

**DRM 321: Readers Theatre**  
**Spring 2017 Syllabus**  
**A228 TTh @ 9:30-10:50am**

- I. DRM 321: Readers Theatre – Spring 2017 – 3 credit hours
- II. Dr. Amanda Dawson – Office A226  
Office Hours: Monday @ 11:00am-2:00pm; Tuesday @ 11:00am-12:30pm;  
Wednesday @ 11:00-am-2:00pm; Thursday @ 11:00am-12:30pm; or by  
appointment
- III. Prerequisite: Junior/senior status or permission of  
instructor.
- IV. Required Texts/Materials: *All I Really Need to Know I  
Learned in Kindergarten* Conceived and adapted by Ernest  
Zulia and other materials provided by instructor in class or  
via Moodle.
- V. Course Description: A course designed to introduce students to the basic  
tenets of performance studies through an investigation of Readers Theatre, its  
roots in the oral tradition and its evolution into a modern discipline. Students  
will participate in the creation, selection, adaption, and stage of literature in  
performance.
- VI. Principal Instruction Techniques: Instruction techniques will include a  
combination of lecture, in-class and homework readings, text performances,  
student-devised performances, and watching/critiquing performances.
- VII. Course Requirements:
  - a. **Attendance/Tardiness:** This course depends on your presence – as a  
contributor, participant, etc. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. After  
3 absences your grade will drop 5% (half of a letter grade) and will  
continue to drop every absence beyond that. For example, if you miss 5  
classes the highest potential final grade would be a B; if you miss 7 classes  
the highest potential final grade would be a C. Absences will *also* affect  
your participation grade negatively. Showing up more than 15 minutes late  
counts as an absence (as well as leaving excessively early). Frequent  
tardiness (3+ times) will be counted as an absence. Excused absences  
ONLY include: academic, athletic, and health (with doctor's note)  
absences. All other absences will count towards your 3 absences. If you  
are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. If I assign  
something on a Tuesday that is due on Thursday and you are absent on  
Tuesday, you must contact me in order to complete the assignment for  
Thursday.



- b. **Snow Days:** If there is a snow day, the materials due on the snow day AND the next day are still due. For example, if an assignment is due on Tuesday and there is a snow day the assignment will be due on Thursday, along with whatever might be due on Thursday.
- c. **Missed Performances:** The performances are the majority of your grade in this course. If you have to miss a performance, you will be allowed to make up 1 (and only 1) performance – with the exception of the public performances (those cannot be made up for any reason). To make up a performance, you will have to perform in class and submit additional paperwork (depending on the assignment). The grade on the late performance will be reduced by 25%, meaning the highest potential grade for the make-up performance is a 75%. You will not be allowed to make up more than 1 performance. Any additional missed performances are an automatic zero.
- d. **Late Work:** Late work is allowed for a deduction of points. 10% is taken off the total point value for everyday that an assignment is turned in late. If you do not have the assignment the MOMENT it is due, then it is automatically late. For example, if a paper is due at 9:30am on Tuesday and you turn it in at 10:00am (b/c you are late to class or b/c you still needed to answer one question, etc.) it will be considered late and you will lose 10%. If you turn an assignment in late at any point on the day that it is due you will lose 10%. You will lose an additional 10% each day that an assignment is not turned in. For example, if I collect your paper on at 9:30am on Tuesday and you turn it in on Thursday you will lose 30% (Tuesday - 10%, Wednesday - 20%, Thursday, -30%...and so on).

VIII. Methods of Evaluation:

- a. **Grading Scale:** A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59% (Note: I do NOT give + or – on the end of semester final grade.)
- b. **Grading:**
  - i. Participation: You can earn 3 points per day for participation. The participation grade will include daily attendance, daily participation in activities and discussions, being a good audience member, and providing feedback to classmates, etc.
  - ii. Rehearsal: Rehearsal days are similar to participation, but you can earn 5 points per day for participating in rehearsals for performances. Sleeping, messing with phones, chatting with classmates, etc. can and will effect your rehearsal grade negatively.
  - iii. Homework/In-Class Activities: There will be various additional homework (i.e. short writings, character homework, etc.) and in-class activities (i.e. warm-ups, improv, etc.) throughout the course. Point-value will vary.
  - iv. Public Performances (x2): You will have 2 public performances. These will serve as your midterm and final grades. These performances CANNOT be missed or made-up. It is your

responsibility to work around your family obligations, your job, or other commitments you might have.

