

FAA 110, Spring 2017

Exploring Arts & Creativity

4506 KCPA; W 1-2:20

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
Krannert Art Museum

James Treat

Department of Religion

treaty@illinois.edu

Valleri Robinson

Department of Theatre

valleri2@illinois.edu

Course Description

This course focuses on the exploration of various forms of creative expression. You will attend performances and exhibitions, interact with artists, and examine core issues associated with the creative process in our increasingly complex global society. In addition to attending performances and art exhibitions, students will examine concepts of creativity through assigned readings, class discussion, and creative projects. Faculty from the arts, sciences, humanities, and other domains will lead students through visual arts, music, dance, and theatre experiences at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the Krannert Art Museum to spark investigation and dialogue about creative expression. *Admission to performances and exhibitions will be provided without charge to students enrolled in this course.*

How This Course is Designed

This course is designed to allow you to examine the creative process through various performances and artwork brought to you by The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the Krannert Art Museum this semester. The professors have selected dance, music, theater, spoken word, two-dimensional and three-dimensional art, and new media events that are diverse in their approaches to creative expression, representation, and thematic content. Through event attendance, assigned readings, and in-class discussion and activities, students will explore the creative process from a variety of angles.

Required text: *Creativity: A Reader for Writers* by Ryan G. Van Cleave

Course Work

You will be required to write four two-page essays in this course that capture your

reflections and critical assessment of the work you see at KAM and the performances at the KCPA throughout the term.

You are required to be prepared to discuss your thoughts on the performances and exhibits in class and be prepared to lead discussion about the assigned readings.

You also are required to create a final project demonstrating your creative interpretation of your experiences from the semester. This final project will be guided by the professors and will be presented to your peers on the final day of class.

Grading

40% of your grade is determined by your essay reflections

40% of your grade is determined by your class and event participation and attendance

20% of your grade is determined by the final project

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. In addition, the promptness and participation are required. Failure to arrive to class on time and/or lack of participation will affect your overall grad. You can miss three classes with no penalty. But on your fourth absence you will receive a 10% grade reduction. If you miss a performance you must make up the absence by attending a separate performance approved by the professors. After reviewing the upcoming schedule of events for this semester, if you can see that you will have to miss more than two scheduled events, you should drop this course.

FAA 110 Section C, Spring 2017

Class meetings (underlined): Wednesdays 1:00-2:20 p.m., 4503 KCPA

January 18: Class meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 1:30-2:20 p.m. - KCPA tour (during KCPA class meeting)

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. - Russian National Ballet Theatre *The Sleeping Beauty*

January 25: Class meeting

Thursday, January 26, 7:30 p.m. - *El Diablo y Cristo Negro* @ KAM

February 1: Class meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m. - Sonic Illinois: TWO: The Music of the New York School

February 8: Class meeting

Friday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. - Red Sky: *Mistatim*

February 15: Class meeting, Essay 1 Due

Thursday, February 16, 6:30 KAM tour followed by 7:30 p.m. - VOICE Reading Series @ KAM

February 22: Class meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 5:00 p.m. - UI Sesquicentennial Kickoff Celebration: Funkadesi

March 1: Class meeting

Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. - Sonic Illinois: Bang on a Can All-Stars: Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields*

March 8: Class meeting: Essay 2 Due

Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. - Les 7 Doigts de la Main: *Cuisine & Confessions*

March 15

~~March 22 - Spring Break~~

Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. - En Garde Arts presents WILDERNESS

March 29: Class meeting, Essay 3 Due

Wednesday, March 29, 7:30 p.m. - St. Louis Symphony

April 5: Class meeting

Thursday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. - *Iago's Plot* (Talkback 4/6)

April 12: Class meeting: Essay 4 Due

April 19: Class meeting

Thursday, April 20, 7:30 p.m. - Step Afrika! *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob*

Lawrence

April 26: Class meeting; Final Presentations (group 1)

Thursday, April 27, 7:30 p.m. - *The Light in the Piazza*

May 3: Class meeting: Final Presentations (group 2)

Grading Scale

100%	A+	79% - 77%	C+
99% - 95%	A	76% - 74%	C
94% - 90%	A-	73% - 70%	C-
89% - 87%	B+	69% - 67%	D+
86% - 84%	B	66% - 64%	D
83% - 80%	B-	63% - 60%	D-

Grading Explanations

A = Excellent

(Excellent concept, excellent execution)

The grade “A” is assigned in situations where students clearly excel in their mastery of course topics as demonstrated by performance, interest and initiative, as well as attendance. This grade indicates sound engagement with the course material, the ability to verbally articulate the process, and success in synthesizing ideas into form and content.

B = Above Average

(Better than average conceptualization, or average conceptualization and excellent execution)

The grade “B” is assigned to student performance that reaches beyond the minimum grasp of the topic and/or execution. Often students are able to engage course matter at a higher intellectual level than their expressive skills (writing, argumentation, creative formation) might demonstrate initially. Our hope is that, as your professors this term, we will provide guidance and encouragement in this regard, thus providing an additional take-away from the course.

C = Average

(Average performance; all minimum requirements met)

It is assumed at the beginning of the course that all students are capable and, at least, willing to perform at an average level; therefore, “C” is considered average performance. Beyond that point, it is left to you—the individual student—to distinguish yourself and rise to the

level of an “A” or “B” for the course grade.

D = Below Average

(Less than average participation, essays, attendance, or final project concept, or execution)

“D” grades are intended to communicate to students that they are not performing even to the average basis level in the course or on weighted projects. If you receive a “D” on any given assignment during the term, it is imperative that you set up an appointment with one of the professors to discuss the grade and possible approaches to improve.

F = Failure

(Non-fulfillment of minimum requirements)

A failing grade of “F” is given when students have not demonstrated a sufficient degree of mastery of the course content to proceed to the next level in the curricular sequence. If you receive a “D” on any given assignment during the term, it is imperative that you set up an appointment with one of the professors to discuss the grade and possible approaches to improve.

Pluses and minuses are assigned to students as grades in order to evaluate varying levels of demonstrated comprehension and performance on particular projects and as an overall semester grade assessment.