

MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY COURSE SYLLABUS

SEMESTER/YEAR: Spring 2010, 2nd half of the semester, weekly
CLASS: ENGL/HUM 360.1M (3 cr) Theatre in St. Louis
PREREQUISITE: ENGL 101

MEETING LOCATION FOR THE FIRST CLASS Thur 11 MAR ONLY: Reid 2317

****** Check the Course Calendar **** Meeting times and locations vary ******

MEETING DATES: Thursday 11,18,25 Mar; 8,15,22,29 Apr (no meeting 1 Apr, Easter break)

Course information is posted on the Desire2Learn system <http://learn.maryville.edu>. Use your Maryville email name and password on D2L to access course information and submit work.

This syllabus is also posted on the web at <http://accweb.itr.maryville.edu/schwartz>

INSTRUCTOR:

Leah Schwartz, Ph.D., Professor of English

OFFICE: ABAC 3206 PHONE: 314-529-9409 VOICEMAIL: 314-529-9201 + 9409#

FAX: 314-529-9965 (College of Arts and Sciences office)

EMAIL: lschwartz@maryville.edu

WEB: <http://accweb.itr.maryville.edu/schwartz>

REQUIRED TEXT: Tom Markus, Linda Sarver. *Another Opening, Another Show*, 2nd ed. Mayfield Publishing Co., 2005. ISBN 0-07-256260-9 paperback.

Please note:

- ***Not all meeting times are the same. Curtain times vary, and at some shows LATECOMERS ARE NOT ADMITTED.***
- ***Only the first class meeting, Thursday 11 Mar 2008, begins at 6:00p. at Maryville, Reid 2317. For all subsequent meetings, students meet the teacher to sign in and pick up their ticket in the theatre lobby AT LEAST 20 minutes before curtain time.***
- ***The productions generally run 2-3 hours.***
- ***Students provide their own transportation to the theatres. Links for online maps are provided in the Course Calendar.***
- ***Dress for comfort, but you may dress up for the theatre if you like. Ticket cost is covered by your course fee.***
- ***Never use electronic devices (anything with sound or screen) during a performance. Don't converse during a performance. Eat or drink only if house rules allow it.***
- ***The ideas, costumes, language, and acting of most commercial and educational theatre productions are appropriate for mature, adult audiences.***

This syllabus may be altered to meet student or instructional needs.

COURSE GOALS:

To increase students' knowledge of theatre

To show students the variety of theatre available in St. Louis

To encourage students to become informed critics of theatre

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Student will experience various types of theatre productions at various venues.

Measurement: attendance at entire performance of the productions.

Student will demonstrate ability to discuss the productions with a peer group.

Measurement: participation in the online discussions of performances by volunteering thoughtful comments about the productions and supporting their opinions about aspects of the production.

Student will demonstrate understanding of theatre terminology.

Measurement: appropriate use of theatre terminology in written assignments and online discussions, written analysis of items in the text.

Student will demonstrate ability to write meaningfully about theatre.

Measurement: online discussions, analysis of items in the text.

Student will demonstrate ability to think clearly and logically.

Measurement: online discussions and written projects in which ideas and opinions are presented coherently and supported with details.

Student will demonstrate ability to write clearly and logically.

Measurement: written projects and online discussions in which ideas and opinions are presented coherently and are supported with details, using standard grammar, usage, and punctuation.

Student will demonstrate aesthetic appreciation.

Measurement: showing, in online discussions and written projects, understanding of how the art of theatre works, plays, and conveys meaning.

COURSE POLICIES:

Written work should be clear, coherent, and unified.

Standard spelling, usage, and grammar must be used. If sources are used or quoted, provide an appropriate and consistent system of crediting the sources through internal notes, footnotes, or endnotes and provide a list of sources.

Use Word for all the written work you post on D2L Discussions or drop in the Dropbox.

Put your **name** on the file itself before you upload it.

Plagiarism policy:

Any instance of plagiarism will result in a course grade of "F."

All instances of plagiarism are reported to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who informs other appropriate University offices.

Students must show the teacher copies of any print or electronic materials used for

class projects, if requested.

For definition and examples of plagiarism, see

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

Attendance policy:

Missing 2 of the 7 performances will result in a course grade of “F.”

