

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE – Fall 2016**  
**THA 50 – Section 04 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE**  
**\*\*\*Writing Intensive Section\*\*\***

- Course Instructor:** Professor Ryan McKinney
- Class Meetings:** Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays  
10:20am – 11:20am  
Room E-205
- Office Hours:** Mondays – Thursdays: 9:15am - 10:15am
- Contact Information:** Office: E210  
Phone: 718-368-4809 or ext. 4809  
Email: Ryan.McKinney@kbcc.cuny.edu
- Textbook:** *Introduction to Theatre Arts* (McGraw Hill Create)  
Kingsborough Community College  
Communication/Performing Arts

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Description:** The various elements which compose theatre are studied both as art forms and as parts of an integrated whole. This course will serve as an in-depth survey of the art of theatre, its history and the individual components of the form. The course will consist of class discussions, lectures and video presentations.

**Course Objectives:**

- Students compose an overall understanding of the art of theatre.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of the history of theatre and its developmental timeline.
- Students differentiate & clarify the various production roles associated with live performance and production of theatre.

## COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

### SYLLABUS

This syllabus documents the requirements for this course. All exams, quizzes, reading assignments and homework assignments are outlined in this packet. Mark the due dates down in a calendar and keep track of what is required of you.

### BLACKBOARD

- All course materials will be posted on CUNY Blackboard 9.1.
- Students can access Blackboard through their CUNY Portal accounts. If you do not know how to sign onto CUNY Portal, please see the Student IT Help Desk in L-117 or e-mail: [helpdesk@Student.kingsborough.edu](mailto:helpdesk@Student.kingsborough.edu) or phone 718-368-6679.
- All class notes, review sheets, homework assignments, course schedules and syllabus revisions will be posted on Blackboard.

### ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. There are no "excused absences" in this course. You are permitted **three absences** over the course of the semester and you may use them however you see fit – for doctor's appointments, important appointments, sleeping in, studying for other classes, etc. However, for each absence beyond the permitted allotment, your grade will be **lowered by one letter grade**. Therefore, if you have an "A" average in the class and 4 absences, you will receive a "B" as your final grade; 5 absences, a "C"; 6 absences, a "D." Once you have missed the class more than 6 times, you cannot pass the course.
- Do not be late to this class. Three latenesses will equal one absence. If the door to E-205 is closed when you arrive to class, then you are considered LATE to class.
- If more than half of the class period has passed when you arrive to class, you will be marked absent.

### CELL PHONES

- Please keep them off or silent and keep them out of sight.

### PLAGIARISM

- Plagiarism is the easiest way to avoid writing a paper and it is also the easiest way to fail this class.
- The internet is a wonderful resource - just do not use it for cutting and pasting.
- Avoid the appearance of cheating or plagiarism. Such behavior is grounds for failure, resubmission of a new paper, and a formal report to administration.

### WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- No late work will be accepted. Assignments are due in class on the due date.
- Please submit printed copies of all assignments. No emailed work will be accepted.

### THEATRE ATTENDANCE

- You are required to attend the theatre as part of this course.
- Be on time. Be respectful of the performers. Be quiet but engaged. Keep your cell phones off.

### CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM

- Kingsborough Community College is committed to the highest standards of academic and ethical integrity, acknowledging that respect for self and others is the foundation of educational excellence. Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything which is said or discussed in the classroom, yet courteous behavior and responses are expected. Therefore, in this classroom, any acts of harassment and/or discrimination based on matters of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and/or ability are not acceptable. Whether we are students, faculty, or staff, we have a right to be in a safe environment, free of disturbance, and civil in all aspects of human relations.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

### EXAMS & QUIZZES

**\*\*\*You are graded EVERYDAY in this class. Conduct yourself accordingly\*\*\***

**\*\*\*If you are absent for a quiz or test, you cannot make it up.\*\*\***

#### **1. Quizzes – 20% of final grade**

Two quizzes will be given over the course of the semester. Quiz #1 is scheduled for **Thursday, October 6, 2016** and Quiz #2 is scheduled for **Monday, December 5, 2016**. Each quiz is worth 10% of your final grade.

