

City University of New York (CUNY)

## CUNY Academic Works

---

Open Educational Resources

Lehman College

---

Fall 2019

### THE 241 Art of the Theatre

Claudia Case

*CUNY Lehman College*, [claudia.case@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:claudia.case@lehman.cuny.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://academicworks.cuny.edu/le\\_oers](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/le_oers)



Part of the [Theatre History Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Case, Claudia, "THE 241 Art of the Theatre" (2019). *CUNY Academic Works*.  
[https://academicworks.cuny.edu/le\\_oers/31](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/le_oers/31)

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Lehman College at CUNY Academic Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Open Educational Resources by an authorized administrator of CUNY Academic Works. For more information, please contact [AcademicWorks@cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicWorks@cuny.edu).

## **COURSE and INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

**Semester:** Fall 2019

**Course title:** *THE 241 Art of the Theatre*

**Course meeting times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45 pm

**Classroom:** Speech/Theatre 203

**Professor:** Dr. Claudia Case, Associate Professor, Department of Music, Multimedia, Theatre & Dance

**Email:** claudia.case@lehman.cuny.edu

**Phone:** 718-960-8244

**Office:** Speech/Theatre 110

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3 pm, and other times by appointment

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

*3 hours. 3 credits. An examination of the nature of live theatre: its forms, practices, and purposes, and its relevance to society.*

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

\*Analyze in writing and/or in a presentation the development of drama and theatre in human societies and cultures.

\*Create and believably portray characters using a variety of acting styles involving the use of the body, voice, and imagination.

## **COURSE MATERIALS:**

### **Required Texts — posted as PDFs on Blackboard:**

Charlie Mitchell, Ed., *Theatrical Worlds*. University Press of Florida, 2014.

Andrew Saito, *Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega*. In *Imagine Yemen*, 2018.  
[This play beings on p. 44 of the PDF]

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Folger edition.

(If you plan to use a book version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for this class, you can ONLY use the Folger edition, which is widely available in book format, in addition to being published online.)

Additional required reading materials, as noted on the course schedule, will be posted on Blackboard.

### **Required Attendance at performances:**

November 20-24, performance times vary:

See a performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Lehman College

Ticket: free for Lehman students

### **GRADING POLICY:**

#### **Components of your course grade (total points possible: 100):**

Participation in class discussions and activities: 10 points

Quizzes (including Syllabus Quiz): 15 points

Writing assignments: 5 points

Show-me-your-monologue: 5 points

Monologue performance: 5 points

Discount theatre ticket presentation: 5 points

Theatre company presentation: 5 points

Final project: 10 points

Midterm exam: 10 points

Final exam: 10 points

Blackboard discussion board introduction and responses to other students: 5 points

Email response from your Blackboard-linked Lehman account: 5 points — **deadline:**

**September 12**

Meeting with Professor Case: 5 points — **deadline: September 12**

Show-me-your-syllabus: 5 points — **deadline: September 12**

**\*Grading scale for individual written assignments: 0-4 points**

**\*Grading scale for individual quizzes and exams: 0-100 points**

**\*Refer to the ATTENDANCE POLICY to confirm how latenesses and absences affect your final grade.**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

The Lehman College Student Handbook notes that “Students are expected to attend all class meetings as scheduled, and are responsible for all class work missed as a result of late registration or absence. Excessive absences in any course may result in a lower final grade.”

Attendance is recorded starting at 12:30 pm. If you arrive after your name has been called, if you leave before the end of class without having made prior arrangements with me, or if you leave the classroom for more than 5 minutes while class is in session, you

are counted absent for that day. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, you can see me in person immediately after class to request that your absence be changed to a lateness. I count your total number of absences over the course of the semester and do not differentiate between “excused” and “unexcused” absences.

