

Performance of Theatre for Dialogue

Spring 2013

SW 360K: 63360 TD 357: 26468 WGS 345: 47359

Class: Wednesdays 2-4:50 PM, SSB Conference Room

Lab: Mondays 2-4:50pm, Utopia Theatre, School of Social Work

Voices Against Violence

Instructor: Lynn Hoare

Office Hours: By appointment.

Office location: POWER House SSB

Office phone: 475-6989 (direct line);

Email: lynnhoare@mail.utexas.edu

Course Description

This course focuses on using Theatre for Dialogue methods to raise awareness and educate on issues of interpersonal violence including relationship violence, sexual violence and stalking. Students trained in interactive and applied theatre methods perform scenarios to facilitate investigation of and conversations around power and control, supporting survivors, and identifying warning signs or red flags of unhealthy relationships. Student performers and facilitators offer audience participants the opportunity to examine perceptions and assumptions and to actively rehearse change.

Course Objectives

- To practice theatre techniques, improvisational methods and facilitation skills and use them as tools to start dialogue and raise awareness on the UT campus.
- To create and perform scenarios about interpersonal violence for on and off-campus audiences based on the materials and training covered in SW 360K/TD357, Fall 2012.
- To contribute to realistic characters and scenarios that effectively represent issues in a way familiar to college populations and to offer audience members an opportunity to create change through rehearsing reality.
- To participate in publicizing and raising awareness of the VAV program on campus.
- To be informed and responsibly share knowledge of interpersonal violence dynamics, resources, support and programs on and off-campus.
- To act as a leader in confronting and challenging interpersonal violence in campus communities.
- To explore strategies for transforming a violent culture through activist work using performance.

Teaching Methods

This course uses a variety of teachings methods, including videos, discussion, theatre games and movement based activities. Students are encouraged to participate, and to take care of themselves at all times, assessing personal limits and comfort levels. This class requires participation in a Lab rehearsal time on Mondays from 2-5pm.

Class Organization and Expectations

This class will be conducted as a seminar and will consist of exercises, discussion, rehearsal and performance. Students are responsible for active participation in the class, being prepared to integrate readings and completing all assignments on time.

Conduct:

Students are expected to adhere to student conduct guidelines at all times. Students must understand that they are selected into this class as leaders and ambassadors for the Voices Against Violence Program. They are held to a higher standard of personal conduct both in and outside class. Please be mindful that your interactions outside class also reflect the higher standard that is associated with being a VAV leader. This includes the kind of information that you share on facebook/myspace and your interaction with other students in informal settings.

Students are expected to NOT be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when they are in class or at any event or context where they are representing VAV. Students are expected to wear VAV t-shirts for performance when possible.

Students are encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue around the issues presented in class. Awareness of power and control dynamics in our day to day interactions is encouraged, as is mindfulness of self and others in class. Any physical, verbal or psychological intimidation in class or in association with VAV programming will not be tolerated.

Students are also expected to maintain professional conduct with each other, even if they may have personal relationships or friendships with each other outside the class.

Confidentiality:

Given the nature of our class, we require an agreement of confidentiality from everyone. Any personal information brought up in class should stay in class unless the person who revealed the information brings it up outside class.

The class location in the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) makes it very important to maintain confidentiality of any other students you may meet or any other confidential information you might encounter on the 5th floor of the SSB. Students in the class may not approach any other student (other than their classmates) in the waiting area of CMHC even if they know them, unless they are approached first by the other student. Even then, please keep your conversation to a minimum and do not discuss the meeting with anyone else. Students are also prohibited from going into any other area at CMHC besides the waiting area, the conference room and the restroom.

Attendance:

If you must miss a class meeting, please notify Lynn Hoare in advance. A great deal of emphasis is placed on being in class due to the participatory nature of the course. You will be allowed one (1) unexcused class absence during the semester without penalty. More than one (1) unexcused absence will result in the deduction of 2 points per absence from your final grade. Out of class performance, presentation, tabling, volunteering and retreat dates and times will be discussed with the class and sign-ups will be circulated. Once you have signed up for an event, attendance is mandatory and will result in the deduction of points from your final grade unless you notify Lynn Hoare in advance. Three tardies of 10 minutes or more will also equal an absence, unless you have cleared this with Lynn in advance.