Hardship option: Attend another production if you must miss a scheduled one or choose not to see a scheduled one; hand in a brief critique + program + ticket stub of that substitute production (the only instance of “hard copy” for this course—all other written work must be submitted online, on time, at the course D2L site).

Our group tickets are not usually exchangeable for alternate dates.

Students establish attendance at the play productions

by signing in with the teacher at the beginning of each play performance.

Arrive in plenty of time (at least 20 minutes before curtain time) to pick up your ticket from the teacher and be seated. **Some venues will not seat latecomers.**

Students are responsible for

Materials in the course syllabus and any amendments posted on the D2L site or announced in the class meeting 11 Mar;
and for retrieving Maryville email messages related to the course.

Submitting work on time; missing work:

Work must be submitted on the D2L site by the deadline for each item.

Missing work will receive not a zero grade but a negative grade.

COURSE CALENDAR

Session 1 11 Mar

6:00p class in Reid 2317; 7:40 sign-in at theatre; 8:00 curtain time

***** Assignment: Read the text to prepare for the 29 April assignment “Analysis of ideas in the text” and support for your contributions to the online discussions of the performances*****

The Cemetery Club, a comedy/drama by Ivan Menchell, produced by the Chesterfield Community Theatre <http://www.ymcastlouis.org/westcounty/theatre>, performed at the West County Family YMCA, 16464 Burkhardt Place, Chesterfield, MO, 63017, (636)532-3100. Proscenium stage; community theatre group.

Directions from Maryville for our drive to the theatre after 6p class:

Turn RIGHT on north outer 40

ENGL/HUM 360.1M Theatre in St Louis 10/sp Thur 11 Mar-29 Apr weekly Leah Schwartz, PhD
Meets 11 Mar only in Reid 2317, other dates at the theatres 20 min before curtain time.

Take the ramp onto I-64 West
Take the exit 19A for Chesterfield Parkway West
Continue straight and turn LEFT at Chesterfield Village Parkway
Continue onto Chesterfield Parkway South
Turn RIGHT at Burkhardt Place

Map:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=16464+Burkhardt+Place+Chesterfield+MO+63017+United+States>

Session 2 18 Mar 7:40 sign-in for 8:00 curtain time

***** Assignment due today: online discussion of *The Cemetery Club* *****

The Fantastics, a musical by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, produced by the Repertory Theatre of St Louis <http://www.repstl.org/>, performed on the Browning Mainstage at the Loretto Hilton Center on the campus of Webster University 130 Edgar Road 63119, 314-968-4925. Thrust stage; professional theatre group.

Parking: Pay lot entrance off Big Bend just east of Edgar—or travel 50 yards farther east and turn into the Nerinx Hall High School drive. The parking behind Nerinx Hall abuts the Loretto Hilton parking. Just walk across to the Loretto Hilton.

Map: http://maps.google.com/maps?q=130+Edgar+Road+63119&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=130+Edgar+Rd,+St+Louis,+MO+63119&gl=us&daddr=130%20Edgar%20Rd,%20St%20Louis,%20MO%2063119&ei=W134SuHdCILsMb_LrOcf&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=directions-to&resnum=1&ved=0CAoQwwUwAA

Session 3 25 Mar 7:40 sign-in for 8:00 curtain time

***** Assignment due today: online discussion of *The Fantastics* *****

Noises Off, a farce by Michael Frayn, produced by the Clayton Community Theatre <http://www.placeseveryone.org/>, performed at the South Campus of Washington University, 6501 Clayton Road 63117 (former CBC High School). End stage; community theatre group.

Map: http://maps.google.com/maps?q=6501+clayton+road+63117&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=6501+Clayton+Rd,+St+Louis,+MO+63105&gl=us&daddr=6501%20Clayton%20Rd,%20St%20Louis,%20MO%2063105&ei=8V_4SobiCl_iNee99egF&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=directions-to&resnum=1&ved=0CAoQwwUwAA

Session 4 8 Apr 7:40 sign-in for 8:00 curtain time

ENGL/HUM 360.1M Theatre in St Louis 10/sp Thur 11 Mar-29 Apr weekly Leah Schwartz, PhD
Meets 11 Mar only in Reid 2317, other dates at the theatres 20 min before curtain time.

