

**THA 215: THEATRE FOR DEVELOPMENT (2 UNITS C: LH 15; PH 15)**

**Department of Performing Arts  
Faculty of Arts  
University of Delta, Agbor, Nigeria**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Chijioke Yankson Iyamah

**Technologist:** Mr. O. H. Eze.

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**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-2.00pm

The alternative ways to reach me includes email, WhatsApp or telegram. However, there is no substitute to face-to-face communication which often leads to more refined and focused discussions resulting to your improved understanding.

**Meeting Time and Place:** Wednesday 8-9am

Friday 8-9am

**Attendance**

You are expected to attend every class and rehearsals. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to make up for the work you have missed. If you are going to be absent, you must notify the instructor in advance.

**Method of Instruction**

The syllabus contains an overview of what will be covered in the class. Due to the practical nature of the course, the face-to-face method will be adopt for instruction and rehearsals. Teaching will involve classroom interactions and mainly the guidance of students in the execution of Theatre for Development projects.

**Overview**

A practical course involving Students and a chosen community where theatre is applied to the developmental needs of the people through total participation and agitprop delivery methods.

**Objectives**

The application of theories and methodologies taught in THA 212 to the practical community project in a site to be selected by the Department. Students are engage in about three weeks of sensitising, conscientizing and mobilising the target community in solving their peculiar problems. This will be carried out through drama skit formation, rehearsal, performance and discussion, with a follow-up evaluation.

## **Learning Outcomes**

The course enables the students to:

1. display the ability for community theatre engagement;
2. identify the different forms of community theatre methods;
3. appreciate effective communication with members of any host community;
4. conduct ethnographic research;
5. transcribe and transform recorded performances into play scripts, and
6. manage feedback.

## **Course Contents**

Understanding the Theatre and its Functions. What is a Community?. Types of Community. Defining Community Theatre. Difference between Community Theatre and Professional Theatre. The History Theory and Practice of community theatre or theatre for development across Africa. Concepts of Theatre. Aristotle's Concept of Theatre. Brecht's Concept of Theatre. Augusto Boal Concept of Theatre. Community Theatre and Community Theatre Development. The participatory methods of community theatre. Themes in Community Theatre Project. The implementation of community theatre in communities within and outside the university campus. Challenges facing Facilitators on a Community Theatre Project. Community Theatre Methodology (Lecture, Discussion, Play making, Dramatization). Village appraisal/researching the community. Scenario building. Rehearsals. Play presentation, documentation for scripting, post-performance analysis and feedback. Process of Embarking on a Community Theatre Project. Aims and Objectives of the Project

## **Lecture Schedule**

### **Week 1-**

- i. Understanding the Theatre and its Functions
- ii. What is a Community?
- iii. Types of Community
- iv. Defining Community Theatre?
- v. Difference between Community Theatre and Professional Theatre

### **Week 2**

The History Theory and Practice of community theatre or theatre for development across Africa.

### **Week 3-**

- i. Concepts of Theatre
- ii. Aristotle's Concept of Theatre
- iii. Brecht's Concept of Theatre
- iv. Augusto Boal Concept of Theatre
- v. Community Theatre and Community Theatre Development

### **Week 4**

- i. The participatory methods of community theatre.
- ii. Themes in Community Theatre Project
- iii. The implementation of community theatre in communities within and outside the university campus.
- iv. Challenges facing Facilitators on a Community Theatre Project

## **Week 5-**

- i. Community Theatre Methodology
  - Lecture
  - Discussion
  - Play making.
  - Dramatization
- ii. Village appraisal/researching the community.
- iii. Scenario building, rehearsals.
- iv. Play presentation, documentation for scripting, post-performance analysis and feedback

## **Week 6**

- i. Process of Embarking on a Community Theatre Project
- ii. Aims and Objectives of the Project

**Week 7** Playmaking/Rehearsals

**Week 8** Playmaking/Rehearsals

**Week 9** Playmaking/Rehearsals

**Week 10** Community theatre Project

**Week 11** Community Theatre Project

**Week 12** Follow-up/Feedback

**Week 13** Follow-up/Feedback

**Week 14-** Revision/Post-mortem

**Week 15-** Examination

## **Examination Schedule**

- Attendance
- Homework
- Class Test
- Practical Exercise
- End of Semester Exam

## **Indicative Key Learning Resources**

### **Core reading list**

“Product or Process: Theatre-for-Development in Africa” by Osita Okagbue

*African Theatre for Development: Art for Self-Development* edited by Kamal Salhi

“Theatre for Development as an Informal Method” by Abah, Ogah Steve (1996a)

*Performing Life: Case Studies in Theatre for Development* by Steve Ogah:

*The Theatre of the Oppressed* by Augusto Boal

*Theatre for Development: A Guide to Training* by Bryam M. L.

### **Supplementary reading**

*Applied theatre: Problems and possibilities.* by Ackyrod J.

*Drama as social intervention* edited by Balfour, M. & Somers, J.

### **Deliverables - Important dates**

Ensure that you make a careful note of when the assessment tasks are due in for this course. Try not to leave working on these tasks until the last minute – this is stressful for you and tends to lead to poor quality work. Remember that you have several assessments (for different courses) due the same week and you will need to plan for this.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>Feedback &amp; Result</b>
Mid semester exam- To be held at the regular class time and place	Lecture session 7	14 days after the assessment
Coursework	Lecture session 9	14 days after the assessment
Semester Exam	Session 14	14 days after the assessment

### **Primary Texts:**

“Product or Process: Theatre-for-Development in Africa” by Osita Okagbue

*African Theatre for Development: Art for Self-Development* edited by Kamal Salhi

“Theatre for Development as an Informal Method” by Abah, Ogah Steve (1996a)

*Performing Life: Case Studies in Theatre for Development* by Steve Ogah:

*The Theatre of the Oppressed* by Augusto Boal

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### **Secondary Reading:**

*Applied theatre: Problems and possibilities.* by Ackyrod J.

*Drama as social intervention* edited by Balfour, M. & Somers, J.

### **Further Reading**

Asante, E. and Yirenkyi, S.M. (2018), “Engaging communities for development action: The theatre for development (TfD) approach”, *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*, Vol. 7 No. 2, pp.589-603

Nwamou, Chris. (1996) *Perspectives on Community Theatre*. Calabar: ap publications.

Olalekan, Ganiyu. A., Jimi Kayode, and Shaibu Husseini. (2010) "Theatre and Development: Opportunities and Challenges in a Developing World". *Kamal-Raj J Communications* 1(2): 107-122.

Umukoro, M. O. (2008). *Issues in Community Theatre*. Ughelli: Eregha Publishers

*Also consult the internet for more online materials on community theatre.*

**Method of Assessment:**

- A. 30% CA
- B. Written Exam 30%
- C. Community theatre project 40%

**Project composition**

- Group Leader
- Artistic Director
- Financial Sec/ Treasurer

**Sub Units**

- Research/Investigation
- Publicity
- Scripting/Report Writing
- Welfare