructor approval.**

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Class Participation

I expect you to attend every class. You are responsible for completing all of the required assignments. I expect all students to participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics. All your work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests.

You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones to check your email or surf the internet, update your social networking sites, or play games. You may not eat or drinking during class, make offensive remarks, read newspapers or magazines, sleep or engage in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence. Your demeanor in class should be no less than the professional standards of conduct expected in the setting of a cultural arts organization.

Attendance Policy

- **General University Attendance Policy**- This policy states in part: "No person is allowed to attend a class unless officially enrolled on a credit or non-credit basis with the appropriate fees paid...It is



the responsibility of the instructor to define the policy for attendance at the beginning of the course."

- Attendance is mandatory. Participation points will be lost if students miss class. After the second absence the grade will be reduced by .5 of the overall grade point with each occurrence.
- A medical emergency *may* change this policy based on the individual's situation.
- Absences from class require 24 hours' notice to instructor when possible, except in the case of emergency.

Late Work/Make-Up Work Policy

Late work is not accepted apart from proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness requiring hospitalization or other medical attention, death of a family member (parent, spouse, child, sibling, grandparent), or other circumstance if approved by the instructor.

Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit is not available except in extraordinary circumstances and only by advance permission of the instructor.

Grading

Grades will represent the following levels of achievement:

- 925 – 1000 points = 4.0
- 875 – 924 points = 3.5
- 825 – 874 points = 3.0
- 775 – 824 points = 2.5
- 725 – 774 points = 2.0
- 675 – 724 points = 1.5
- 600 – 674 points = 1.0
- 000 – 599 points = 0.0

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Teaching and Learning: Student Responsibilities

1. **Academic Honesty:** Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) states: "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, **The College of Arts and Letters** adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; the all-University Policy on *Integrity of Scholarship and Grades*; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without



assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in **AL 210:003**. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>)

2. **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** (from the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("RISA") form. Please present this form to the instructor at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.
3. **Drops and Adds:** The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to withdrawal from the University for Fall 2016 with full refund is **2/2/18**. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course. The last day to withdrawal from the University for Spring 2018 with no grade reported is **2/28/18**.
4. **Commercialized Lecture Notes:** Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.**
5. **Attendance:** Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.
6. **Grief Absence:** Students seeking a grief absence must complete a Grief Absence Request Form found at <https://reg.msu.edu/> under the "Student Services – Grief Absence Request Form" or at StuInfo, <https://stuinfo.msu.edu/>, under "Academics – Enrollment Information and Services – Grief Absence Request Form. Graduate students accessing this form will be prompted to see their major professors and notify their course instructors. Students must supply information on the nature of the loss, the date they became aware, and the expected period of absence. They must also supply supporting documentation. The absence must be approved by the office of the dean of the student's college prior to the student leaving campus. The instructor will work with the student to arrange for completion of the work missed during the absence.



7. **Internet:** Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site.
8. **Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.3.5 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.3.10 of the [AFR](#) states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](#) states: "No student shall...interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes...) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

****Note:** The Code of Teaching Responsibility requires instructors who permit students to commercialize their class lecture notes to include a statement in their course syllabi that gives such permission. Absent such permission, students may not do so.

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades

This policy is located in the Academic Programs catalog

<https://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s534>

STUDENT RESOURCES

Library Services

The MSU Libraries offer many ways to receive research help. See <http://www.lib.msu.edu/>

Center for Writing

The Writing Center offers student writing support for both undergraduate and graduate students, featuring online and in-person resources. See <http://writing.msu.edu/>

Discussion Guidelines

Discussion is among the most important activities in any class, so your attention should remain undivided. Absolutely, positively no electronic devices may be used during class. Electronics must be powered off, unless you have a unique personal reason for which you have received prior approval by the instructor.