***** Assignment due today: online discussion of Noises Off *****

Legally Blonde, a musical at the Fox Theatre, 527 North Grand 63103
<http://www.fabulousfox.com/> Proscenium stage; professional touring company.
MAP: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?address=527+North+Grand+St+Louis+Mo>

Session 5 15 Apr NOTE THE EARLY CURTAIN TIME!
6:40 sign-in for 7:00 curtain time

***** Assignment due today: Discussion of Legally Blonde *****

Five Guys Named Moe, a musical by Clarke Peters, produced by the Black Rep
www.theblackrep.org at the Grandel Theatre, 3610 Grandel Square 63108, 314-534-3807. Modified thrust stage; professional theatre group.
Directions: Grandel Theatre is on Grandel Square, a little street that runs west from Grand Blvd. between the Fox (west side of Grand) and Powell Symphony Hall (east side of Grand). The theatre is a converted stone church. It is separated from Grand only by a large grassy space. The long-vacant (but lighted) Sun theatre is across from it on Grandel Square.

Parking: There are pay parking lots on Washington west of Grand. There is also street parking on Grandel and other side streets east and west of Grand.

Map: <http://maps.google.com/maps?oi=map&q=3610+Grandel+Square,+63108>

Session 6 22 Apr 7:40 sign-in for 8:00 curtain time

***** Assignment due today: Discussion of Five Guys Named Moe *****

The Wild Party, a musical by Andrew Lippa, produced by New Line Theatre
<http://www.newlinetheatre.com/> performed at the South Campus of Washington University, 6501 Clayton Road 63117 (former CBC High School). End stage; small professional theatre group.

Map: http://maps.google.com/maps?q=6501+clayton+road+63117&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=6501+Clayton+Rd,+St+Louis,+MO+63105&gl=us&daddr=6501%20Clayton%20Rd,%20St%20Louis,%20MO%2063105&ei=8V_4SobiCl_iNee99egF&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=directions-to&resnum=1&ved=0CAoQwwUwAA

Session 7 29 Apr 7:40 sign-in for 8:00 curtain time

***** Due today: Analysis of ideas in the text related to the shows we've seen *****

Tartuffe, a comedy by Moliere, produced by Mustard Seed Theatre <http://www.mustardseedtheatre.com/> in the Fine Arts Building on the campus of Fontbonne University, 6800 Wydown (at Big Bend) 63105, 314-719-8060. Black box theatre; small professional theatre group.

Parking: Enter the campus using either of the 2 entrances from Big Bend. The Fine Arts Building is close to the SW corner of the campus.

Fontbonne campus map: <http://www.fontbonne.edu/campusdirectory/campusmap>; Fine Arts Building is #10 on the map. You'll need that map!

Map: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=6800%20Wydown%2063105&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wl>

DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE WORK:

1. 10% of course grade

Attending the entire performance of all 7 plays

No credit in this category for attending fewer than 7 complete plays. Establish your attendance by signing in with the teacher before the performance.

Hardship option: Attend another production if you must miss a scheduled one or choose not to see a scheduled one; hand in a brief critique + program + ticket stub of that substitute production. (Or attend another performance of the play the rest of the class attended and submit program + ticket.) This is the only item that may (and must) be submitted in hard copy during this course. Latest date to submit: 30 Apr.

2. 40% of course grade

Analysis of ideas in the text related to the shows we've seen to show understanding of theatre principles - due 22 Apr

Directions:

Show your understanding of what you have seen in the theatres and what you have read in the text by discussing a concept in any 10 of the 17 chapters **as you witnessed the material in the chapter used (or abused) in one (or more) of the productions we have seen so far this semester.**

For each of the 10 entries:

- choose a different chapter
- give the chapter number and title
- show your understanding by identifying and discussing the concept you have chosen and using specific examples from the productions to support what you think—and appropriate brief quotations from the text (with page numbers)

- draw relationships, whenever pertinent, with other things you have learned or observed about theatre and other arts—and with the rest of the chapter
- use coherent, effective, economical writing—with standard grammar, usage, punctuation

Suggested length of each of the 10 entries: 2-3 paragraphs, 200-300 words

A sample entry:

Chapter 8 The Designers' Vision

Design is a concept important in all arts. The pleasure of examining a painting or hearing a musical piece comes at least in part from the perception that the parts create a unified whole. The chapter on design in the text treats the physical aspects of production: scenery, costume, lighting, and sound. And these, surely, form a daunting group of parts that must be created individually but ultimately all work together to form an effective unit: the mounted production.

