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Theatre 515.2: Scripting, Directing and Performing Community:
BareStage / Bogart

Course Description:

In this course, we will serve and learn about the Springfield community by volunteering at the following nonprofit organizations: AIDS Project of the Ozarks, St. John's Hospital, Storytellers and Community Hospices of America. All of these organizations are part of the Community Alliance for Compassionate Care at the End of Life. They have asked us to create a performance that encourages dialogue around end of life issues.

We will generate our performance through field work, active listening, and rehearsal. We will also experiment with a variety of techniques and approaches to scripting original performance material. At the same time, we will be exploring an approach to directing that has been particularly influential in recent years, Anne Bogart's Viewpoints.

As a way of continuing and extending the conversation the service work and interviews begin, we will share our final performance with many of the community organizations that inspired them and participate in community dialogues about the stories we have shared.

Texts and Materials:

Dixon and Smith, eds. Anne Bogart Viewpoints. (In book store.)

Slim and Thompson, Listening for a Change. (On library reserve under "Theatre 510.")

A spiral bound notebook.

A small tape recorder.

Course Requirements:

Visits once a week to community site, for 2-3 hours. Three interviews and a number of writing assignments in conjunction with them. (60%)

A class journal, to be turned in several times throughout the semester. A final, formal reflection on the course, to be recorded in the journal in lieu of a final exam (further guidelines to follow). (25%)

Performances as scheduled and overall participation, including assigned reading and rehearsals outside class. (15%)

Participation Policy:

This course is about doing. The only way to get what it has to offer -- and to give what I expect you to give to your classmates -- is to be present in every sense all the time. This is also the only way to make the course really fun for yourself and for us as a group. I will therefore strictly enforce the departmental attendance policy, which affects this course as follows: Class will begin on time every day. If you miss class two times, your final grade will be reduced by one letter. For each time thereafter that you miss class, your final grade will be reduced by one letter. In addition, *you cannot pass the class if you fail to turn in any major performance or writing assignment.*

Journal Guidelines:

For each visit that you make to your community organization, you are expected to make a minimum of three journal entries. The first, to be written prior to the visit, should focus on *expectations*. What and who do you expect to see? How do you expect to be involved? How do you feel in anticipation of the visit? How do you expect to feel going out? The second, written as immediately as possible after the visit, should focus on detailed *description* of the visit. When did you go and for how long? What did the place look / sound / feel like? Who did you meet? What interactions did you observe? Participate in? What was said that you want to remember? What else happened? The third entry should focus on your *reflections*. What was most interesting to you? Most surprising? Most frustrating? How do you feel about the visit as a whole? What do you continue to be most curious about? Your journal should also include reflections on class readings and class meetings.

I will collect your journals three times during the semester. The third time will be at the end of the term. The other two times will be unannounced. You should bring your journal to class every week.

Equal Opportunity and Academic Integrity:

1. Nondiscrimination: SMSU is an equal opportunity institution, and maintains a grievance procedure incorporating due process available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Equal Opportunity Officer, Carrington 128, (417) 836-4252. Concerns about discrimination can also be brought directly to your instructor's attention, and / or to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Although SMSU does not include "sexual orientation" in its nondiscrimination policy, the Department of Theatre and Dance does not allow sexual orientation discrimination in this course or any departmental activity.
2. Disability Accommodation: To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact Jana Long, Coordinator, Disability Support Services (DSS), Plaster Student Union, Suite 405, (417) 836-4192 (voice); (417) 836-6792 (TTY); <http://www.smsu.edu/disability>. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to DSS prior to receiving accommodations. DSS refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic (LDC). For a sliding-scale fee, the LDC also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. To inquire, contact Dr. Steve Capps, Director, LDC, (417) 836-4787; <http://www.smsu.edu/contrib/ldc/>.

3. Academic Integrity: SMSU is a community of scholars committed to the ideal of academic integrity. All members of the University community share the responsibility and authority to challenge and make known acts of apparent academic dishonesty. Any student detected participating in any form of academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to sanctions. Each student should carefully review the Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures; [http://www.smsu.edu/acadaff/Student AcademicIntegrity/pdf](http://www.smsu.edu/acadaff/Student%20AcademicIntegrity/pdf); also available at the Reserves Desk (Meyer Library), and in abbreviated form in the SMSU Undergraduate Catalog.

Calendar:

Weeks 1-5: Interviewing and Scripting

1/18: Introduction

1/25: Reading Due: Slim and Thompson (on reserve)
Generating Good Questions / Interview Plans
Interview workshop

2/1: Writing Due: Interview Questions
Interview workshop presentations
Interview #1 must be completed in the next week.

2/8: Due: Bring tapes to class.
Lecture / workshop, poetic transcription
(Anna Deavere Smith)
Interview #2 must be completed in the next week.

2/15: Due: Poetic transcription, script and performance.
Bring tape #2 to class.
Lecture / workshop, bifurcation.

2/22: Due: Bifurcation script [and performance?]
Bogart reading pgs. xv-30 and notes.
[Bogart workshop?]
Third interview must be completed this week.

3/1: Bring tape #3 to class.
Lecture / workshop: the interview scene

3/8: Due: scripts of two scenes.
Scripts and performances

3/15: Due: Bogart reading pgs. 88-149 and notes.
Have selected three viewpoints and one scene to work on.
Directing workshop.

3/22: Directing workshop.

SPRING BREAK

4/5: Final compilation of scripts.

4/12, 4/19, 4/26: Performances and pick-up rehearsals. Schedule tba.

5/3: Final Class Meeting: Conclusions, Final Journals Due
Final journal entry: Assessment of scripting and directing techniques learned,
assessment of service impact. (Typed, 5-7 pgs.)