

ANS 372 – Fall 2012 (#31660)

Theatre and Drama in South Asia

Tu Th 2-3:30 WAG 208

Instructor: Prof. Kathryn Hansen
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Description:

This course will introduce students to South Asian culture through its rich history of dramatic literature and theatrical performance. Various forms such as modern urban drama, political and street theatre, ritual and secular folk theatre, and classical Sanskrit drama will be examined together with their social meanings and cultural contexts. Readings include a variety of play texts, actors' autobiographies, studies, debates, and reviews. Students will be expected to write several response papers, take quizzes and exams, lead class discussion, and deliver oral presentations. A number of films and videos of performances will also be shown.

Textbooks:

The following required texts are available for purchase in the University Coop Bookstore:

W.J. Johnson/Kalidasa, *The Recognition of Sakuntala* (also ER)

Girish Karnad, *Naga-Mandala*

Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest*

Farley Richmond, *Indian Theatre*

A number of readings can be accessed online through the UT Libraries website. These are indicated by ER (Electronic Resource).

Some required readings (chapters or articles) are available as pdf files on Blackboard and are indicated by BB.

Materials listed as recommended have been placed on print reserve in the library, if not available in one of the other formats.

Grading and Assignments:

Two response papers (3-4 pages) 30%

Two oral reports with slide shows 30%

Quizzes and exams 30%

Attendance and leading discussion 10%

Plus and minus grades will be assigned for all papers, exams, and reports and used for final course grades.

Detailed guidelines for writing response papers and developing oral reports will be posted on Blackboard.

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is the student's responsibility. Attendance will be recorded and factored into the final grade. More than three absences during the semester (for whatever reason) will lower your

grade. Students should observe university etiquette by arriving on time and leaving after class is dismissed. Late papers will receive lower grades.

A student who is absent from a class or examination for the observance of a religious holy day may complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence, if proper notice has been given. Notice must be given at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester. It must be personally delivered to the instructor and signed and dated by the instructor, or sent certified mail, return receipt requested. A student who fails to complete missed work within the time allowed will be subject to the normal academic penalties.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is an extremely serious violation of academic integrity. Any use of the content or style of another's intellectual product without proper attribution constitutes plagiarism. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with UT's policy on academic integrity, at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php, and following its guidelines.

Disability Policy:

Accommodation for students with disabilities will be provided if the student identifies himself/herself to the instructor at the beginning of the course. The student will need to register with Services for Students with Disabilities in the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. For further details, see www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/, or phone 512-471-6259.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures:

The following recommendations are from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>:

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

Behavior Concerns:

If you have concerns about the behavior of a student, faculty, or staff member at UT, contact the Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050 for 24-hour advice.

Schedule of Topics and Readings – subject to minor adjustment

Aug. 30 – Course overview and introduction to South Asia

Sep. 4, 6 – Background to Sanskrit drama; Brahminical world view

Required reading

Johnson, trans., *The Recognition of Sakuntala*, Introduction

Richmond, Ch 2: Characteristics of Sanskrit Theatre and Drama, in *Indian Theatre*

Sep. 11, 13 – Kalidasa’s *Shakuntala*

Required reading

Johnson, trans. *The Recognition of Sakuntala*, A Play in Seven Acts

Sep. 18, 20 – *Shakuntala* story source; performing Sanskrit drama

Required reading

Johnson, trans., Sakuntala in the Mahabharata

Recommended reading

Raghavan, Sanskrit Drama in Performance

Sep. 25, 27 – Characteristics of Kathakali classical drama

Required reading

Richmond, Ch 10: Kathakali, in *Indian Theatre*

Oct. 2, 4 – Kathakali script: *The Flower of Good Fortune*

Required reading

Zarrilli, *Kathakali Dance-Drama*, Ch 5: The Flower of Good Fortune (ER)

Recommended reading

Zarrilli, Ch 2: Social History of Kathakali

Performance of Kalyanasouandhikam in *Symphony Celestial*, DVD 6667 (FAL)

Oct. 9, 11 – Myth and modernism in urban drama

Required reading

Karnad, *Naga Mandala*

Karnad, Theatre in India (BB)

Oct. 16, 18 – Realism and fantasy

Required reading

Padmanabhan, *Harvest*

Recommended reading

Dattani, *Dance Like a Man*

Oct. 23, 25 – Scheduled week for oral reports, papers, exams

(Note: Assignments will be due on a regular basis before this week. This break on the calendar is inserted to allow for time to catch up.)

Oct. 30, Nov. 1 – Political theatre in South Asia

Required reading

Bhatia, Ch 4: Performance and Protest in the Indian People's Theatre Association (BB)
 Van Erven, Ch 7: Of Stages and Mosques: The Irresistible Rise of Pakistan's Political Theatre, in *The Playful Revolution* (BB)

Nov 6, 8 – Street theatre, Janam

Required reading

Lee, A Journey in Indian Street Theatre (BB)

Van Erven, Ch 6: Killed in Action: Safdar Hashmi's Street Theatre (BB)

Recommended reading

Ghosh, Ch 9: Players, Spectators and Bazaars, in *A History of the Jana Natya Manch* (ER)

Nov. 13, 15, 20 – Parsi theatre; autobiography of a female impersonator

Required reading

Hansen, Ch 1: Pioneers to Professionals; Ch 5: Some Blossoms, Some Tears, in *Stages of Life: Indian Theatre Autobiographies* (ER)

Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving holiday

Nov. 27, 29 – Nautanki folk theatre

Required reading

Richmond, Ch 8: Nautanki, in *Indian Theatre*

Hansen, *Grounds for Play*, Chs 1 & 6 (ER)

Recommended reading

Mehrotra, *Gulab Bai: The Queen of Nautanki Theatre*

Dec. 4, 6 – Scheduled week for oral reports, papers, exams

(Note: Assignments will be due on a regular basis before this week. This break on the calendar is inserted to allow for time to catch up.)