If you miss rehearsal lab or class on the week of your scheduled performance, you will be replaced, without a guarantee to add a performance in your schedule later.

Self-care/Support:

Given the topics of discussion in class, I recognize that there may be issues that may come up for some students in the class. Through the course of the year, you also may find that your perspectives and opinions on relationship violence may change. This may make it easier or more difficult to confide in or talk with people close to you. I encourage you to please take care of yourself and seek outside

help/support if you need to talk to someone about your feelings. I encourage you to speak to a counselor at the Counseling and Mental Health Center (call 471-3515 to make an appointment) or call Telephone Counseling (471-2255). You are always welcome to talk to me as well.

Other:

From time to time, portions of the class or presentations/performance may be photographed, and/or video/audio recorded. Students should feel free to let the instructor know if they are not comfortable with that.

Students should also feel free to bring information about events related to class issues to class, and are welcome to notify the class through email about such events. The class email list is not to be used for issues that are not related to the class.

Please note that the University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

Class Requirements: Assessment and Evaluation of Outcomes (200 pts.)

Participation in 5 performances

20 points per performance.....100 points

Journal and Discussion Forum Posts (both on Blackboard)

3 journal posts.....15 points

3 discussion forum posts with responses (each post has 2 components).....30 points

VAV Activism

6 events; 5 points per event.....30 points

End of Semester Reflection with Top 10 List.....15 points

Participation in class and LAB.....10 points

TOTAL.....**200 points**

Class Requirements: Assessment and Evaluation of Outcomes (200 pts.)

5 performances, 20 points possible per performance

100 points total

Each student will be required to sign-up for specific performances and perform 5 times including the final ensemble performance. An initial list of performances and a sign-up sheet will be provided within the first 2 two weeks of class. Additional performance events and dates may be provided throughout the semester. **Once the performance calendar is final, attendance is mandatory for the performances you are scheduled for and will result in the deduction of points from your final grade if you do not show up.** Effort will be made to limit rehearsal time to our class time on Wednesdays and Lab on Mondays. However, **there may be times when scheduling a rehearsal outside of class or Lab is necessary.** Students are expected to be available for rehearsal at least one hour before each performance

- For each performance you will receive a grade of v, v+, v-
- v= 18: this is a good grade and means you showed up on time for rehearsal and performance and did a good job. You still have room for growth, but this was a strong performance.
- v+ = 20: This means you really worked hard on this performance, integrated feedback from others, showed growth in your physical and character work, worked to actively create a realistic character with committed choices, worked as part of the ensemble and did your personal best;
- v- = 16-17: This means you were late to a rehearsal OR performance, or didn't contribute fully to the ensemble, or did not do your best work on this performance, physically, verbally or in your character.
- If you miss a performance you will receive a 0 for that performance. Students are also expected to be in class, rehearsals and for performances on time. **Students who are late to rehearsals or performances will have points deducted from their grade.** If you know you will be late because of a specific reason, please notify Lynn or your group in advance.
- The Ensemble Performance will be a final performance for all class members. Date will be decided in class, from 7-9 on a M, T, W or TH evening within the final 3 weeks of the semester.

Performance participation includes:

- arriving on time to class and performances prepared and ready to perform (**this includes bringing water and having eaten!**),
- showing up one hour early to the performance for run-through rehearsal,
- arranging your transportation to arrive in time (one hour before performance) or communicating your needs around transportation,
- incorporating the materials covered in class (especially red-flags and other information we covered in VAV Fall course) into your performance,
- incorporating diversity issues into the scenarios – especially being sensitive to the audience you are performing for,
- being knowledgeable and sensitive about interpersonal violence issues and answering audience questions with accurate information, providing appropriate referral resources,
- taking time to debrief with your fellow classmates after a performance and provide feedback, support and critiques,
- being willing to accept feedback and incorporate changes into performances,
- being a positive role model for the work that we are doing –on and off stage.

