

Artaud Seminar

Description: This course will examine the work of one of the most influential figures in modern theater, Antonin Artaud. We will look at Artaud through several different critical lenses: as a writer, theater practitioner, influential theater theorist, and subject and site of psychoanalytic and social criticism. This course will strengthen different critical muscles--close reading, historical, and theoretical--as well as deepen your understanding of the work of Artaud.

Schedule:

Establishing the Terms/The Fight Against Form

Sept. 29 Monday

Background and cultural context

Read in class: Artaud, "The Department Store Poison" (SW)

October 1 Wednesday

Due: 1-2pp response to reading

Read: Artaud, "Correspondence with Jacques Rivière" (SW)

October 6 Monday

Re-read: Artaud, "Correspondence with Jacques Rivière"; also "Five Early Poems" (SW)

Read: Blanchot, "Artaud" (handout)

October 8 Wednesday

Due: 1-page essay

Read: Artaud, "The Umbilicus of Limbo," "The Nerve Meter," "Fragments of a Diary from Hell" (SW)

Artist of his Times

October 13 Monday

Due: See a Surrealist movie (list provided); 1-paragraph response

Read: Artaud, *Jet of Blood*, *Eighteen Seconds*, *On The Seashell and the Clergyman* (SW);
The Seashell and the Clergyman (handout)

October 15 Wednesday

Read: Artaud, essays on cinema (SW 172-173, 181-185); *Two Nations on the Borders of Mongolia*, *Thirty-Two*, *The Butcher's Revolt* (handout)

See: *The Seashell and the Clergyman*

Artaud as Theater Practitioner

October 20 Monday

Due: 1-page essay

Read: Artaud, "On the Alfred Jarry Theater," letters from 1921-23, "The Evolution of Décor,"
"Strindberg's Dream Play" (SW)

October 22 Wednesday

Read: Artaud, "Production Plan for Strindberg's Ghost Sonata," "The Philosopher's Stone,"
"There is No More Firmament," "Suggested Act in Street" (handout)

October 27 Monday

Due: project proposal

Read: Jannarone, "Artaud Directs" (handout)

October 29 Wednesday

Performance Projects/Production Plans

Artaud as Theorist

November 3 Monday

Due: 1-page essay

Read: from *The Theater and Its Double*: preface, I, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X (third letter only), XI

November 5 Wednesday

Read: from *The Theater and Its Double*: II, III, IV, V, X (first, second, and fourth letters), XII

See: Balinese theater video

Artaud and His Influence

November 10 Monday

Due: 1-page essay

Read: Peter Brook, from *The Empty Space* (handout)

Grotowski, from *Towards a Poor Theater* (handout)

See: *Akropolis*, Grotowski exercises

November 12 Wednesday

Read: Julian Beck and Judith Malina, notes toward *Paradise Now!* (handout); Richard Schechner on ritual (handout)

See: *Paradise Now!*

November 17 Monday

Read: Happenings and Fluxus (handouts and online)

Do: neo-avant-garde exercises

November 19 Wednesday

Read: from Performance Art (handout)

See: Diamanda Galas, Laurie Anderson

November 24 Monday

Due: annotated bibliography

Read: "The Trip to Mexico," *Voyage to the Land of the Tarahumaras* (SW)

November 26 Wednesday

Read: Jannarone, "Invocation of the Plague" (handout) or TBA

Artaud as Case Study

December 1 Monday

Due: 1-page essay

Read: Artaud, *Van Gogh, the Man Suicided by Society* (SW)

December 3 Wednesday

Read: Artaud, from "Artaud le Môme," "Here Lies," "To Have Done With the Judgment of God" (SW)

Read in class: Breton, Lotringer on Artaud (R)

See: *My Life and Times with Antonin Artaud*

Final Exam Period December 8-11, Monday-ThursdayRequired Texts (available at Bay Tree; also on reserve at McHenry)

Selected Works of Antonin Artaud, trans. Helen Weaver, ed. Susan Sontag (SW)

The Theater and Its Double, trans. Mary Caroline Richards

Course Reader (R)

Assignments/Grading

Attendance and participation	25%
Performance Project/Production Plan	25%
Weekly 1-2pp essays (7)	25%
1 10-12pp paper and annotated bibliography	25%

* Attendance is mandatory.

* Late papers accepted *only* on the very next class period, for a grade off.

* I'm happy to look over drafts of all papers and projects.

Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person outside of class within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact DRC at 459-2089 (voice); 459-4806 (TTY); drc@cats.ucsc.edu; or <http://drc.ucsc.edu/> for more information on the requirements and/or process.

Academic Integrity

The official UCSC policy governing Academic Integrity is available at http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/. Suspected cases of plagiarism or other cheating will be handled strictly according to those policies. If you have any questions about what exactly constitutes plagiarism, please talk to me. I do not accept papers that have been submitted to other classes.