**Course: THR 332**

**Course Title: Foundations of Children’s Theatre**

**Term & Year: SS20**

Instructor: Dionne O’Dell

Office Location: 229 Auditorium Building

Email: [Odelldio@msu.edu](mailto:Odelldio@msu.edu), Office Phone: 517-884-77794

Office Hours: M 8:30-9:30 AM, TU 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Course Location & Time: C204 Snyder Hall, MW 10:20 AM-12:10 PM

**Description & Prerequisites:**

THR 332: Foundations of Children’s Theatre examines theatre in the K-12 classroom, and historical and contemporary performance for children in the US and around the globe. Children’s Theatre is explored as a unique art form with its own dynamics and challenges. Ingredients for quality performance for children are studied, including play analysis, the artistry of puppetry, performing for neurodiverse audiences, and strategies for adaptation.

**Textbooks & Required Materials:**

Wood, David; Theatre for Children 1999 (TFC) & Readings provided on D2L

**Course Objectives:**

Identify and Lead Ensemble Building exercises

Explore the neuroscience behind creativity & divergent thinking

Create and lead a Dramatic Engagement Activity based on children’s literature

Research current topics & trends in Children’s Theatre in the US and globally

Identify the unique dynamics and specific ingredients in quality performance for children

Analyze dramatic material based on examination of the specific ingredients

Understand various forms and functions of puppetry

Understand the best practices for creating theatre for neurodiverse audiences

Adapt a short piece of children’s literature for the stage

**STUDENT RESOURCES:**

Library Services: The MSU Libraries offer many ways to receive research help.

See <http://www.lib.msu.edu/>

Center for Writing: The Writing Center offers student writing support for both undergraduate and graduate students, featuring online and in-person resources.

See <http://writing.msu.edu/>

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

*Note: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*

***Ensemble Building and In Focus Presentations will occur each class period.***

WEEK ONE: *Creativity*

1/6 Overview, Inventory, Expectations, & Syllabus, and HOT TOPIC

Assignment: Read D2L Selection *From STEM to STEAM* (pages 37-63)

1/8 Creativity and the Child: Divergent Thinking

Assignment: Complete Reflection Journal Response 1

WEEK TWO: *Theatre in the K-12 Classroom*

1/13 Dramatic Engagement Modeling, and HOT TOPIC

Assignment: Research children’s literature appropriate for a Dramatic Engagement & bring in 2 ideas to share

1/15 Dramatic Engagement Group Work

Assignment: Work on Dramatic Engagement & Complete Reflection Journal Response 2

WEEK THREE: *Theatre in the K-12 Classroom Cont.*

1/20 Holiday

1/22 Dramatic Engagement Groups 1 & 2 Presentations

Assignment: Read *Theatre for Children Intro & Part 1*, & Complete Reflection Journal Response 3

WEEK FOUR: *Performance for Children*

1/27 *Theatre for Children Intro & Part 1*, and HOT TOPIC

Assignment: Read *Theatre for Children, Part 2* (page 15-29)

1/29 *Theatre for Children, Part 2*

Assignment: Read *Theatre for Children, Chapter 2* (pages 30-61), & Complete Reflection Journal Response 4

WEEK FIVE: *Performance for Children Cont.*

2/3 *Theatre for Children, Chapter 2*, HOT TOPIC, and Midterm Presentation Guidelines

Assignment: Begin research on MIDTERM presentation

2/5 Theatre for Children Wrap Up

Assignment: Read D2L selection on *Peter Pan*, and Reflection Journal Response 5

WEEK SIX: *Play Analysis*

2/10 *Peter Pan*, and HOT TOPIC

Assignment: *Peter Pan* Analysis based on TFC Guidelines

2/12 *Peter Pan* Analysis model

Assignment: Read *Anonymous*, & Reflection Journal Response 6

WEEK SEVEN: *Play Analysis cont.*

2/17 *Anonymous* by Naomi Iizuka, and HOT TOPIC

2/19 *Anonymous* by Naomi Iizuka, Concepts & Staging

Assignment: Complete Reflection Journal Response 7, and work on Midterm research presentations