Journal/Forum Posts:

45 points total

- **Forum Posts** (3 responses to original source, 3 responses to someone else's response/question): **5 points for each response (10 points per topic, 30 points total)**
- Forums are separate topics on the Discussion Board available through BlackBoard. Each Forum will open on a Wednesday and close the following Wednesday. A post is carefully written, reflective, and **at least 2 paragraphs or 100 words long, ending with a question of your own.** Please PROOFREAD FOR TYPOS AND GRAMMAR.
 - **You are also required to respond to someone else's question.** You will receive 2.5 points for your original post and question, and 2.5 points for responding to someone else's question. **Both your post and your response post are due by the due date.**
- **Journal Posts: 5 points per journal response , total of 15 points**
- You will complete one performance post (also 100 words or 2 paragraphs, proofread for typos and grammar) for the first three of your performances. Performance Posts are due within one week of your performance, and you will find them listed in the Journal section by name/date of performance. If you need some writing and reflection prompts, you can begin with any of these questions:
 - What did you find most effective about the performance?
 - What did you find most challenging about the performance?
 - What happened in the audience that surprised you and why?
 - What do you think you/we/the performers need to do differently next time to make the performance more successful?
 - Where would you like to see our performances develop further?

NOTE: The Journal and Forum are both available on BlackBoard and posts will CLOSE on their due date. If you have not completed your post, you will lose your points, UNLESS you have approached Lynn BEFORE the closing time to negotiate a different due date/time.

VAV Activism: 6 events at 5 points each

30 points total

Record your VAV events on Blackboard with date, time and two sentences about what you observed at the event.

- **Promoting one performance for class as part of a team** (5 points), including:
 - Inviting on-campus groups to co-host or co-sponsor performance
 - Targeting specific audiences to invite
 - Creating a plan for promotion of the event, including electronic flyers, announcements, etc.
- **Presenting and Promoting the VAV class to two other classes/groups on campus:**
 - Recruiting for the VAV class and program by visiting **TWO** formally organized classes or groups. You will be paired with someone in class for this (this is worth two events/10 points).
- **Attendance at Take Back the Night:** Wednesday, April 3rd, 2013, 6:00-10pm, West Mall
- **Attendance at two other VAV related events:**
 - The Sexy Sex Kind of Sex, and interactive program on sex and consent ,
 - Changing Lives performance
 - VAV performance you are NOT in
 - The Vagina Monologues or similar performance
 - lectures, films on or off campus related to VAV issues

Reflections: End of semester reflection (questions provided) and Top 10 List **15 points total**
Written work will be graded for completion, clarity, thoughtfulness and reflection.
DUE Wednesday, May 1st, 2013 by 2pm.

Participation **10 points total**

Includes regular attendance and active participation in class and LAB:

- being on time for class, LAB and performance and rehearsal times and communicating actively with Lynn when you are not on time,
- paying full attention at all times,
- keeping your phone and computer OFF unless you have notified Lynn of an emergency call you are expecting,
- incorporating materials discussed in class into the scenarios and exercises,
- creating diverse and culturally appropriate scenarios for particular requests,
- critiquing your own performance and that of your fellow classmates while being respectful and sensitive to the topic and to other classmates,
- being supportive of each other and working as a “team,”
- more than one absence will result in deduction of 5 points,
- Three tardies of 10 minutes or more will equal one absence,
- Three instances of leaving early from class will equal one absence.

Undergraduate Grading scale

100 - 94 = A
93 - 90 = A-
89 - 87 = B+
86 - 84 = B
83 - 80 = B-
79 - 77 = C+
76 - 74 = C
73 - 70 = C- (for graduate students, class failed, no credit 73 and below)
69 - 67 = D+
66 - 64 = D
63 - 60 = D-
59 and below = F

The University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Professional Conduct in Class

The professor expects students to act like professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another’s opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the

individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

Documented Disability Statement

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

Safety

As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor’s instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Use of Blackboard in Class

In this class we will be using Blackboard—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>—to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students an opportunity to dialogue. Students can find support in using Blackboard at the ITS Help Desk by calling 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please plan accordingly.