- v. Performances (Personal Narrative, Poetry, Prose): You will have 3 smaller performances throughout the semester. Point-value will vary.
  - vi. Extra Credit: Extra Credit will not be given in this class, with the exception of attending particular performances that may arise.
- IX. **Disability Resources**: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a documented disability and need accommodations to participate fully in this course, please contact Mr. Dwight Ottman (Office 411 on the fourth floor of the Science Building). All academic accommodations must be approved in advance through his office. Please drop by or call 270-686-4281 to make an appointment, or contact him by email at [dwight.ottman@brescia.edu](mailto:dwight.ottman@brescia.edu).
- X. **Academic Integrity**: Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and the infraction will be reported to the Academic Dean. Repeated violations can result in probation or even suspension.
- XI. **Other Class Policies**:
- a. **Communication**: If you have any concerns or questions about the class or assignments, feel free to email me or talk to me during class or office hours. I will do my best to respond to your emails in a timely fashion. Please keep in mind that it may take up to 48 hours for me to respond to your email. Grades will not be discussed via email. Course emails will only be sent to your BU email address. It is your responsibility to check your BU email DAILY. If I need to clarify an assignment or cancel a class, etc., this will take place via BU email.
  - b. **Technology**: Laptops, tablets, or cell phones are NOT allowed in class. To be an active participant in the class I need your full, undivided attention and technology is far too tempting of a distraction. You will need a notebook for any in-class notes. If I have to ask you to put your phone away while in class, you forfeit your participation points for that day.
  - c. **Moodle**: As a courtesy to you, I will utilize Moodle. All documents, assignments, and announcements will be posted via Moodle; very few assignments will be distributed in class. There is no reason to not know about class assignments, due dates, or expectations. Your grades will be confidentially updated and posted on this site and I highly recommend checking your grades consistently. If you have a question or concern about a grade or your overall grade it is your responsibility to address it with me

as soon as possible. Please notify me if there are any grades or documents you cannot find on Moodle.

## XII. Class Schedule

Week 1 (January 10, 12): Intro to Course; Syllabus; What is Readers Theatre?  
 Week 2 (January 17, 19): Storytelling  
 Week 3 (January 24, 26): Personal Narrative; NO CLASS (1/26)  
 Week 4 (January 31, February 2): *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*  
 Week 5 (February 7, 9): Rehearse  
 Week 6 (February 14, 16): Rehearse; MIDTERM  
 Week 7 (February 21, 23): Rehearse; Perform; **1<sup>st</sup> Public Performance (2/21 @ evening)**  
 Week 8 (February 28, March 2): Poetry  
 Spring Break (March 6-10)  
 Week 9 (March 14, 16): Poetry  
 Week 10 (March 21, 23): Prose  
 Week 11 (March 28, 30): Prose  
 Week 12 (April 4, 6): Devised Theatre  
 Week 13 (April 11, 13): Rehearse; NO CLASS (4/13)  
 Week 14 (April 18, 20): Rehearse  
 Week 15 (April 25, 27): Rehearse  
 May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:05am-12:00pm: Final; **2<sup>nd</sup> Public Performance (5/2 @ evening)**

## XIII. Outcomes Assessment

<b><u>OUTCOME</u></b>	<b><u>ASSIGNMENT</u></b>
<b>Brescia University Education Outcomes (BUEO)</b>	<b>Measuring Competency in Meeting Outcomes</b>
<u>BUEO #1</u> : Graduates will demonstrate the ability to think critically, analyze information, and communicate effectively.	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M, A)
<u>BUEO #2</u> : Graduates will attain competence in and apply a field of study in readiness for graduate school or a career in an appropriate field.	Rehearsal; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R)
<u>BUEO #3</u> : Graduates will possess the capacity to adapt to diverse environments.	Rehearsal; Public Performances (R, M)
<u>BUEO #4</u> : Graduates will understand and apply ethical standards in promoting justice and service to others.	Rehearsal; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M)
<b>Student Learning Outcomes for Major/Minor (SLO)</b>	<b><u>ASSIGNMENT</u></b> <b>Measuring Competency in Meeting Outcome</b>
<u>SLO #1</u> : Students will be able to integrate and apply their oral communication and	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R,

performance skills (writing, speaking, performing) in the theatre or other occupations.	M)
<u>SLO #2</u> : Students will be able to recognize and employ the power of theatre and public speaking for social change through articulation and demonstration of personal and social responsibility as a citizen.	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M, A)
<u>SLO #3</u> : Students will be able to recognize and appreciate the relationship between performative texts (speeches, plays, musicals) and its historical importance and contemporary relevance, and develop their own interpretation.	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M)
<u>SLO #4</u> : Students will be able to demonstrate via coursework and extra-curricular activities the ability to and importance of collaboration.	Rehearsal; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M)
<b>General Education Outcomes (GERO)</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT Measuring Competency in Meeting Outcome</b>
<u>GERO #1</u> : Students will read perceptively, write clearly and analytically, and speak effectively.	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M, A)
<u>GERO #2</u> : Students will think critically.	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M)
<u>GERO #3</u> : Students will synthesize and process information using traditional and technological tools.	Rehearsal; Homework (R)
<u>GERO #4</u> : Students will develop their knowledge of theology and philosophy, harmonizing that knowledge with other disciplines.	NA
<u>GERO #5</u> : Students will recognize and analyze the impact of fine art, literature, and language on culture, civilization, and the individual.	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M)
<u>GERO #6</u> : Students will analyze the impact of the events, theories, and traditions that shape human behavior and societies of the world.	Rehearsal; Homework; Public Performances; In-Class Performances (R, M)
<u>GERO #7</u> : Students will apply the central concepts of mathematics and methods of natural science to the solutions of real-world problems.	NA