**The effect of absences on your course grade of a possible 100 points:**

Zero absences = plus 2 points

1 absence = no penalty

2 absences = minus 2 points

3 absences = minus 5 points (half a letter grade)

4 absences = minus 10 points (full letter grade)

5 or more absences = minus 15 or more points (one and a half or more letter grades)

Keep in mind that you can also accumulate absences by arriving late, leaving early, or spending time outside of the classroom while class is in session.

**The effect of lateness on your course grade of a possible 100 points:**

Never late: zero instances of lateness = plus 2 points

One time: 1 instance of lateness = no penalty

Occasionally late: 2 instances of lateness = minus 2 points

Frequently late: 3 or 4 instances of lateness = minus 5 points (half a letter grade)

Chronically late: 5 or more instances of lateness = minus 10 points (full letter grade)

Keep in mind that if you arrive after attendance has been taken, you will have been counted absent for that day and must see me in person immediately after class to request that your absence be changed to a lateness.

Not being present or not being on time does not excuse you from keeping up with the syllabus, and you are encouraged to check with your classmates to find out what you missed. If you are repeatedly late or absent due to personal reasons, I can help refer you to free and confidential on-campus support services for students. Please reach out to me sooner rather than later if you need support of any kind.

**Class participation:**

Your participation in classroom discussions and activities is worth 10 points of your course grade of a possible 100. I determine your participation grade by observing your level of preparation and engagement. When you come to class, you are expected to have the assigned reading material and/or notes you took while reading available to you and to be able to demonstrate that you have completed the assigned reading. If I have to ask you during class to take out a text that was assigned for that day, if you cannot discuss the

assigned reading, if you don't ask questions and take notes, and/or if you engage in activities not related to the class, I assume that you are unprepared, and I will grade you accordingly for class participation.

**Use of electronic devices in the classroom:**

If I get the impression that you are using your electronic devices for purposes unrelated to this class, you risk getting all points for class participation taken away, which is 10 points of your course grade of a possible 100. I observe student behavior, but I do NOT always issue warnings to students who conduct non-class-related business on their phones, laptops, or tablets. As a result, if you use your electronic devices for non-class-related business in my classroom, you can expect to lose 10 points of your course grade, whether I speak to you about this in person or not.

**“My Grades” on Blackboard:**

You can check your grades for individual assignments AND my comments on your graded work in the “My Grades” section on Blackboard. If I leave a comment that asks you to take action before I can grade an assignment, you have 48 hours to do so from the time the comment was posted. If you do not take action within 48 hours, your assignment will not be considered for a grade.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM POLICY:**

Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents, is prohibited by the City University of New York. Please read Lehman's statement on Academic Integrity and note the definitions and examples of academic dishonesty. I expect you to be familiar with the statement and the examples it mentions:

**<http://lehman.smartcatalogiq.com/2017-2019/Undergraduate-Bulletin/Academic-Services-and-Policies/Academic-Integrity>**

Please note that students who engage in academic dishonesty face academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion. All work you submit for this class will be checked against plagiarism through SafeAssign.

**STUDENT HANDBOOK:**

Students are strongly encouraged to download and become familiar with the Student Handbook: <http://www.lehman.edu/campus-life/support-services.php>

**ACCOMMODATING DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. Students with disabilities who may require any special considerations are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services in order to submit official paperwork to the instructor. For more information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services, Shuster Hall, Room 238, phone: 718-960-8441. For detailed information on services and resources visit: <http://www.lehman.edu/student-disability-services/> or email: [disability.services@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:disability.services@lehman.cuny.edu).

### **TUTORING SERVICES:**

#### **Instructional Support Services (ISSP):**

Lehman College's Instructional Support Services Program (ISSP) is home of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and Science Learning Center (SLC). Both offer students an array of activities and services designed to support classroom learning. Open to students at any level, there are individual, small group, and/or workshop sessions designed to improve "proficiency in writing, reading, research, and particular academic subject areas. Computer-assisted writing/language tutorial programs are also available," as well as individual tutors, workshops and tutors.

For more information about the ACE and the SLC, please visit Old Gym, Room 205, or <http://www.lehman.edu/issp>, or call ACE at 718-960-8175, and SLC at 718-960-7707.

