

THEA 560: Introduction to Theatre and Performance Historiography

Thursdays 9-11:50

Instructor: Dr. Valleri Robinson (she/her)

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Required Texts:

Postlewait, Thomas. *The Cambridge Introduction to Theatre Historiography*

Readings on compass:

Introduction, Diana Taylor, *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas*

Introduction, Laura Edmondson, *Performing Trauma in Central Africa*

Introduction, Emily Wilcox, *Revolutionary Bodies: Chinese Dance and the Socialist Legacy*

Introduction, Shane Vogel, *Stolen Time: Black Fad Performance and the Calypso Craze*

Introduction, Debra Caplan, *Yiddish Empire*

Introduction, Tavia Nyong'o, *Afro-Fabulations: The Queer Drama of Black Life*



Assignments:

Lead Reader: Each student will select one week during the first half of the semester to be the lead reader/ respondent to the course readings. Bring 2-3 prompt questions for discussions and identify key terms or concepts from the readings for the class to discuss.

50 points

Book Review: Each student will select a book published in the last 5 years to review as if for a journal in the field. Identify the journal, read samples, and follow the guidelines for reviewing for the journal. Typically, reviews will be 3-4 pages.

50 points

Prospectus: Each student will draft an 8-10 page prospectus for a potential dissertation project on the subject of your choice. The instructor will provide guidelines. Students will select one reading for the class based on your project for weeks 11-14. Students will present on their projects in the final two weeks of the semester.

100 points

Class Participation: Attendance, preparedness, involvement in course discussion will determine your participation grade.

50 points

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: 8/29

Introduction to the Course and Syllabus

Week 2: 9/5

Readings: Introduction to Postlewait (compass)

Review website:

<https://www.theater-historiography.org/files/2015/05/thea8200-syllabusa13-watermarked.pdf>

Week 3: 9/12

Special guest: Dr. Katherine Syer

Readings: Introduction, Taylor, *The Archive and the Repertoire* (compass)

Chapter 1-2, Postlewait

Sample book reviews (compass)

Week 4: 9/19

Special guest: Dr. Sandra Ruiz

Readings: Introduction, Ruiz, *Ricanness* (compass)

Introduction, Vogel, *Stolen Time* (compass)

SELECT BOOK FOR REVIEW

Week 5: 9/26 MEET IN RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY

Readings: Chapter 3, Postlewait

Introduction, *Yiddish Empire* (compass)

Introduction, Wilcox, *Revolutionary Bodies*

Week 6: 10/3

Special guest: Dr. Andrea Stevens

Readings: Chapters 4, Postlewait

Introduction, Stevens

Week 7: 10/10

Readings: Chapter 5-6, Postlewait

Introduction, Edmondson, *Performing Trauma in Central Africa*

Week 8: 10/17

BOOK REVIEWS DUE: present/discuss

Discuss Prospectus Assignments

Week 9: 10/24

Readings: Postlewait, Chapter 7

Introduction, Nyong'o, *Afro-Fabulations*

Week 10: 31

Work prospectus projects

Weeks 11-14: Readings TBA (identified by students from prospectus projects)

Week 15-16: Present prospectus