



Contemporary Playwrights of Color Theater 130 Spring 2017

Instructor: Gaven Trinidad
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Class Meeting Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30—12:45 AM; Bartlett 301

Office Hours:

- Monday, 12:00—1:00 PM;
- Thursday, 1:00-2:00 PM; and
- By appointment.
- My office is Fine Arts Center Rm 201

Please note that I will respond to your e-mail within 24 hours, Monday through Friday.

Welcome to Theater 130

Huzzah! I'm so excited that you will join me this Spring semester. This 4-credit course will examine the contemporary texts and the social and political contexts of writers of color in the United States. We will look at issues of **race** and **gender** as social constructs that have historically served to exclude and oppress people of color and women. Along these lines, the playwrights and the texts that we will engage will serve as artistic commentary regarding images/stereotypes, approaches to similar themes within various communities, and the necessity for different models of both scholarship and aesthetic evaluations. Classroom participation and preparedness are vital to your success in this course. It is imperative that you attend the required performances and outside events, as they are a significant component of our work.

As a collective, we promote an artistic and academic environment that:

- Affirms and validates our shared humanity;
- Respects all racial, ethnic, religious, gender, class, ability, and sexual identities;
- Encourages empathy and compassion for all; and
- Practice human connection and engagement.

I. Course Curriculum – All course materials, such as plays and short reading assignments, will be provided via MOODLE. Students are expected to read all assigned materials before class. Any changes to any assigned readings will be notified by the instructor in class and via email.

II. Course Work and Evaluation – Your final grade will be based on your attendance, participation, and the completion of the required assignments and readings. The work for this course and the corresponding point values are outlined below.

Paper #1 Event Response 1	100
Paper #2 Event Response 2	100
Paper #3 Event Response 3	100
Midterm Performance – Creative Writing – 2 minute monologue	100
Online Writing Assignments (10 x 20 points)	200
Final Paper (4-5 page – Analytical/Dramaturgy paper)	250
Attendance	150
<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>	<u>1000</u>

Grading Scale:

930 and up:	A	770-799:	C+
900- 929:	A-	730-769:	C
870-899:	B+	700-729	C-
830-869:	B	670-699	D+
800-829:	B-	640-669	D
		639 and below	F

III. Grade-Related Policies - Class participation and attendance are crucial. I reserve the right to modify grades upward or downward based up your participation, both in lectures and discussions. Special consideration will be given to students who make regular contributions to classroom discussions. Your fourth unexcused absence will result in a loss of 10 points from the participation and attendance portion of your grade. I will deduct 10 points for each subsequent

unexcused absence after that. Disruptive behavior in class can be the basis for downward adjustment of grades.

IV. Academic Honesty - Please familiarize yourself with the University's standards for academic honesty. The policies and procedures are outlined in the handbook of Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities and are taken very seriously. It is your responsibility to uphold this policy and actively avoid any behavior that is or may be construed as academic dishonesty. Basically, you should not claim any work as your own that does not belong to you. This type of behavior violates the sense of trust that is crucial to our classroom community. The standard penalty for academic dishonesty in this course is an automatic "F" in the course and official notification of the Academic Honesty Board.

V. Event/Production Responses – You will write one paper for each of the events that we attend as part of this course. Your responses will include direct references to the performance with significant descriptive details. Through these details, you will connect your response to the class discussions and relevant reading material. You may approach this response as both reflective and personal. These responses will be 2-3 pages in length. Please type and double-space each paper and use a 12 point font with 1-inch margins. The word count should be between 900 and 1000 words. All papers will follow MLA format. The only two acceptable fonts are Times New Roman or Garamond.

- Kara Walker Exhibit – University Museum of Contemporary Art (UMCA) at UMass Amherst – (2/16/17)
- *Nostras Voces* – Bowker Auditorium – (2/23/17 – 2/25/17) – **Tickets must be purchased!**
- *The Happiest Song Plays Last* – Fine Arts Center at UMass Amherst – (04/05/17 - 04/15/17) - **Tickets must be purchased!**

You are required to attend these events. It is imperative and your responsibility that you plan accordingly. More information on each event will be shared in class. **If there are any issues, please contact the instructor immediately.**

VI. Online Writing Assignments – You will generate weekly written responses to the readings and activities assigned in class. These assignments are the space for you to work out YOUR IDEAS about the course material and to respond in both analytical and creative ways. There will be 10 online writing assignments worth 20 points each. The instructions for these assignments will be given out on a weekly

basis. These responses are between 170 to 200 words each.

VII. Accommodation Policy Statement – The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS) or the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH), you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify me within the **first two weeks** of class so that we may make appropriate accommodations. Accommodations will not be made after the fact. For more information, please contact disability services at <http://www.umass.edu/disability/>