Library Tutors are also available in the Lehman library. These tutors offer help with library resources and computers.

### **ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (This is not a complete list!):**

#### **The Lehman Counseling Center:**

If you are experiencing personal and/or academic difficulties, confidential counseling services are available free of charge at the Counseling Center, Old Gym 114. Call 718-960-8761 and/or visit: <http://www.lehman.edu/counseling-center/>

#### **The Lehman Office of Veterans and Military Affairs:**

Lehman College recognizes the contribution veterans and service members make as citizens and students and is proud of their demonstrated level of diversity and academic excellence. If you are a veteran or service member, please register with the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs in Shuster Hall, Room 201A.  
<http://www.lehman.edu/veterans-affairs/>

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Blackboard:**

- \* You are required to use Blackboard to access course materials and to upload assignments for this class.
- \* Log into Blackboard from the “Login” section on the Lehman homepage: <http://www.lehman.edu/logins/>
- \* Blackboard Support: <https://help.blackboard.com/Filter/Student>
- \* Additional Blackboard Support: <http://www.lehman.edu/itr/blackboard.php>
- \* If you have trouble logging into Blackboard or VoiceThread, and/or if you need help with linking your Lehman email address to your Blackboard account, please contact the Lehman IT Help Desk in Carman Hall immediately, either in person or at 718-960-1111.

### **Lehman email:**

- \* You are required to sign into your Lehman email account for course messages throughout the semester. I regularly send updates about this course through Blackboard, which only links to CUNY email accounts, and which should link to your Lehman email account.
- \* If you do not check the email account that is linked to Blackboard on a regular basis, you will miss important information about this course. Not accessing your Lehman email is never an excuse for not knowing information that gets sent there.
- \* If you are a CUNY transfer student, there is a very good chance that your new Lehman email address is not currently listed in Blackboard. To verify which of your email accounts is linked to Blackboard and/or to make changes, please do the following:
  1. After you log into Blackboard, look for “Tools” on the left side of the Blackboard homepage (NOT the homepage for this course, but the first Blackboard page you see after you log in).
  2. Click on “Update Email” and, if necessary, change your Blackboard-associated email address to your Lehman email address.

## **DEADLINES:**

### **Quiz Deadlines:**

All Blackboard quizzes are due no later than 11:59 pm on the day **before** our next class meeting. Students may take each quiz once. There are no makeup quizzes, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Please only take Blackboard quizzes AFTER completing the assigned reading. Since you only have ONE opportunity to take each quiz, do not take quizzes using unreliable internet connections and do not take quizzes on

your phone. Please note that ANY quiz throughout the semester can also contain one or more questions about the class policies described on this syllabus.

### **Homework Assignment Deadlines:**

All homework assignments are due on Blackboard no later than 11:59 pm on the day **before** our next class meeting. Assignments will only be accepted if they are turned in via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Printouts or emailed work will not be accepted.

When you turn in work on Blackboard, it is your responsibility to ensure that you upload the correct file in .docx or .doc format. **I do not accept other formats, including .rtf, .odt, and .wps files, and I will post a zero for work when I cannot open a file.** You can make unlimited upload attempts before the deadline of each assignment. If you upload more than one version of the same assignment, I will only grade the last file you uploaded. Uploading the “wrong” file first does not make a Blackboard assignment on time if you do not follow up with the “correct” file before the assignment deadline. Always save a copy on your computer or flash drive of any work you plan to upload to Blackboard, and never type directly into Blackboard without having created a backup first.

What if you miss a deadline? If you work right up to an assignment deadline and then miss the Blackboard cutoff for any reason, your work will be considered late and graded accordingly. Emailing me your paper a few minutes after the deadline or bringing a printout to class does NOT make your work on time. The only way to still get partial credit if you miss a Blackboard assignment deadline is to use the “late” assignment link on Blackboard to turn in your work.

