

London Theatre

COM 259

INTERSESSION - JANUARY 2016

Department of Communication Arts

In this course on theatre production and theatre history, we will study and attend at least ten stage productions in London, the theatre capital of the world. These performances will form the core subjects of our readings, lectures, discussions, research, and writing. We will also situate our study of London theatre amid the rich currents of Britain's history and culture, aiming to learn London's centrality to modern intellectual life, the arts, politics, and the history of Western Europe.

Most days will begin with lecture, discussion, and student reports; in the afternoons and evenings, students will actually experience the subjects of those classroom activities whether through attending theatrical performances or touring historic sites, royal palaces, art galleries, government buildings, and churches. The cost of the trip provides round-trip air transportation (Pittsburgh/London/Pittsburgh), transfers to and from the hotel, hotel in London, breakfast every day, theatre tickets and twelve dinners, many tours of sites in London and its surroundings. Students may elect to attend additional performances and events, and, during two free days, may choose to visit other significant sites within the British Isles.

- * Students will have the intellectually transforming experience of international travel
- * Students will experience London, England, and its environs, arguably the world's greatest metropolis
- * Students will see the best-of-the-season dramatic productions in the world's theatre capital
- * Students will analyze drama both from text and production, teaching them to observe, think critically, and to make informed judgments about creative expression
- * There will be extensive daily touring of world class art and history museums as well as significant historical and architectural sites

Methods of Evaluation

- * Journal, with final essay questions
- * Paper and oral report
- * Quizzes
- * Engaged participation in all site visits, attentiveness at performances
- * Engaged participation in discussions

Additional materials to be supplied representing various critical approaches to drama.
Supplemental readings to be determined based on London theatre season.

Tentative dates:

Depart: January 7, 2016 Return: January 27, 2016

This is a HUMANITIES course

It will count as an elective for the Communication Arts Major/Minor

Cost\$

(Beyond tuition fees)

\$200 deposit - due to Business Office ASAP

Provide the notation(s): ***London Theatre 2016*** and/or ***AR50***

Trip cost is approximately \$4,300 - Billing letters will be sent by the Business Office

(The cost of the trip covers: round-trip air transportation (Pittsburgh/London/Pittsburgh), transfers to and from the hotel, hotel in London, breakfast every day, eleven theatre tickets and twelve dinners, many tours of sites in London and its surroundings.)

Plus – personal out-of-pocket expenses in London (anticipate \$ 400-\$600)

For: extra meals, extra shows, souvenirs, and *some* local transportation (trains/underground)

So... get your passports now!

Contact (ASAP):

Dan Shaw dshaw@washjeff.edu

Last year's LONDON THEATRE AND TOUR SCHEDULE

(Example Itinerary)

Full-course attended plays (additional shows/concerts are available)

Candide

One Man, 2 Guvnors

The 39 Steps

Mojo

Henry V

Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake

King Lear

Thebes

From Morn to Midnight

Fortune's Fool

The Weir

Full-course touring

Greenwich

The Wallace Collection

The Imperial War Museum

The Tate Britain

The Tate Modern

The Globe Theatre

Hampton Court

The Tower of London

Westminster Abbey

City of London Museum

Temple Church

The British Museum

The British Library

National Gallery

Thames River Boat Tour

National Portrait Gallery

Trafalgar Square

Victoria and Albert Museum