WEEK EIGHT: *Midterm Presentations/Children’s Theatre Around the World*

2/24 Midterm Presentations

2/26 Midterm Presentations

WEEK NINE: *BREAK*

3/2 MSU Spring Break

3/4 MSU Spring Break

WEEK TEN: *Theatre for Neurodiverse Audiences*

3/9 Theatre & Neurodiversity: Oily Cart, Trusty Sidekick and HOT TOPIC

3/11 Life Animated: Ron Suskind & the Power of Puppetry

Assignment: Watch *FARM! A Musical Experience* on D2L, & Complete Refection Journal Response 8

WEEK ELEVEN: *Theatre for Neurodiverse Audiences Cont.*

3/16 Best Practices/Lessons Learned: *FARM! A Musical Experience, SODA POP SHOP, POND* and HOT TOPIC

3/18 Autism the Musical

Assignment: Read D2L Selection *Strings, Hands, Shadows, A Modern Puppet History*, and Complete Reflection Journal Response 9

WEEK TWELVE: *Puppetry*

3/23 Puppetry Overview (*Strings, Hands, Shadows, A Modern Puppet History*), and HOT TOPIC

3/25 Gyre & Gimble Puppets: Breath, Focus, Weight

Assignment: Complete Reflection Journal Response 10

WEEK THIRTEEN: *Puppetry cont.*

3/30 Shadow Puppetry, and HOT TOPIC

4/1 Shadow Puppetry

Assignment: Read *Theatre for Children, Part 4* (pages 125-152), and Complete Reflection Journal Response 11

WEEK FOURTEEN: *Adapting Plays for Children*

4/6 *Theatre for Children, Part 4*, and HOT TOPIC

Assignment: Choose Adaptation material

4/8 Adaptation Exercise

Assignment: Work on Adaptation, and Complete Reflection Journal Response 12

WEEK FIFTEEN: *Rehearsal*

4/13 Adaptation Rehearsal

4/15 Adaptation Rehearsal

Assignment: Complete Reflection Journal Response 13

WEEK SIXTEEN: *Final Presentations & Reflection*

4/20 Final Presentations

Complete Reflection Journal Final Response (20 points)

4/22 Course Wrap Up- Reflection Journals DUE

**ASSESSMENT**

***\*Detailed guidelines/rubrics for all assignments & presentations will be posted on D2L***

Attendance & Participation 300 Points (10/day)

Ensemble Building Exercise (2) 20 Points

In Focus Presentation (2) 30 Points

Dramatic Engagement 50 Points

Midterm Presentation 200 Points

Pop Quizzes (5) 50 Points

Reflection Journal 150 Points

Final Creative Presentation 200 Points

**TOTAL: 1000 Points**

Assignments are due when noted on the syllabus**.** Assignments *will NOT* be accepted after the due date without advance instructor approval.Late work is not accepted apart from proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness requiring hospitalization or other medical attention, death of a family member (parent, spouse, child, sibling, grandparent), or other circumstance if approved by the instructor.

**Class Participation: There will be class exercises (ENSEMBLE BUILDING) and discussions (HOT TOPICS) that you are expected to participate in. Full participation includes not being on cell phones & having laptops shut for anything other than notetaking. Please be respectful to your classmates during presentations by actively listening.**

Grades will represent the following levels of achievement:

925-1000 Points 4.0

875-924 Points 3.5

825-874 Points 3.0

775-824 Points 2.5

725-774 Points 2.0

675-724 Points 1.5

600-674 Points 1.0

000-599 Points 0.0

All written materials and assignments must be typewritten utilizing the following format.

* MLA Style Guide
* 1-inch margins
* Times New Roman, size 12
* Double spaced
* Heading: your full name, the date, and the assignment title at the top of the first page
* Correct use of citations, if applicable