If you need to submit a writing assignment late, you can do so until one week after the original due date, but your grade for your late assignment will be reduced by one letter grade from what it would have been had your work been turned in on time. There will be a separate link on Blackboard for turning in late work, which cuts off exactly one week after the original due date. “Late” links are contained in the same Blackboard folder where the original assignment was posted. This one-week extension/grade reduction is the only option to still receive partial credit for a missed assignment and does not apply to quizzes or presentations.

Example: If you did not turn in a writing assignment that was due by 11:59 pm on Monday before a Tuesday class, you can still turn it in up to one week late, but you must do so no later than 11:59 pm the following Monday. Keep in mind that late work will receive a one-letter-grade reduction. If you write a B+ paper but turn it in up to one week late, your recorded grade for that paper will be a C+.



**Presentation Upload Deadlines:**

When you are scheduled to participate in a presentation, you must upload your presentation-related homework to Blackboard no later than 11:59 pm the day before your presentation. **Students who upload their presentation-related homework on time, but then do not participate in their scheduled presentation, OR students who do not upload their presentation-related homework on time, but then participate in their scheduled presentation can receive a maximum grade of 1 out of a possible 4 points (1 point is equivalent to a grade of D) for their presentation.** Students who arrive late on the day of their scheduled presentation may not be permitted to present and/or will receive a lower grade. Once a presentation date is confirmed, you cannot reschedule it.

**Make-up assignments/extra credit:**

Towards the end of every semester, some students who have missed deadlines for assignments approach me to see whether they can make up missed work. Please note that the opportunity to submit written homework assignments late for a lower grade expires one week after the original assignment deadline. There are no “extensions” beyond that, and missed quizzes or presentations cannot be made up. If you are concerned about your progress, please set up an appointment to speak with me in person. The earlier in the semester you reach out, the better I will be able to help you.

\*~\*~\*

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS and ASSIGNMENTS:**

**\*Course readings, assignments, and tests are accessed through the “Weekly Content/Activities” section on Blackboard.**

**\*When you come to class, you are expected to have finished reading the material assigned for that day and to have the assigned text, and/or your detailed notes on the reading, available to you in class.**

**\*Blackboard folders with new weekly content/activities generally become available by noon on Fridays.**

**\*Unless otherwise noted, all work is completed on Blackboard.**

**WEEK 1:**

**Tuesday, 08/27: Introduction**

*In class: sign up for your required meeting with me*

**Thursday, 08/29: Preparing for an Audition**

\*Read the syllabus (download from Blackboard: Weekly Content/Activities), and make sure you have it available to you at home and in class, either digitally or as a printout

\*Complete the Syllabus Quiz (Blackboard)

\*Introduce yourself to the other students in this class on the Blackboard Discussion Board and respond to two other students (*worth 5% of your course grade of a possible 100*)

\***RESPOND** to a message I sent to the email account that is linked to your Blackboard account, which is usually your Lehman email account. **DO NOT send me a new message, but RESPOND to one of my class-wide messages.** If you are not getting class-wide email messages from me and need to update the email address that is linked to your Blackboard account, please take action before September 12 (*worth 5 points of your course grade of a possible 100*)

\*Read the *Backstage* article, “Everyone you need to know in the audition process” (Blackboard)

\*Complete the quiz on the *Backstage* article (Blackboard)

\*Find a monologue you are interested in performing. You can browse the monologue books that are on reserve for this course at the Lehman library, or you can select a monologue from another source. You can also write your own monologue. Your monologue should take about TWO MINUTES to perform. **Bring a copy of your monologue to today’s class** (*worth 5% of your course grade of a possible 100*)  
*In class: show me your copy of the syllabus* (*worth 5% of your course grade of a possible 100*)

**WEEK 2:**

**Tuesday, 09/03: Monologues**

\*Memorize your monologue and come to class prepared to perform it

\*Look at the list of theatre companies at the end of this syllabus **come to class with a list to turn in of four companies (ranked in order of preference) as possible presentation topics**

