

Syllabus Spring 2013
California State University, Sacramento
Multicultural Puppetry, THEA 115A

Class Location: SHS 300 (The Puppet Lab)

Instructor: Art Grueneberger

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Office: SHS 262

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Objectives

Puppetry has been found to be an excellent tool for the teaching of multiculturalism to children. Students will learn basic techniques used in creating live puppet theatre so they can use puppetry to incorporate multiculturalism into the classroom. Students will learn how to construct and manipulate several styles of puppets and then use their puppet creations to perform multicultural/multilingual stories. Throughout the course we will focus on three primary elements of quality puppet theatre: Design, Story and Performance.

Students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to construct hand, rod, moving mouth and shadow puppets.
- Have a greater understanding of the importance of multiculturalism in the classroom.
- Gain an understanding of when and how puppets can best be utilized.
- Demonstrate the ability to exploit the limitations of different puppetry styles.
- Understand how limitation can encourage creativity.
- Experience the anonymity of performing with puppets and the freedom this brings.
- Increase their ability to evaluate puppet theatre critically.

Course Materials

Conventional class materials, including pen or pencil and paper.

1 pair of scissors for fabric

1 pair of scissors for paper

1 Xacto Knife and extra #11 blades

1 permanent ink fine point felt tipped pen

1 three ring binder

Empty Cereal Boxes

You may need to furnish some material such as fabric, feathers or fur if the puppet lab doesn't have what you like.

You are expected to bring supplies to every class. I suggest you mark them with your name.

The Hornet Book Store has decent scissors (they have both scissors for fabric and scissors for paper) at reasonable prices. They also carry Xacto knives and #11 blade refills.

You can also find scissors at Joann's Fabric, Michael's Crafts or Hancock's Fabrics.

Grading

Attendance/Participation/Preparation: (200 points)

This is a hands-on class and the expectation is for all students to arrive on time and stay for the complete class. Since we meet once a week missing once class is missing a week of classes. Your grade will be affected if you miss more than two classes even if all other assignments are completed in a satisfactory. Promptness is as important as regular class attendance. Active engagement in puppetry manipulation exercises, other in-class exercises and class discussions is expected and required. Preparation for class requires the completing all class requirements, fulfilling reading and viewing assignments and being engaged and ready to work. These factors will figure significantly into your final grade.

Paper on Multiculturalism (100 Points)

Students will write a 2-3 page paper on the arguments for and against multiculturalism in the classroom. See assignment sheet for details.

Puppet Construction (200 points, 50 points each)

Students will construct a hand puppet, a rod puppet, a moving mouth puppet and a set of shadow puppets. While most puppet building will take place in class some construction work outside of class may be required.

Four Performance Projects (200 points, 50 points each)

These projects will involve in-class performances of short scenes with hand, rod, moving mouth and shadow puppets. *Outside preparation and rehearsal are required.*

Group Presentations (100 points)

Each group will be responsible for creating a 5-7 minute presentation on the construction of simple puppets for use in a multicultural setting. See assignment sheet for details.

Reading/Viewing Quizzes (50 points)

From time to time I will give “pop quizzes” on the readings or viewings assigned on SacCT. You can expect these quizzes to be at the beginning of any class on the readings/viewings due for that class.

Puppet Resource Book (150 points)

Throughout the semester students will write and compile a resource book on the art, uses and techniques of puppetry. See assignment sheet for details.

End of Semester Performances (200 Points)

Students will use a variety of puppetry styles studied to create a performance based on a multicultural story. See assignment sheet for details.

Two Critique Paper/Performance Reviews: (100 points, 50 points each)

1. Students will attend a live puppet performance and write a two page reaction paper. See assignment sheet for details.
2. Students will attend either “Women of Juarez” (March 14-24) or “Cabaret” (April 10-21) and write a two page reaction paper. See assignment sheet for details.

Extra Credit (50 points maximum)

Extra credit opportunities will be discussed in class. Extra Credit is not a requirement for the course.

Grading Scale:

A	=	100 – 93%
A-	=	92.9 – 90%
B+	=	89.9 – 87%
B	=	86.9 – 83%
B-	=	82.9 – 80%
C+	=	79.9 – 77%
C	=	76.9 – 73%
C-	=	72.9 – 70%
D+	=	69.9 – 67%
D	=	66.9 – 63%
D-	=	62.9 – 60%
F	=	Below 60%

Cell Phones, Laptops and Tablets

Cell phones, laptops and tablets should be turned off during class. We will discuss exceptions to this rule. You will be asked to leave and lose credit for the day if you are using your cell phone during class. This includes texting.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability, and require accommodations, you will need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6965. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class, or during office hours as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

Any act of academic dishonesty including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own will be cause for serious consequences. Consequences may include a drop in grade, a grade of zero for an assignment, or dismissal from the class with loss of credit.

Please review the CSUS Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures:

<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm>

A Personal Note

In this very classroom, *exactly* twenty years ago, I was introduced to the art of puppetry. Professor Richard Bay's Puppetry Class was a life changing experience for me. It altered my path and brought me into a career that continues to be deeply fulfilling on many levels. I am thrilled by this opportunity to share my passion for puppetry. In the last twenty years I have built hundreds of puppets and performed in thousands of puppet shows, yet I consider myself a student of puppet theatre. I hope to always be a student, seeking out new techniques and honing skills already possessed. I hope to share my passion for this fascinating art form with you and look forward to exploring puppetry together.