

## **THR 560 Collaborative Production**

(Sample Syllabus created by Jeanne Klein, March 2016)

### **Course Description**

Seniors collaborate as a theatre company to create an original production that integrates several of the following areas: improvisation, playwriting, acting, directing, dramaturgy, design, technical production, and stage management. Collaboration of group project approved in advance with advice, approval, and supervision by at least one instructor.

### **Learning Outcomes** (We will use KU Core Goal 6 & Collaborative rubrics):

To integrate and transfer all theatre knowledge and artistic skills achieved in all THR core courses, as well as other disciplinary minors, courses, and certificates.

To create (devise) an original production that engages an intended audience.

To research one topical issue in depth and decide upon themes and visual metaphors.

To develop questions and research potential answers.

To take artistic risks by incorporating new theatrical approaches and innovations.

To identify and solve artistic (and personal) problems.

To examine and integrate alternative, divergent, or contradictory perspectives.

To analyze and evaluate what works best, what doesn't, and why.

To agree upon and decide artistic choices in a timely fashion.

To work creatively within technical limitations (using available stock materials).

To collaborate with all peers pro-actively and constructively as an artistic ensemble.

To meet all assigned deadlines as decided and delegated by the group.

### **Optional/Suggested Texts**

Bowles, Norma, and Daniel-Raymond Nadon, eds. *Staging Social Justice: Collaborating to Create Activist Theatre*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois UP, 2013.

Diamond, David. *Theatre for Living: The Art and Science of Community-Based Dialogue*. Victoria, BC: Trafford Publishing, 2007.

Leonard, Robert H., and Ann Kilkelly. *Performing Communities: Grassroots Ensemble Theaters Deeply Rooted in Eight US Communities*. Oakland, CA: New Village Press, 2006.

Leep, Jeanne. *Theatrical Improvisation: Short Form, Long Form, and Sketch-Based Improv*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Oddey, Alison. *Devising Theatre: A Practical and Theoretical Handbook*. New York: Routledge, 1994.

### **Meeting Times**

Rehearsal time for one- or two-act scripted, non-musical plays typically requires anywhere from 60 to 120 hours over 4 to 6 weeks. An *unscripted* play requires additional time to research topics and ideas, devise a performance text, and prepare scenery, props, costumes, lighting, and sound effects or music. For this 3 credit 15-week course, we recommend that students spend a minimum of 9 hours weekly (135 hours total), ideally by meeting 2-3 hours 4 evenings a week (MTWR), excluding additional time spent on individual assignments as delegated by the group.

## Space

Ideally, students will work in 354 or 209 Murphy Hall during the evenings. If these large spaces are being used for rehearsing UT productions, then students may meet in smaller 341 or 235 Murphy classrooms. The final performance may be staged in the black box Inge Theatre.

## Course Requirements

40% Attendance, Active Participation, and Collaboration with Peers (see rubric)  
(e.g., daily/weekly work accomplished by deadlines; formative journals)

40% Artistic Process

(e.g, formative wiki-script, journals and/or discussion via Blackboard)

10% Final Performance (for an invited audience one evening during final exam week)

10% Final Reflections (summative self-evaluation of skills on Goal 6 rubric)

## Suggested Schedule (subject to group planning and decisions)

Week 1 - Orientation, develop ensemble, and brainstorm ideas

Week 2 - Decide topic/content, begin in-depth research, plan schedule, delegate assignments

Weeks 3-7 - Explore staging and design concepts and improvise performance approaches

Week 8 - Finalize performance text and all technical needs

Weeks 9-13 - Rehearse and polish performance text with minimal scenery and props

Week 14 - Run-throughs

Week 15 - Technical and dress rehearsals

Week 16 - Final Performance

## Meanings of Grades

	<u>%</u>	<u>Points:</u>
A = Exemplary (achieves capstone criteria)	100-96%	
A-	95-91%	
B+	90-87%	
B = Very Good (achieves milestone criteria)	86-84%	
B-	83-81%	
C+	80-77%	
C = Satisfactory (does minimum required work)	76-74%	
C-	73-71%	
D = Unacceptable (insufficient time & effort)	70-61%	
F = Irresponsible (often absent/late; misses deadlines)	> 60%	

## KU Policies

For a 3-credit course, you are expected to spend a minimum of 6 hours weekly outside of class on reading and writing assignments and studying for exams. This course costs over \$923.

### Six Goals of General Education

Build core skills of critical thinking (and quantitative literacy)

Strengthen written and oral communication

Develop a background of knowledge across fundamental areas of study

Respect human diversity and expand cultural understanding and global awareness

Practice social responsibility and demonstrate ethical behavior

\*Gain the ability to integrate knowledge and think creatively

The Department of Theatre at the University of Kansas is an educational community comprised of individuals from different ethnic, racial, and religious groups and of different genders, political beliefs, ages, abilities, and sexual identities. In light of this diversity, the Department of Theatre at KU is dedicated to contribute to the development of an integrated, pluralistic society in which individuals model and support humaneness and respect for the individual. The Department is committed to providing quality education which is enhanced by the perspectives provided by individuals and groups with varying backgrounds and views. Racism, sexism, and other discriminatory attitudes and behaviors impede learning and working. Conversely, respect for differences enhances educational and work experiences. KU Theatre is determined to create an environment that cherishes and nourishes this diversity.

Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized change of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research. Students found to have committed academic misconduct will receive a zero grade for the assignment, exam, or activity in question. Severe or repeated instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for the course, and may lead to disciplinary action up to and including Suspension or Expulsion from the University of Kansas. For details, read <https://documents.ku.edu/policies/governance/USRR.htm#art2sect6>

Plagiarism is knowingly presenting the work of another author (someone else's ideas or words) as one's own without proper acknowledgment of the source. *If you copy another author's exact words, you must put double quotation marks around his/her words and cite the primary (not secondary) source. If you change a few words by the author, but do not quote the cited source, you are plagiarizing.* Always cite the source, even if you put another author's ideas, arguments, data, or other information in your own words. See KU Student Handbook on Academic Misconduct for further information or [http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/plagiarism\\_guidelines.shtml](http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/plagiarism_guidelines.shtml).

The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, students' writing experiences, and academic integrity. KU subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called SafeAssign, which may be used to check papers submitted in this course. You may be asked to submit your papers in a digital format (email attachment or on disk) so that your paper can be checked against Web pages and databases of existing papers. Although you may never

have engaged in intentional plagiarism, many students do incorporate sources without citations; and this program can alert me to your academic needs.

The KU office of Student Access Services coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>. Also, please contact Professor Klein privately in regard to your needs in this course.

Pursuant to the University of Kansas' Policy on Commercial Note-Taking Ventures, commercial note-taking is not permitted in this course. Lecture notes and course materials may be taken for personal use, for the purpose of mastering the course material, and may not be sold to any person or entity in any form. Any student engaged in or contributing to the commercial exchange of notes or course materials will be subject to discipline, including academic misconduct charges, in accordance with University policy. Note-taking provided by a student volunteer for a student with a disability, as a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, is *not the same* as commercial note-taking and is *not* covered under this policy.

If you have more than two Final Exams on the same day, you must notify me no later than two weeks before Stop Day to make alternative arrangements for taking an exam with the least number of enrolled students.