

Duke University Department of Theater Studies
185A-01 Special Topics:
Theater Production (Lecture) THE LARAMIE PROJECT
To 7:15PM-9:45PM
Bryan Center 127

Jeff Storer

Office Hours (Page 106 03D): By Appointment, 660-3360,
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Jules Odendahl-James

Office Hours (Page 106 03J): Wednesdays Noon-2pm & by appointment.
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Course Description:

Students participate in the production of THE LARAMIE PROJECT for public performance April 7-17. Students analyze, research, rehearse, and produce this play under the direction of professional director, Jeff Storer and professional dramaturg, Jules Odendahl-James of the Theater Studies faculty. Students may focus on acting (the play is already cast), or assisting in directing, design, dramaturgy, management, or production; a specific area of focus will be determined through audition and/or arrangement with the instructors. Consent of instructor required. Everyone in the class will study the play and other texts of documentary theater and work in some major capacity on the production. May be repeated for credit.

Requirements:

-Attendance: A record will be kept of attendance for classes, rehearsals and crew calls. Any approved absences must be cleared with instructor prior to the class, rehearsal or crew call. In the event you are not able to speak to Professor Storer (or the stage manager or appropriate crew head,) you may leave a message on my voice mail (660-3360) prior to absence. **Attendance and lateness will figure prominently in Participation grade.**

NOTE: Attendance for the Saturday, February 26th *Angels In America* field trip to Playmakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill (1-11:30pm) is mandatory. This trip takes the place of class (not rehearsal) on February 22.

-Required readings: You can find a list of assigned readings posted on the show's WordPress blog (<http://sites.duke.edu/dukeinlaramie/>).

There will be four plays read by all in class:

1. *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman and Members of the Tectonic Theater Company.
2. *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder.
3. *Angels In America (Millennium Approaches)* by Tony Kushner.
4. *Execution of Justice* by Emily Mann.

Angels, *Our Town* and *Execution* may be purchased at The Regulator Bookshop on 9th street. When they go to The Regulator, students should find a staff member at

the help desk. Give this person the department name and # listing for the class **(185A-01 Special Topics: Theater Production (Lecture) THE LARAMIE PROJECT,)** as this is how the Regulator will have everything on reserve. The staff member at the desk will pull the titles off reserve for the student and then the student takes the books upstairs to the front counter to purchase the books.

-Blogging. All students will be asked to blog about their experience working on the production at three times during the semester. Blog #1 should be posted between January 24 and February 28. Blog #2 should be posted between March 1 and April 5. Blog #3 should be posted between April 7 and 27. Each blog entry should run between 300 and 400 words, include a title and the blogger's name. Jules will post some examples of production blogs by students on our WordPress site. The production's WordPress site as a whole will be searchable by the public.

-Crew Hours for production personnel. Crew hour for production personnel will be contracted between the faculty or staff and student that is assisting (i.e. Props would work with David Berberian in the shop and designer Torry Bend, Assistant Scene Designer would work with Torry Bend, Assistant Dramaturg with Jules Odendahl-James, etc.) The person you are working with will offer an assessment of your discipline, responsibility and participation and that assessment will be taken into consideration in your final participation grade.

-Crew Hours for actors. Each actor cast in the production will be asked to participate in 6 hours (three two hour sessions) of crew work on lights, sets, props or costumes. You should check in with David Berberian, Theater Ops Shop Supervisor to register your production hours. He will send you to the appropriate shop or designer. The appropriate production personnel you are working with will offer an assessment of your discipline, responsibility and participation and that assessment will be taken into consideration in your final participation grade.

ALL crew hours must be completed between February 10th and April 6th. No crew hours can be worked following the opening of the production. Everyone will be required to participate in the striking of *The Laramie Project*.

-Grade Breakdown: Grade based on seriousness of approach, ability, effort, growth, the quality of participation, curiosity and passion. If students are interested in the grades they are receiving, they should make an appointment to discuss grades with the instructor. As suggested by the University, "A's" will be reserved for "Exceptional" work.