I wonder whether the designer of [name of play seen in this course] did what is mentioned on p.139 and stopped there: "My best work is my doodles on paper napkins in Italian restaurants." The text describes multiple meetings and redos and intricate coordination of all the supporting design elements. In [name of play seen in this course], however, I saw furniture that seemed chosen for availability rather than appropriateness to the period of the play or the color scheme on stage (gold velvet Victorian sofa on stage left with 2 black Eames chairs stage right). And when the lead female character [name] sat on the sofa for most of Act 2, I was grateful for at least her mellifluous voice and witty delivery. Without the vocals, I wouldn't have been able to spot her, for her blond hair and warm yellow gown made her nearly invisible on the similarly colored piece of furniture. At some point in the design or rehearsal periods, these issues should have identified and addressed.

3. 50% of course grade (10% each play)

Participation in the online discussions of the first 5 plays – due by the dates specified in the Course Calendar section and the Calendar Table of this syllabus

Contribute, meaningfully, to the discussion of each of the 5 plays. (200-300 words) **I will read and grade your main entry, the entry in which you respond to the post. ***Please mark your main entry "My Main Entry" and put your name on any file before you upload it. *****

You may also, of course, respond to the posts of other students as much as you like. That's pretty gratifying to them and instructive to all.

Your main entry (the response to the post) will be evaluated on the basis of the quality (remarks about aspects of the production, the script, the venue supported by specific examples, logical discussion, comparison with other

productions).

Don't simply reiterate or contradict someone else's contribution; if you refer to others' discussion points, give reasons you agree or disagree, supporting your opinion with specific examples, logical discussion, etc.

Use the background you've absorbed from the textbook to inform your discussion. Talk about at least some of the following: genre (Ch 3), style (Ch 4), scenery, costumes, lighting, special effects, kind of stage, use of the stage, acting, directing, the venue (theatre building, theatre space ["the house"]).

Write your contribution in Word so you can check grammar, usage, punctuation; then copy and paste (or upload a file) to the D2L discussion.

CALENDAR TABLE

DATE	SIGN IN TIME	CURTAIN TIME	THEATRE ADDRESS	PLAY	COMPANY	ASSIGNMENT DUE
11 Mar	Meet at 6:00p Reid 2317	8:00p (Sign in by 7:40p)	West County Family YMCA 16464 Burkhardt Place Chesterfield, MO 63017	<i>The Cemetery Club</i>	Chesterfield Community Theatre (community theatre)	Read text
18 Mar	7:40p	8:00p	Loretto Hilton Center Webster U 130 Edgar Road 63119	<i>The Fantastics</i>	Repertory Theatre of St Louis (professional theatre)	Discussion entry on <i>The Cemetery Club</i> D2L
25 Mar	7:40p	8:00p	South Campus of Washington University, 6501 Clayton Road 63117	<i>Noises Off</i>	Clayton Community Theatre (community theatre)	Discussion entry on <i>The Fantastics</i> D2L
8 Apr	7:40p	8:00p	The Fox Theatre 527 North Grand 63103	<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Professional touring company	Discussion entry on <i>Noises Off</i> D2L
15 Apr	6:40p	7:00p	Grandel Theatre 3610 Grandel Sq 63108	<i>Three Guys Named Moe</i>	Black Rep (professional theatre)	Discussion entry on <i>Legally Blonde</i>
22 Apr	7:40p	8:00p	South Campus of Wash U 6501 Clayton Rd 63117	<i>The Wild Party</i>	New Line Theatre (small professional theatre group)	Discussion entry on <i>Three Guys Named Moe</i>
29 Apr	7:40p	8:00p	Fontbonne U 6800 Wydown 63105	<i>Tartuffe</i>	Mustard Seed Theatre (small prof)	Analysis of ideas in the text D2L Dropbox

GRADING

The grade on each assignment is based on evidence of reaching the COURSE OBJECTIVES in the process of satisfying the directives specific to each assignment.

The evaluation of each class assignment or listed portion of the course work will be specified by a letter grade. The letter grades indicate a judgment of the quality of the completed assignment. The letter grades used and their values are listed in the Maryville University catalogue.

