

The Empty Space
IDH 3931 14BA
Periods 6-7 12:50pm-2:45pm
Hume 119
Winter Term A

Instructor: Jeffrey Pufahl
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

In his 1968 book, *The Empty Space*, Peter Brook shares a timeless analysis and understanding of the art of the theatre. Passionate, unconventional, and deeply fascinating, *The Empty Space* shows us how theatre defies rules, builds and shatters illusions, and creates lasting memories for its audiences. Two years later, in 1970, Brook's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* shocked the theatre world and arguably installed Brook as the most influential stage director of the twentieth century. By examining important developments in theatre from the last century, including productions by Brook and Stanislavsky, the rise of Method Acting, Brecht's revolutionary alienation technique, and the free-form happenings of the 1960s, this course will develop the lens through which students' can critically view, classify, and understand theatre.

Course Objectives

- Define and discuss the concepts of The Deadly, Holy, Rough, and Immediate Theater.
- Develop a broad understanding of theatre theory.
- Identify and analyze the work of a theater artist and discuss the relevance of this work on the theater.
- Analyze a live theatrical performance applying Mr. Brook's concepts.

Class Schedule

Jan 9	Seminar	Introduction to The Empty Space & Peter Brook Presentation Assignment Guidelines	
Jan 16	HOLIDAY	NO CLASS	Read: The Deadly Theater Watch: The Tightrope Assignment: Discussion Questions
Jan 23	Discussion	The Deadly Theater The Tightrope	Read: The Holy Theater Assignment: Discussion Questions
Jan 30	Discussion	The Holy Theater Watch: The Empty Space	Read: The Rough Theater Read: Brecht Articles Assignment: Discussion Questions

Feb 6	Discussion	The Rough Theater Brecht	Read: The Immediate Theatre Assignment: Discussion Questions
Feb 13	Discussion	The Immediate Theater Intro: "PIPPEN"	
Feb 19	Attend live performance of "PIPPEN"		7:30pm Show at the Phillips Centre Assignments: "PIPPEN" Critique Discussion Questions
Feb 20	Discussion	"PIPPEN" Student Presentations	
Feb 27	Student Presentations		

Course Work:

Discussion Questions: Each week discussion questions will be assigned and answered by students in preparation for Monday's discussion.

Student Presentations: Students will choose a theater artist or production discussed in the book and present a 20-30 minute discussion/power point presentation in class of the relevance of the production or artist's work.

Artists:

Meyerhold	Brecht	Brook's "Tell Me Lies"
Craig	Stanislavsky	Brook's "Hamlet"
Artaud	Brook's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"	

EVALUATION

Attendance:	35
Discussion Questions:	25
"PIPPEN" Critique	50
Class Presentation	50
TOTAL	160 Points

Grading Scale:

A	93 — 100	D+	67 — 69.9
A-	90 — 92.9	D	63 — 66.9
B+	87 — 89.9	D-	60 — 62.9
B	83 — 86.9	E	less than 60
B-	80 — 82.9		
C+	77 — 79.9		
C	73 — 76.9		
C-	70 — 72.9		

Attendance/ Absences:

5 points will be awarded for each class attended. 2 points for attending and 3 points for taking part in the discussion. One excused absence is permitted during the course. An excused absence must be approved by the instructor before the absence occurs with the exception of medical emergencies (doctor's note required). Participation points will not be awarded to a student for an excused absence. Unexcused absences are strongly discouraged.

UF Grading Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Course Accommodations: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

UF Honor Pledge: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'"

The Honor Code: (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/studentconduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or student teacher in this class."

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>