*In class: monologue performances*

Thursday, 09/05: no class — Lehman runs on a Monday schedule

**WEEK 3:**

**Tuesday, 09/10: Acting**

\*Read Charlie Mitchell, ed. *Theatrical Worlds*, Chapter 2: “Acting” (textbook, on Blackboard)

\*Complete the Chapter 2: “Acting” quiz (Blackboard)

**Thursday, 09/12:**

\*Read Andrew Saito, *Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega*. In *Imagine Yemen*, 2018. [This play begins on p. 44 of the PDF] (Blackboard)

\*Complete the *Wormholes for Sale* quiz

**Thursday, 09/12:** *Last day to meet with me in person and show me your syllabus*

**Thursday, 09/12:** *Last day to send me a response to a course-wide message from your Blackboard-linked Lehman email account*

**WEEK 4:**

**Monday, 09/16:** *Last day to drop a course without the grade of "W"*

**Tuesday, 09/17:**

**Directing**

\*Read *Theatrical Worlds*, Chapter 3: "Directing"

\*Complete the Chapter 3: "Directing" quiz

**Thursday, 09/19:**

**Discount Theatre Ticket Presentations**

\*Submit your Discount Theatre Ticket Presentation to Blackboard

***In class: Discount Theatre Ticket Presentations***

**WEEK 5:**

**Tuesday, 09/24: Lehman Theatre Tour**

\*Submit your questions for our theatre tour to Blackboard (no late option for this assignment)

***Class meets in front of the Lovinger Theatre at the top of the spiral staircase (Speech/Theatre Building) for a tour of Lehman College's theatre spaces with Lehman Stages Associate Director Henry Ovalles***

**Thursday, 09/26: Set Design**

\*Read *Theatrical Worlds*, Chapter 4: "Set Design"

\*Complete the Chapter 4: "Set Design" quiz

**WEEK 6:**

**Tuesday, 10/01:** no class [Rosh Hashanah]

**Thursday, 10/03: Costume Design**

- \*Read *Theatrical Worlds*, Chapter 5: “Costume Design”
- \*Complete the Chapter 5: “Costume Design” quiz

**WEEK 7:**

Tuesday, 10/08: no class [Yom Kippur]

**Thursday, 10/10: Monologues**

- \*Submit your Monologue Assignment to Blackboard
- \*Practice your monologue

*In class: monologue performances*

**WEEK 8:**

**Tuesday, 10/15: The American Musical**

- \*Read *Theatrical Worlds*, Chapter 9: “The American Musical”
- \*Read the supplemental *Hamilton* material posted on Blackboard
- \*Complete the quiz on Chapter 9: “The American Musical” and *Hamilton*

Oct. 16-18: Lehman College production of *Dance in Dialog*

**Thursday, 10/17: Kinky Boots**

- \*Read the *Kinky Boots* material posted on Blackboard
- \*Complete the *Kinky Boots* quiz

*In class:* View *Kinky Boots* (2019 version)

**WEEK 9:**

**Tuesday, 10/22: Kinky Boots**

*In class:* View *Kinky Boots* (2019 version)

**Thursday, 10/24: Lighting Design**

- \*Read *Theatrical Worlds*, Chapter 6: “Lighting Design”
- \*Complete the Chapter 6: “Lighting Design” quiz

**WEEK 10:**

**Tuesday, 10/29: Final Group Project Prep, Part 1**

- \*Read the Final Group Project assignment instructions
- \*Complete the Final Group Project quiz #1

**Thursday, 10/31: Midterm Exam**

**WEEK 11:**

**Tuesday, 11/05: The World of Shakespeare**

- \*Read *Theatrical Worlds*, Chapter 8: “The World of Shakespeare”
- \*Complete the Chapter 8: “The World of Shakespeare” quiz

*Tuesday, 11/05: Last day to drop a course with a grade of “W”*

**Thursday, 11/07: Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

- \*Read William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Acts 1 and 2 (Blackboard)
- \*Complete the first *Midsummer Night's Dream* quiz

