

**HSS 404-054 - Theatre and Technology**  
**Tu/Th 4:00-5:20pm**  
**Kupfrian Hall, Rm 110**

**Prof. Emily Edwards**  
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**Office Hours: Mon/Thurs: 11:30a - 1:00p or by appt.**  
**Office: Kupfrian Hall (NJIT Campus), Rm. 113**

**Course Description**

This capstone seminar allows senior students the opportunity to examine and explore aspects of theatre during which students will be required to bring together interests and skills developed in previous courses and experiences. We will follow our theatrical productions from beginning to end: auditions, building and painting sets, working with costumes, and running the show. We will accomplish the above by observing rehearsals and keeping a journal of observations throughout the semester, learning about the different professions within theatre during class, watching a professional NYC production, making an oral presentation of your favorite artist, and researching a specific topic of theatre and adding to its Wikipedia article.

**Course Objective**

Students will leave the course with a clear understanding of how live theatre productions are created and the creativity required to do so. They will identify ways they can apply the learned skills to their own lives and professions.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the semester students will

- Develop an understanding about the specific elements required to produce live theater,
- Increase their knowledge of technical stagecraft through hands-on experience,
- Increase their understanding of the creative process in general,
- Learn the importance of communication and teamwork in a theatrical setting,
- Expand their knowledge in a specific area of the field,
- Learn how to research theatrical concepts and share those on Wikipedia,
- Cultivate their own creativeness.

**Prerequisites**

Senior standing.

## Class Policies

*Attendance:* Attendance is important for this course as most of the coursework will be discussions happening in class. Lateness and unexcused absences will be reflected in your grade. To get absences excused, a note is needed from the Dean of Students. If there are mitigating circumstances, contact me before the class you will miss. If you are running late, please email me to let me know. If you are feeling sick, please do not attend class in-person. Email me 2 hours before class for a zoom link, and you can attend remotely. You cannot attend remotely for any reason other than being sick.

*Consent and Respect:* I actively cultivate a room that is welcome for everyone and is grounded in consent. Consent may be given and revoked at any time. Disrespect towards your peers will not be tolerated. If a misstep or action has occurred that makes you feel unsafe or disrespected, please let me know and I will address it.

*Anti-Racism:* I acknowledge that racism is systemically a part of our culture and am doing my best to dismantle these practices where I find them. I welcome any and all feedback about ways I can be more effective in this process.

*Land Acknowledgment:* We acknowledge that NJIT and Rutgers University are located on stolen land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, specifically the Lenni-Lenape. While many Lenni-Lenape people were forcibly removed from their homelands, they are still an active part of New Jersey culture and society. To learn more about the Lenni-Lenape people, visit [nanticoke-lenape.info](http://nanticoke-lenape.info)

*Questions/Concerns:* If you have a question or concern you are not comfortable communicating to me directly, please use the “Anonymous Question Form” in Canvas and I will respond to question or concern at the next class for everyone.

*Late Assignments:* Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty. If you have a letter from Dean of Students, the penalty may be removed. If you have mitigating circumstances that keep you from completing an assignment, please reach out to talk to me about it.

*Honor Code:* “Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>. Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu)” **Using AI or ChatGPT on written assignments can and will be considered plagiarism.**

### **Costs**

- Ticket for *Amelie* (NJIT) (\$15)
- 1 ticket for an NYC production (~\$40)

If you have a cost barrier, let me know and I will do my best to accommodate you.

### **Assignments**

*Production Hours:* Over the course of the semester, you will log 5 hours helping the production team with building sets, lighting, props, costumes, etc. Some of these hours will be during class time. Some hours will be on your own time.

*Rehearsals:* You will need to attend at least 2 hours of tech for *Amelie* to observe the rehearsal process. Your observations will be entered into your journal.

*Art & Fear Essay:* You will write a 3-4 page paper about creativity in your own life, research a source of inspiration for you, and relate it to an excerpt from the book *Art & Fear*.

*Journal:* You will keep a journal of 1 entry a week which should total 13-18 pages by the end of the semester. This journal should include discoveries you have about theater through the in-class experiences, revelations about how the skills you have learned that relate to your major, as well as reactions to seeing 2 live performances.

*Wikipedia Project:* Over the course of the semester, you will find a Wikipedia article related to theater and make significant improvements to it by adding information, sources, an image, and removing any unneeded or inaccurate text.

### **Grading Breakdown**

Attendance/Participation - 30%  
Rehearsal/Production Hours - 15%  
*Art & Fear* Essay - 15%  
Journal - 20%  
Wikipedia Project - 20%

### **Grade Breakdown**

A : 90%<  
B+ : 88% - 89%  
B: 80% - 87%  
C+: 78% - 79%  
C: 70% - 77%  
D: 60% - 69%  
F: > 60%

## Schedule

*Syllabus subject to change.*

1/21 - Intro and Welcome

1/23 - The Basics of Theatre, Introduction to Wikipedia Project

1/28 - Intro to Tech Theatre, **Wikipedia Training Pt. 1 and Account Setup Due**

1/30 - Tech Elements - Sets

2/4 - Tech Elements - Costumes, **Wikipedia Training Pt. 2 Due**

2/6 - Tech Elements Sound

2/11 - Tech Elements - Props, **Wikipedia Training Pt. 3 Due**

*2/12 - Newark Playwrights Festival, Jim Wise Theatre. 7:30 pm. Free.*

2/13 - Group 1 - Production Lab, Group 2 - Tech Elements - Lights

2/18 - Group 1 - Tech Elements - Lights, Group 2 - Production Lab, **Wikipedia Article Choice Due**

2/20 - Tech Elements -Video/Projections, **Art & Fear Essay Due**

2/25 - Tech Elements - Stage Managers, **Wikipedia Training Pt. 4 Due**

2/27 - Tech Elements - Run Crew

3/4 - Creative Elements - Playwright, **Needs Assessment and Writing Plan Due**

3/6 - Creative Elements - Director

3/11 - Creative Elements - Actor, **Sources for Wikipedia Project Due**

3/13 - Creative Elements - Fight/Intimacy Director, **1st Half of Journals Due**

*3/17-3/21 - Spring Break*

3/25 - Creative Elements - Composer, **Wikipedia Training Pt. 5 Due**

3/27 - Creative Elements - Choreographer

4/1 - Creative Elements - Dramaturg, **Wikipedia Peer Review Due**

4/3 - NO CLASS

4/8 - Creative Elements - Graphic Designer

4/10 - Admin Elements - Marketing, **Wikipedia Training Pt. 6 Due**

*4/10-4/12 - Amelie, Jim Wise Theatre - \$15*

4/15 - *Amelie* Post-Mortem

4/17 - Admin Elements - Producing/Budgeting

4/22 - Admin Elements - Development - Grant-writing

4/24 - Admin Elements - Development - Individuals

4/29 - Admin Elements - Front of House

4/25 - Admin Elements - Artistic and Executive Directors

5/1 - Wikipedia Presentations, Part 1, **Final Wikipedia Project Due**

5/6 - Wikipedia Presentations Part 2, Wrap-Up

5/8 - **2nd Half of Journals Due** (NO CLASS)

5/14 - **LAST DAY FOR ALL LATE WORK TO BE SUBMITTED**