

140-3 Production in Context

8/20/17

Northwestern University, Fall 2017

Theatre 140-3: Production in Context

Class Time: Section 20: Wed. 2:00 – 3:30, Section 21: Tues. 2:00 – 3:30

Class Location: Section 20 (Wednesday) meets in Wirtz, Bergen

Section 21(Tuesday) meets in Wirtz, South

Barbara Butts, b-butts@northwestern.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30am -1pm and by appointment

Office Location: Ryan Center for Musical Arts, 70 Arts Circle Dr., 5-170

140-1, 2, 3, 4:

The 140 sequence challenges each student to develop their unique artistic voice as it relates to the world, fellow theater makers and self. Each course will provide a foundation in and a perspective on: collaboration, communication (spoken, written, physical), context (perspective, research, ethics), and community.

Instructor Overview:

I am firmly committed to diversity and equity whereby barriers are removed to create space for all individuals to fully engage in our community. Each student's voice has something of value to contribute, especially studying an unfamiliar area of theatre. We must take care to respect individual backgrounds, personal identities, intellectual approaches, artistic expression, experiential learning, and the demographics expressed by everyone in our community. Individual differences can deepen our understanding of one another, the world around us and our role as lifelong artist. I approach each class as if you have something to teach me – together we learn.

Course Description:

Production in Context immerses theatre majors in an in-depth study of professional production processes utilizing Wirtz Center productions. Throughout the quarter, we will support a Wirtz Center production while engaging with Northwestern Faculty, MFA students and staff about their process, best practices and perspectives.

Learning Objectives:

Production in Context has the following learning objectives:

- (1) To identify production processes and best practices
- (2) To cultivate a sense of community among theatre makers (faculty, staff and peers)
- (3) To examine production processes, collaboration and artistic expression from numerous perspectives
- (4) To create points of access within the Theatre Department and Wirtz Center

Requirements:

- Regular Attendance
- Active Participation
- A Healthy Dose of Enthusiasm and Curiosity.
- Participation in at Least TWO Technical Theatre Workshops.
- Active Positive Participation in Run Crew.
- Run Crew Clothing: black long sleeve shirt, black pants, and dark close toed shoes.
- All Assignments Turned in on Time on Canvas.

Attendance Policy:

- There are no absences during your run crew process as the production's success relies on your participation, leadership and problem-solving skills. However, if you become ill during your run crew, please contact me and your graduate run crew head immediately. A Dr.'s note is required to be dismissed from run crew without a significant grade reduction (one letter grade deducted from our final grade – i.e. an A becomes a B, etc.)
- You are allowed one class absence providing you email me prior to class to let me know you will be absent. Your participation in class discussions and experiential learning will allow you to practice each area of study (see below).

Class Guests Artists and Participation:

We will study the *In the Red and Brown Water*, *Company* and *Stella Luna*, directing, design, dramaturgy, production and theatre management processes from artists/managers. Each artist/manager will discuss their process and share their research and final product. We will also participate in an exercise that allows us to experience the process. There will be a question and answer period. This is your opportunity to relate the process to your area of expertise and showcase your curiosity.

Technical Workshop Participation:

You are required to attend two technical theatre workshops during week 2 from 5pm until 6:30pm to teach you technical skills and best practices. You will receive a google doc sign up invitation on the first day off class.

Auditions/Production Opportunities:

Your run crew assignment consists of approximately 120 consecutive evening and weekend hours. Please limit your activities to ensure your success as a student. Please allow yourself the time and space to breathe and fully experience every opportunity that is worthy of your participation.

Grading:

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| • Class Participation, Class Exercises | 10 points |
| • Workshop Participation | 5 points |
| • Community Interview Project | 15 points |
| • Design Process Paper | 20 points |
| • Run Crew Grade | 20 points |
| • Final Paper | 20 points |

Required Reading:

- *In the Red and Brown Water*, *Company* and *Stella Luna*
- Class Handouts
- All readings available via Canvas in pdf form.

Community Interview Projects:

During the first week of school, you will be assigned a Theatre Department or Wirtz Center community member to interview. Following the interview, you are expected to create an eight-minute project (in any form that can be uploaded to Canvas) that presents your interviewee to your peers AND showcases your creativity. Past students have presented their interviewee via power point, composing a song, writing a scene, video recordings, or audio recordings. Community Interview guidelines, details, and the grading rubric can be found on Canvas in the assignment section and will be handed out in class.

Papers:

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You will write one response paper and one final exam paper for 140-3. The writing prompts, due dates, grading rubrics and paper length can be found on Canvas in the assignment section.

Late Assignments:

All assignments should be uploaded on Canvas. The website will record the date and time of your postings. Late assignments will be assessed a 5-point penalty per day for lateness.

Run Crew Opportunities:

You are required to participate in one run crew assignment in the Wirtz Center. You will be allowed to request your assignment during the second week of class, after being exposed to the productions and areas of participation. Your run crew schedule must be free and clear of any conflicts. You are expected to eliminate any run crew conflicts. Please note: You will be ranked daily during your run crew in the following areas:

timeliness, attitude, focus, work ethic, and growth. You will be taught any skill needed to successfully complete your run crew assignment. If you feel unsafe at any time, please speak to your graduate student or staff personnel. I am always available during or after class time to address any concerns.

Run Crew Workshops:

During the second week of the quarter, the production staff will hold 5 workshops to introduce you to best technical theatre practices in the areas of lighting, sound, hand sewing and dressing the actor. You are required to attend at least two of these workshops.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with AccessibleNU (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and provide professors with an accommodation notification from AccessibleNU, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential. For more information, visit: <http://www.northwestern.edu/accessiblenu/faculty/general-information/index.html>

Academic Integrity at Northwestern

Students are expected to comply with University regulations regarding academic integrity.

(<http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/>) If you are in doubt about what constitutes academic dishonesty, speak to the instructor before the assignment is due and/or examine the University web site. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating on an exam (e.g., copying others' answers, providing information to others, using a crib sheet) or plagiarism of a paper (e.g., taking material from readings without citation, copying another student's paper). Failure to maintain academic integrity on an assignment will result in a loss of credit for that assignment—at a minimum. Other penalties may also apply, including academic suspension. The guidelines for determining academic dishonesty and procedures followed in a suspected incident of academic dishonesty are detailed on the website.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/files/ProceduresAllegedAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Sexual Harassment Policy

It is the policy of Northwestern University that no member of the Northwestern community—students, faculty, administrators, staff, vendors, contractors, or third parties—may sexually harass any other member of the community. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, which includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances; the use or threatened use of sexual favors as a basis for academic or employment decisions; conduct that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive academic or working environment; conduct that has the effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance; and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or

pervasive to limit a person's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity. Sexual harassment is a type of conduct prohibited under the University's Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Stalking, and Dating and Domestic Violence, which can be found at www.northwestern.edu/policies For more information, visit: <http://www.northwestern.edu/sexual-harassment>