**WEEK 12:**

**Tuesday, 11/12: Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

- \*Read William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 3
- \*Complete the second *Midsummer Night's Dream* quiz

**Thursday, 11/14: Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

- \*Read William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Acts 4 and 5
- \*Complete the third *Midsummer Night's Dream* quiz

**WEEK 13:**

**Tuesday, 11/19: Final Group Project Prep, Part 2**

- \*Read the Final Group Project assignment instructions
- \*Complete the Final Group Project quiz #2

**Nov. 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24:** Lehman College production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**Thursday, 11/21: Library Research Workshop: Theatre Company Presentations**

- \*Read the Performance Critique Assignment Preview materials (Blackboard)
- \*Complete the Performance Critique Assignment Preview quiz
- \*Read the Theatre Company Presentation Assignment instructions (Blackboard)
- \*Complete the Theatre Company Presentation Assignment quiz

*Class meets at the Lehman Library's circulation desk at 12:30 pm. The workshop will be in a computer classroom in the library basement. Please make sure that you have a valid Lehman ID, or you will not be able to enter the library. If you arrive late, find us in the library basement.*

**WEEK 14:**

**Tuesday, 11/26: Theatre Company Presentations**

- \*Submit your *Midsummer Night's Dream* Performance Critique to Blackboard

\*If applicable, submit your Theatre Company Presentation to Blackboard  
*In class: Theatre Company Presentations*

**Thursday, 11/28: no class [Thanksgiving]**

**WEEK 15:**

**Tuesday, 12/03: Theatre Company Presentations**

\*If applicable, submit your Theatre Company Presentation to Blackboard  
*In class: Theatre Company Presentations*

**Thursday, 12/05: Final Group Project Prep, Part 3**

\*Complete the Final Group Project quiz #3

**WEEK 16:**

**Tuesday, 12/10: Final Group Project Presentations**

\*If applicable, submit your Final Group Project Presentation to Blackboard  
*In class: Final Group Project Presentations*

**Thursday, 12/12: Final Group Project Presentations**

\*If applicable, submit your Final Group Project Presentation to Blackboard  
*In class: Final Group Project Presentations*

**Final Exam: Tuesday, 12/17**

\*~\*~\*

**Discount Theatre Ticket Resources:**

Broadway Direct Lottery: <https://lottery.broadwaydirect.com/>

Lucky Seat Lottery: <https://www.luckyseat.com/lottery.php>

“Broadway for Broke People”: [broadwayforbrokepeople.com](http://broadwayforbrokepeople.com)

Broadway Roulette: <https://www.broadwayroulette.com/>

Playbill: [playbill.com](http://playbill.com) (Menu: Tickets: for info on Broadway and Off-Broadway rush tickets and discounts)

Theatre Development Fund: [tdf.org](http://tdf.org) (has info on TDF membership and on TKTS ticket booths)

TodayTix: [todaytix.com](http://todaytix.com)

Broadway Box discounts: [broadwaybox.com](http://broadwaybox.com)

TheaterMania discounts: [theatermania.com](http://theatermania.com)

**A list of New York theatre companies for your Theatre Company Presentations:**

The Wooster Group	Atlantic Theater Company
The Civilians	Keen Company
Metropolitan Playhouse	Theatre for a New Audience
Repertorio Español	Irish Repertory Theatre
Primary Stages	LAByrinth Theatre
The New Group	Public Theater
SoHo Rep	Manhattan Theatre Club
Red Bull Theatre	Lincoln Center Theatre
Playwrights Horizons	Signature Theatre
New York Theatre Workshop	Roundabout Theatre Company
Cherry Lane Theatre	Noor Theatre
2nd Stage	Elevator Repair Service
Classic Stage Company	The Flea Theatre
New Federal Theatre	The New York Neo-Futurists
Pregones Theater/PRTT	Prospect Theater Company
Young Jean Lee’s Theatre Company	Third Rail Projects