#### **2. Midsemester Exam – 15% of final grade**

**Scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2016.** Exam will consist of both a take home writing assignment and an in-class test component. It will cover all material discussed up until that point in the semester including both *Water by the Spoonful* and *Antigone*.

#### **3. Final Exam – 15% of final grade**

**Specific Date is TBA – Scheduled starting December 14, 2016.** Exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer & essay questions. The final exam is cumulative and will cover all of the material discussed throughout the semester, as well as all four plays that we explored.

#### **\*\*\*\*\*FINAL EXAM POLICY\*\*\*\*\***

If you arrive at your final exam more than one half-hour late, you will not be permitted to take the exam and will therefore, receive an “F” for your final exam grade.

**DO NOT BE LATE FOR THE FINAL.** Thank you.

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### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

#### **4. Formal Writing Assignments – 20% of final grade**

You have two formal writing assignments over the course of the semester in response to the readings in class, the plays that we are exploring and prompts from the professor. Specific guidelines will be given for each paper which will highlight a specific component of the theatrical artform. These papers, as opposed to your reflective writing assignments, should be very structured and clear and should use sources and appropriate citations.

#### **5. Audience Response Paper – 15% of your final grade**

You are required to write one response paper for this course. The paper will be based on your attendance at KCC’s fall production of *Antigone*. The production runs at the MAC playhouse on campus from November 18-22, 2016. Performances are Friday, November 18 at 7pm; Saturday, November 19 at 2:00pm & 7:00pm; Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm. Tickets are \$5 for students and are available for purchase at the MAC Playhouse box office prior to the performance. The paper should be typed and 3-4 pages in length. Specific guidelines regarding the content and focus of the paper will be distributed later in the semester. Your **ticket stub** needs to be attached to your paper. **The paper is due, in class, on Monday, December 5, 2016.**

#### **6. Reflective Writing Assignments – 15% of final grade**

You will be assigned two types of reflective writing assignments over the course of the semester: Play Analysis Reports (4) and Journal Assignments (4). These are more casual in their writing voice but are still thoughtful, informed pieces of writing. Furthermore, the topics that you explore in the journal assignments will help you prepare material and thoughts for your formal writing assignments. All Reflective Writing Assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

## **HONORS ENRICHMENT COMPONENT (HEC)**

**Honors Enrichment Component (HEC)** courses offer highly motivated students in regular classes who have a 3.20 or higher grade point average the opportunity to engage in approximately 15 hours of Honors coursework over and above the normal curriculum. Students will receive an Honors notation on their transcript for the course if they earn a grade of B+ or higher for both the course and their HEC work.

*(The information on this page is ONLY for students who have enrolled or are interested in enrolling in the HEC program for this course. All other students can ignore this information.)*

### **Honors Enrichment Components for THA 50: Introduction to Theatre**

**Students who are eligible for the HEC Course and enroll accordingly will engage in the following additional academic requirements:**

- 2-3 additional class meetings held outside of the regularly scheduled class meeting time.
- One small group class presentation on a topic to be chosen by the group.
- Attendance at a professional theatre production.
- A short response paper/journal entry about your experience as an audience member at the production and how that experience deepened your understanding of theatre.

**These components will enhance the student's experience in this course by:**

- Working with the professor in a seminar-style environment.
- Strengthening the student's communication and public speaking skills.
- Obtaining additional knowledge regarding a specific musical theatre production not normally covered in this course.
- Strengthening the student's writing and theatre vocabulary skills.
- Giving the students a practical context in which to further understand the theoretical knowledge gained over the course of the semester.

**If you have a 3.2 GPA and are interested, please see Professor McKinney by Thursday, September 22, 2016. Thank you.**