Participation	35%
Writing/Blogs	15%
Performance / Company Assignment	50 %

CLASS AND REHEARSAL CALENDAR
THE LARAMIE PROJECT

Tuesday, January 18 7:15-9:45 Clum Room, Bryan Center 128

**Intro, Read and Assign Roles Act I (Laramie)
Presentations of Designs**

**Assigned Reading (everyone): begin OUR TOWN,
ANGELS, EXECUTION. Be prepared to discuss Peter
Weiss and Carol Martin articles (posted on:
<http://sites.duke.edu/dukeinlaramie/>) on 1/25.**

Tuesday, January 25 7:15-9:45 Clum Room, Bryan Center 128

**Read and Assign Roles Acts II and III (Laramie)
Discuss Weiss and Martin Articles.**

**Assigned Reading for 2/1: Eustice and Street Scene
(Brecht) articles (posted on:
<http://sites.duke.edu/dukeinlaramie/>).**

**Break into Groups A, B, and C to prepare play
presentations to class. Class groups should address
the following in presentations of 10-15 minutes:**
 1-Short production History.
 2-Story told stylistically as play is written.
 **3-Relation of Text to Study of Laramie
(include Form and Content.)**

Tuesday, February 1 7:15-9:45 Clum Room, Bryan Center 128

**Group Presentations & discussion:
GROUP A: OUR TOWN
GROUP B: EXECUTION OF JUSTICE
GROUP C: ANGELS IN AMERICA (MILLENIUM
APPROACHES)
Discuss Eustice and Brecht Articles.**

**For 2/8: Review Audience Guide for *The Laramie
Project: Ten Years Later. An Epilogue* (available on
WordPress).**

Tuesday, February 8 7:15-9:45 Clum Room, Bryan Center 128

**View and Discuss excerpts from:
 Beverly Seckinger's *Laramie: Inside/Out* (2004)
 "The Matthew Shepard Case," 20/20 episode
 (broadcast November 2004)
 HBO Film of *The Laramie Project* (2002).**

**Further Discussion of films, plays, and audience
 guide with a focus ACTIVISM and ACTING.**

Thursday, February 10	700-1000	ALL REHEARSALS AND CREW ASSIGNMENTS BEGIN
Friday, February 11	100-500	Rehearsal (Individual Work)
Monday, February 14	700-1000	Rehearsal
Tuesday, February 15	7:15-9:45	Clum Room, Bryan Center 128

**Class business and visit by Maude Mitchell, one of
 the original dramaturgs of *The Laramie Project*.**

Wednesday, February 16	700-1000	Rehearsal
Thursday, February 17	700-1000	Rehearsal

Monday, February 21.	700-1000	Rehearsal
Tuesday, February 22.	700-1000	Rehearsal. No CLASS meeting. Instead we will all take our field trip on Saturday, Feb. 26 for both parts of <i>Angels in America</i> and dinner at Playmakers Repertory Theater.

Wednesday, February 23	700-1000	Rehearsal
Thursday, February 24	700-1000	Rehearsal

Saturday, February 26 *Angels in America* Marathon. Full Company field trip to *Angels in America* at Playmakers; Part 1, 2pm performance, Part 2, 7:30 performance. We will eat at the Dept. of Dramatic Art at UNC with select members of cast and crew between performances

Monday, February 28.	700-1000	Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 1	700-1000	Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 2	700-1000	Rehearsal
Thursday, March 3	700-1000	Rehearsal

Spring Break March 4-13**NO REHEARSALS**

Monday, March 14	700-1000	Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 15	700-1000	Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 16	700-1000	Rehearsal
Thursday, March 17	700-1000	Rehearsal
Friday, March 18	100-500	(Individual Work)
Saturday, March 19	100-500	Rehearsal

Monday, March 21	700-1000	Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 22.	700-1000	Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 23.	700-1000	Rehearsal
Thursday, March 24.	700-1000	Rehearsal

Friday, March 25.	100-500	(Individual Work)
Saturday, March 26	100-500	Rehearsal

Monday, March 28.	700-1000	Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 29	700-1000	Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 30	700-1000	Rehearsal
Thursday, March 31.	700-1000	Rehearsal

TECHNICAL REHEARSALS

Friday, April 1	500-1100	Tech without Actors
Saturday, April 2	100-600	Tech with Actors
Sunday, April 3	100-600	Tech with Actors

Monday, April 4	630 Call	Dress
Tuesday, April 5	630 Call	Dress
Wednesday, April 6	630 Call	Final Dress

8 PERFORMANCES

Thursday, April 7	8pm Opening Night-
Sunday, April 17	Closing 2pm Matinee and Strike

Tuesday, April 19**7:15-9:45 Clum Room, Bryan Center 128
Final Class Company Evaluation of Process
and Production****Wednesday, April 27****Final deadline to submit last blog posts to
WordPress.**