

Theatrical Arts & Society

Theatre 1002 — section GIS — Guided Independent Study
University of Northern Iowa — <http://elearning.uni.edu>

INSTRUCTOR:

Kimberly J. Groninga

Phone: 273-2821, leave a message

Office: 2045 Bartlett Hall

Office Hours: vary by semester

E-mail: kimberly.groninga@uni.edu*

**Email is the best way to reach me. I will respond to student emails within 24 hours.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an audience-oriented introduction to the dramatic arts, including the live theatre, film, and television, and their interrelationship with society.

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

Critical Thinking: Graduates will demonstrate critical thinking through the ability to evaluate, analyze, and integrate information from a variety of sources in order to develop reasoned positions and solutions to problems.

Communication: Graduates will display competence in oral, written, and visual communication, as appropriate for their discipline.

Program Content Knowledge and Skills: Graduates will demonstrate discipline-specific knowledge and skills in their major fields of study.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Department of Theatre is to engage students, audiences, community members, teachers and guest artists in diverse, innovative and captivating theatre that illuminates the human condition. The department's coursework and productions serve both students preparing for a life in the theatre and those preparing a place for theatre in their lives. We create theatre, and in this process, educate.

COURSE-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

After completing this course, students will be able to

- 1) summarize the history of theatre and its constantly evolving relationship with culture/society.
- 2) analyze a script or production for plot, character, thought, diction, spectacle, and song.
- 3) analyze and critique a theatrical production based on a deeper understanding of the creative and technical process of theatre artists.
- 4) apply basic theatrical practices and concepts to everyday life.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

The Art of Theatre (4th Ed.) ISBN: 978-1-337-11800-2

Almost, Maine (by John Cariani) ISBN: 978-0822221562

The Trip to Bountiful (by Horton Foote) ISBN: 9780822211747

The Trip to Bountiful (1985 film) Can rent on amazon and elsewhere online.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT NOTICE REGARDING OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL:

There may be times during this course when students are exposed to subject matter they find objectionable. When these include actions or values that could be offensive to your personal values, you may elect not to attend the event. Should such a circumstance arise and you elect not to attend an assigned event, you will remain responsible for relevant ideas and information associated with the event and, with consultation with the instructor, you may need to do alternative work for class.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

This course is taught entirely online utilizing eLearning for instruction, materials, and communication. This course will consist of readings, videos, websites, and hands-on experiences you create or seek out in your local area. All handouts and videos will be available on eLearning, in the required textbooks, or via an external link.

COURSE TECHNOLOGY:

This course can be accessed through: <http://elearning.uni.edu/>

Students are responsible for learning how to use Blackboard for on-time submission of assignments.

(Blackboard tutorials are available at <http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/support/tutorials/index.shtml#elearning>)

Students will also need access and basic proficiency in gmail, and Microsoft Word or an equivalent word processing program.

ONLINE NETIQUETTE:

Because this is a fully online class, you will mostly be communicating with your professor through email and other online communication. It is important to think of this communication as a formal dialogue. Be sure that in all communication you create an appropriate subject line, identify yourself and your course, and avoid casual language or text shortcuts.

FORMAT FOR ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments for this course should be submitted in pdf format unless otherwise noted. Using this method will retain your formatting which is often a crucial part of the message of a given document. Please learn how to print or save to pdf from your chosen programs and be prepared to send your assignments in this format. Always submit assignments through eLearning and never through email. Please use MLA for all source documentation. Basic MLA formatting includes one-inch margins, double-spaced text, and Times New Roman in 12-point size.

THE WRITING PROCESS & GRAMMAR, USAGE, MECHANICS (GUM):

Do not shortcut the writing process. I don't want your first drafts—or even your second or third. Revise and edit your work until it says what you actually mean. Then—proofread. At this point in your education, you are expected to correctly use and appropriately respect the English language. Excessive errors in spelling, punctuation, or usage will result in a failing grade for a portion of that assignment. Some ways to proofread: Read out loud, read backwards, use a pen or cursor to point at each word as you read it.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The first incident of plagiarism will result in a zero for that assignment and a second incident will result in a failure of the entire course. Please see section 3.01 “Student Academic Ethics Policy” in the UNI Student Handbook (available at: <https://policies.uni.edu/301>) for a detailed definition of plagiarism and a complete elaboration of the university policy on academic ethics.

HELP:

Contact The UNI Learning Center for free, one-on-one help with your assignments: (319)273-2361. The writing coaches can work with you over email. And they can help at any stage of the writing process—including proofreading! (But they won't proofread *for* you, so don't ask them.)

EVALUATION METHODS:

There are 23 assignments in this course which add up to 900 possible points. Final grades will be based upon percentage of those possible points earned. Assignments will be graded based upon how skillfully the student applies the information in the associated readings and videos. Individual assignments are weighted by the number of points they are worth. For example, a 20-point assignment has more influence on the student's final grade than a 10-point assignment. Students will receive individual feedback on each of their assignments within one week of submission. Please note: UNI Guided Independent Study requires students to submit all assignments and complete all exams to receive a grade in the course. Assignments must be submitted in order.

Grading Scale:

A	94% and above	D+	68-69%
A-	90-93%	D	64-67%
B+	88-89%	D-	60-63%
B	84-87%		
B-	80-83%	F	59% and below
C+	78-79%		
C	74-77%		
C-	70-73%		

EXTRA CREDIT:

There are two extra credit opportunities in this course and each is worth up to 20 points. You may choose to complete one, both, or neither of these.

Option 1: RECORD A POEM Choose a poem from the anthology at Poetry Out Loud (<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/poems-and-performance/find-poems>). Analyze the text and practice speaking it out loud. When you are ready, make a video recording of yourself “performing” it. You may need to do several “takes.” Once you have a video you are satisfied with, post the video to youtube or another easy-to-access site. (You may remove it once it has been graded.) Memorization is preferred but not required. If you choose to complete this extra credit option, please do so only after you have completed at least assignment 16. Submit through submission link at eLearning.

Option 2: VOLUNTEER for your local community or high school theatre. Opportunities might include ushering for a performance, painting or building scenery or props, hanging posters, sewing, building sets, or working refreshment tables at intermission. After completing your volunteer work, write a short Summary/Response paper about your experience (2 to 3 pages) and submit via the submission link on eLearning. You may complete this option at any time as you work through this course.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

If you experience any technical problems, do not contact the instructor. Please contact the Office of Continuing and Distance Education at 319-273-7740 or cesp-consult@uni.edu. Support hours are available Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm and Friday 8am – 5pm.