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| MSU POLICIES |
| Attendance |
| * **General University Attendance Policy**- This policy states in part: "No person is allowed to attend a class unless officially enrolled on a credit or non-credit basis with the appropriate fees paid…It is the responsibility of the instructor to define the policy for attendance at the beginning of the course." * Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed one absence before their grades will be affected. After the first absence the grade will be reduced with each occurrence. * A medical emergency may change this policy based on the individual’s situation. * Absences from class require 24 hours’ notice to instructor when possible, except in the case of emergency. |
| Teaching and Learning: Student Responsibilities |
| 1. Academic Honesty: Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/afr2.htm) states: "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, The College of Arts and Letters adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.  (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/index.htm) and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).)   Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in THR 332. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>[)](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html)   1. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (from the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("RISA") form. Please present this form to the instructor at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.   I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the semester, so arrangements can be made. Students with a disability should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD), 120 Bessey Hall, 517/353-9642 or TTY 517/355-1293. The University’s Disability/Reasonable Accommodations Policy is available on the web at [www.rcpd.msu.edu.](http://www.rcpd.msu.edu/)   1. Drops and Adds: The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to withdrawal from the University for Fall 2019 with full refund is 1/31/20. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course. The last day to withdrawal from the University for Fall 2019 with no grade reported is 2/26/20. 2. Commercialized Lecture Notes: Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.\*\* 3. Attendance: Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course. 4. Grief Absence: Students seeking a grief absence must complete a Grief Absence Request Form found at <https://reg.msu.edu/> under the “Student Services – Grief Absence Request Form” or at StuInfo, <https://stuinfo.msu.edu/>, under “Academics – Enrollment Information and Services – Grief Absence Request Form. Graduate students accessing this form will be prompted to see their major professors and notify their course instructors. Students must supply information on the nature of the loss, the date they became aware, and the expected period of absence. They must also supply supporting documentation. The absence must be approved by the office of the dean of the student’s college prior to the student leaving campus. The instructor will work with the student to arrange for completion of the work missed during the absence. 5. Internet: Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site. 6. Disruptive Behavior: Article 2.3.5 of the [Academic Freedom Report](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/afr2.htm) (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.3.10 of the [AFR](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/afr2.htm) states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/) states: "No student shall…interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes…) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.   \*\*Note: The Code of Teaching Responsibility requires instructors who permit students to commercialize their class lecture notes to include a statement in their course syllabi that gives such permission. Absent such permission, students may not do so.  Integrity of Scholarship and Grades  This policy is located in the Academic Programs catalog  <https://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s534>  9. Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) http://oie.msu.edu:  MSU is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive community in which students, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) reviews concerns related to discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, disability status, and any other protected categories under the University Anti-Discrimination Policy (<https://www.hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/ADP_policy.html>) and Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (<https://www.hr.msu.edu/policiesprocedures/university-wide/RVSM_policy.html>). If you experience or witness acts of bias, discrimination, or harassment, please report these to OIE: http://oie.msu.edu/. For information on reporting options, confidential advocacy and support resources, university policies and procedures, or how to make a difference on campus, visit the Title IX website at www.titleix.msu.edu.  Reporting and Limits to Confidentiality Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University’s student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues based on external legal obligations or that relate to the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices if you share it with me: - Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child, - Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment and other offenses when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff; reported to Office of Institutional Equity https://oie.msu.edu - Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others. Posing a physical threat to selves or another report to Behavioral Threat Assessment Team http://btat.msu.edu  These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at https://caps.msu.edu  If you experience concerns about harassment, safety, or a negative or hostile environment in the classroom, you may take your concerns through the above channels or to the instructor, Chair, or other faculty members. Once the faculty has reported this information, faculty is not consulted or told how the information is handled. It is usually dependent on the student to continue the conversation with either organization and faculty are removed from the situation.  Additional Information regarding Teaching and Learning:  Religious observance: From Provost Youatt, “It is the responsibility of those students who wish to be absent due to religious observance to make arrangements in advance with their instructors. … As an institution, we are committed to the value of inclusion, and so our practices must conform to our commitments. I am confident that working together we can continue to build an environment that supports and fosters diversity and inclusiveness.” Additional information on MSU’s Religious Observance policy can be found on the website of the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, <http://www.inclusion.msu.edu/diversityandinclusion/ReligiousObservance.html>  Integrity of Scholarship and Grades: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles and in so doing protect the validity of University grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. (See General Student Regulation 1.00, Scholarship and Grades, for specific regulations.) Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Please refer to General Student Regulation 1.00, Protection of Scholarship and Grades at: [www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/RegsOrdsPolicies.html.](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/RegsOrdsPolicies.html)  Spartan Code of Honor: “As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State  University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.” For more information visit: [honorcode.msu.edu](http://www.honorcode.msu.edu).  Use of Social Media: As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:   1. Students may not record lectures or any other classroom activities without express written permission of the instructor. If permission is granted, students may only use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes. 2. Students may not share the recordings with other students enrolled in the class. Sharing is limited to using the recordings only for their own course-related purposes. 3. Students may not post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings. 4. Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions. For more information see <http://acadgov.msu.edu/> |