The highest grade "A," for instance, marks work of exceptional quality which shows understanding of the assignment, understanding of the topic, understanding of the medium, understanding of the context, understanding of the background; which shows evidence of a thoughtful organization of ideas, drawing of relationships between ideas, presenting of concrete supporting evidence and discussion to illustrate ideas, knowledge of the appropriate broader context of the ideas; which uses effective and appropriate presentation techniques; which uses effective and appropriate standard language; which shows insight, inventiveness, creativity; which shows sensitivity to the current state of knowledge and information about the topic and contributes to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the topic.

The other grades mark work with lesser levels of mastery in the areas listed above. "B" work is superior, shows some exceptional quality but not in all areas listed. "C" work is average, may have some exceptional qualities and some deficiencies. "D" work is of insufficient quality in some of the areas listed and has little redeeming quality in those areas. "F" work is insufficient in more areas and has no sufficient redeeming quality.

CONVERSION CHART FOR GRADES ON COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE WORK

Assignments will be given letter grades. (See "Grading" above for description of expectations for the letter grades.) The letter grades, though, have to be entered in the Grades section on D2L using numbers.

To interpret the number recorded for each of your assignments, use this system:

A = 11 A- = 10 B+ = 9 B = 8 B- = 7 C+ = 6 C = 5 C- = 4 D+ = 3 D = 2
D- = 1 F = 0

For an assignment evaluated B+ and worth 10% of the final grade, the B+ value (9) is multiplied by the percentage value for that assignment (10), so the score for the item is 90.

Total possible score for the sum of all course assignments (100%) is 1100 (11 x 100).

LINKS TO ST. LOUIS THEATRE SITES

URL with links to most St. Louis theatre sites

http://www.kdhx.org/index.php?option=com_kdhxevents&type=kdhx_arts_calendar&Itemid=349#Theater

KDHX listing of current productions w/ length of their run

Great source of current information; links to sites of companies with current shows; reviews

Individual theatre sites for professional companies

<http://edisontheatre.wustl.edu/>

Edison Theatre – lists the Ovarions schedule but not the Wash U. Performing Arts productions

<http://www.fabulousfox.com/>

Fox Theatre

<http://www.repstl.org/>

Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (“The Rep”); main stage and studio theatre series at Loretto Hilton; Off-Ramp series in the fall at the Grandel Theatre

<http://theblackrep.org/web/>

Saint Louis Black Repertory Company; does mostly plays by African-American authors but also mounts other shows

Smaller professional companies

<http://www.hotcitytheatre.org/>

Hotcity Theatre – formerly City Theatre and HotHouse Theatre; performs in Kransberg Arts Center, 501 North Grand, 63103

<http://www.newlinetheatre.com/>

New Line Theatre; “Daring, provocative, muscular theatre about race, violence, drugs, religion, sexuality, art, obscenity, the media, and other important contemporary issues.”

<http://www.spotlighttheatrestlonline.org/>

Spotlight Theatre; performs at various venues

<http://www.straydogtheatre.org/>

Stray Dog Theatre; performs at Tower Grove Abbey, 2336 Tennessee Ave. 63104

<http://www.uppityco.com/>

That Uppity Theatre Company; “social change, civic dialogue, transformative theatre”

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<http://www.westendplayers.org/>

West End Players Guild; "character-driven, dramatically significant plays"

Educational theatre sites

<http://www.slu.edu/theatre/>

St. Louis University Theatre

<http://artsci.wustl.edu/~pad/>

Washington University Performing Arts Department

Community theatre sites

<http://www.ymcastlouis.org/files/2009-2010Theatreseason.pdf>

Chesterfield Community Theatre

<http://www.placeseveryone.org/index.php?page=38>

Clayton Community Theatre

Some St. Louis theatre phone numbers

Edison Theatre, Washington University 314-935-6543

Fox Theatre 314-534-1678

HotCity 314-289-4060; 314-289-4063 (box office)

Kirkwood Theatre Guild 314-821-9956

New Line Theatre 314-773-6526

Repertory Theatre of St. Louis 314-968-4925

Saint Louis University 314-977-2998

St. Louis Black Repertory Company 314-534-3807

Stray Dog Theatre 314-531-5923

Theatre Guild of Webster Groves 314-962-0876

That Uppity Theatre Company 314-995-4600

Webster University Conservatory Hotline 314-968-7128