

TH 400 01: BA Theatre Capstone [3 credits]
TR 12:30-1:45
Location:

Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. Tom Robson

Class Format: Synchronous, in-person. There are no asynchronous or distance learning options.

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:30pm, Tuesday 3:30-5:00pm, Wednesday 9:00-11:00am.

Office Hours are the times every week that your professors set aside specifically to meet with students, help you understand difficult course materials, plan for major assignments, develop your thoughts further, and just generally discuss how to get through this thing called life. They are your hours.

You will find a SignUpGenius link posted on Moodle. Please use that form to sign up for Office Hours.

Important Note: You can choose whether you would like for your Office Hours appointment to be conducted in-person in my office, or remotely via Zoom. When signing up for an Office Hour appointment, please indicate whether you want to be in-person or on Zoom. If you do not make any indication, I will assume that you want to meet in-person.

You are always free to pop by my office during Office Hours even if you do not have an appointment. As long as I am not meeting with another student, you'll be able to come right in.

Course Description: The culminating course of a four-year theatre education at Millikin. This course synthesizes the learning outcomes of the Theatre BA degree and combines professional development with the creation of theatrical art.

Course Objectives: On completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Articulate the knowledge their theatre education has provided them.
2. Present themselves for professional work in theatre (and beyond).
3. Apply theatre skills to the creation and performance of an original piece of theatrical art.
4. Collaborate with classmates on the creation and performance of an original piece of theatrical art.

Student Well-Being: The well-being of students is of primary importance. If you are facing any challenges related to your physical or mental health, or obstacles like food or housing insecurity, please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss ways we can put you in the best possible position to succeed.

Inclusivity: Every student in this classroom, regardless of background or identity categories, is a valued member of this group. We all come from different experiences, but no one experience has more value or import than another. I encourage every student to share their own experiences as they are relevant to the course, but no student in this class is ever presumed to speak for anything more than their own experience or point of view.

In this classroom you have the right to determine your own identity. You have the right to be called by whatever name you wish, and for that name to be pronounced correctly. You have

the right to be referred to by whatever pronoun you wish. You have the right to adjust those things at any point during your education.

If there are aspects of the instruction of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or in a sense of alienation from course content, please contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

Required Course Texts:

- *Making Your Life as an Artist* by Andrew Simonet
- *Making Your Life as an Artist Workbook* by Andrew Simonet

Both of these books are free Creative Commons resources. You will find links to them on the course Moodle. If you would prefer a physical copy, both are available for purchase from the same website.

The Covid of It All: The policies you will find throughout this syllabus reflect a return to something close to my pre-pandemic course policies, with a few additional leniencies built in. Please know that I am willing to work with you surrounding policies if you contract or are otherwise significantly impacted by Covid-19. **If you are not already vaccinated, I urge you in the strongest, strongest terms to please get vaccinated as soon as is humanly possible. I am more than happy to help you find the nearest vaccination site to campus, and will drive you there myself if you don't have another means of transport.**

Incompletes/Extensions: I am generally reluctant to offer extensions on assignments, but we are emerging from a pandemic and a bit of flexibility is required of all of us. I will consider granting short extensions on assignments on a case-by-case basis, if circumstances warrant it.

Email Communication: Students in this class are expected to check their Millikin email accounts *at least* once per day, and ideally more frequently.

I check my email regularly and will make every effort to respond to emails as I receive them. Please always allow 24 hours for a response, however.

Grading Breakdown (1,000 points total):

Festival Project	200 points total
Product	100 points
Process	50 points
Reflection	50 points
Theatre Market Project	100 points total
Presentation	50 points
Packet	50 points
Day One Writing Assignment	50 points
Final Writing Assignment	100 points
Resumes	100 points total
Theatre resume	50 points
Non-theatre resume	50 points
Cover Letter	50 points
Practice Interview	50 points
Workbook Assignments	150 points total

Planning	50 points
Mission	50 points
Skills Resume	50 points
Participation	200 points

Grading: I will be using the Gradebook feature on Moodle to post grades in this course. As I complete assignments, grades will be posted so that you can keep close track of your progress.

Attendance/Punctuality: It is important that all students be in class unless they are medically unable to be here. The nature of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic requires me to have a more lenient attendance policy than I would normally use. Therefore there will no grade penalty for absences above the standard three, however any student accruing 7 or more total absences will automatically fail the course.

Participation: Participation will take many forms in this class, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Full class discussion
- Regular small group discussion
- Active, engaged listening
- Constructive feedback on classmates' work

I encourage you all to come to class with ideas that you are ready to share, and I hope that we will all make this an environment welcoming to each others' perspectives. Still, I recognize that not everyone is comfortable participating in large group discussions. It is possible to earn full Participation points even if you don't speak in full group discussions every day.

Deadlines: All assignments must be submitted to Moodle by the start of class the day they are due. Please do not email assignments to me. They will absolutely get lost in my inbox.

Intellectual Property: I consider course lectures, discussions, and organization to be my intellectual property. Each class represents many hours of research and preparation on my part. Due to this, I *do not* grant my consent for your course notes to be distributed beyond the members of our group. You are free to share with other students in the class, but no course notes may be posted online in any forum. You may not re-post lecture videos that I have created or share them in any manner.

Grading Scale (1000 points total):

A: 940-1000	A-: 900-939	
B+: 870-879	B: 830-869	B-: 800-829
C+: 770-779	C: 730-769	C-: 700-729
D+: 670-679	D: 630-669	D-: 600-629
F: 0-599		

Two Course Schedules?: On the next pages you will see two possible course schedules, depending on where we as a class want to place the presentation of the Festival. That will be your choice as students.

Course Schedule VERSION A (Subject to Change.)MYL = *Making Your Life as an Artist*WB = *Making Your Life as an Artist Workbook*

Date	Topic	Due This Day
T 8/24	Course Overview	First Writing Assignment
Th 8/26	The Role of the Artist	MYL 1-35
T 8/31	Our Punishing Lives	MYL 36-53
Th 9/2	Our Skills	MYL 54-91
T 9/7	Planning, Part 1	MYL 92-111, WB 1-18
Th 9/9	Festival Work	
T 9/14	Planning, Part 2	WB 19-24
Th 9/16	Festival Work	Turn in Planning Workbook
T 9/21	Mission, Part 1	MYL 112-129, WB 25-34
Th 9/23	Mission, Part 2 Grad School	WB 35
T 9/28	Money	MYL 130-157, WB 51-55
Th 9/30	Skills	Turn in Mission Workbook
T 10/5	Skills	Role for Festival identified by now
Th 10/7	Time	MYL 158-175, Turn in Skills Resume
T 10/12	Principles	MYL 176-185
Th 10/14	FALL BREAK --- NO CLASS	
T 10/19	Market Presentations	
Th 10/21	Market Presentations	
T 10/26	Market Presentations	
Th 10/28	Festival Work (Tom at American Society for Theatre Research Conference)	
T 11/2	Resumes	
Th 11/4	Cover Letters	
T 11/9	ADVISING DAY --- NO CLASS	
Th 11/11	Festival Work (Practice Interviews)	
T 11/16	Festival Work	

Th 11/18 (Practice Interviews)
Festival Work
(Practice Interviews)

T 11/23 Festival Work
(Practice Interviews)

Th 11/25 THANKSGIVING --- NO CLASS

T 11/30 Festival Work

Th 12/2 Festival Work

T 12/7 Festival Work

Th 12/9 Festival Work

FINALS WEEK FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE
Reflections Due
Final Writing Assignments Due

Course Schedule VERSION B (Subject to Change.)MYL = *Making Your Life as an Artist*WB = *Making Your Life as an Artist Workbook*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Due This Day</u>
T 8/24	Course Overview	First Writing Assignment
Th 8/26	The Role of the Artist	MYL 1-35
T 8/31	Our Punishing Lives	MYL 36-53
Th 9/2	Our Skills	MYL 54-91
T 9/7	Planning, Part 1	MYL 92-111, WB 1-18
Th 9/9	Festival Work	
T 9/14	Planning, Part 2	WB 19-24
Th 9/16	Festival Work	Turn in Planning Workbook
T 9/21	Mission, Part 1	MYL 112-129, WB 25-34
Th 9/23	Mission, Part 2 Grad School	WB 35
T 9/28	Money	MYL 130-157, WB 51-55
Th 9/30	Skills	Turn in Mission Workbook
T 10/5	Skills	
Th 10/7	Time	MYL 158-175, Turn in Skills Resume
T 10/12	Principles	MYL 176-185
Th 10/14	FALL BREAK --- NO CLASS	
T 10/19	Festival Work	
Th 10/21	Festival Work	
T 10/26	Festival Work	
Th 10/28	Festival Work (Tom at American Society for Theatre Research Conference)	
T 11/2	Festival Work	
Th 11/4	Festival Work	
T 11/9	ADVISING DAY --- NO CLASS	
Th 11/11	Festival Work	
T 11/16	Festival Work	
Th 11/18	Festival Presented	

T 11/23 Festival Reflection
Th 11/25 THANKSGIVING --- NO CLASS

T 11/30 Market Presentations
Th 12/2 Market Presentations

T 12/7 Market Presentations
Resumes
Th 12/9 Resumes
Cover Letters

FINALS WEEK Practice Interviews