

SENIOR SEMINAR

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students complete a senior project (approved by the faculty) that demonstrates their ability to study and present a dramatic text for production as directors, designers or actors. In addition students will complete written portfolios, journals, analyzes and evaluations of their production work, plus a comprehensive reflective paper that places the undergraduate degree in theatre within the larger context of the liberal arts college experience. *This course fulfills the Core 10 requirement.*

II. REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Oliver Hailey, *Who's Happy Now?*
2. Your LS Writing portfolio.
3. Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave" from *The Republic*
4. Cardinal Newman, selections from *The Idea of a University*
5. Blythe Clinchy, "On Critical Thinking and Connected Knowing"
6. Freis and Ward, "Two Convocation Addresses"

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to help you reflect on your education at Millsaps College and will ask you to integrate the work you have done in the major, the core curriculum and your electives and other majors and minors. We will revisit some of the documents studied in LS1000, will add some others, and will look at how theatre has defined itself as part of the liberal arts tradition.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course will meet twice a week for a semester. During the first weeks we will discuss the assigned texts for that week. A response paper, usually no more than one or two typed pages, will be required for each of these readings and will serve as the starting point of our discussions. These response papers should also provide you with materials for your Core 10 paper, if you write them with some care. After the first few weeks you will begin working individually with me on your Core 10 paper. Although the Core 10 paper will be read by all the faculty in the department before you begin your comprehensive examinations, I hope that it will primarily be a paper that will be of great personal significance to you. You should also note that The Frank and Rachel Ann Laney Award is a monetary award for the best Core 10 paper written by a graduating senior, with additional papers selected for publication. Two copies of the reflective paper are required.

Additionally, after these first few weeks we will begin to review for your oral and written comprehensives with the students taking the lead in bringing questions to the seminar for clarification and discussion on Theatre Production and Theatre Literature & History.

It is hoped that the student will have already completed his/her Senior project which is considered part of this course as well. Your experiences during your Senior project and your written work for that project should provide a wealth of material for you to discuss in your Core 10 reflective paper.

Your written work for the Senior Project includes a minimum of the following work:

- 1) Research on your topic/play.
- 2) A journal kept during the process before, during and post production. Your journal should explain how your research impacts on your performance/design choices — it is not a diary or merely a place for you to vent.
- 3) The project itself with all of the required material that would accompany your assignment: e.g. Acting/Directing — scene/character analysis, verb choices and other materials; Design — analysis, floor plans, working drawings and color model/renderings as required by the director and TD as well as supervision of the construction/assembly of the finished product.
- 4) An evaluation of your work and of the project.

V. ASSIGNMENTS:

Week One:	Card and response paper to <i>Who's Happy Now?</i> by Oliver Hailey and LS portfolio assessment.
Week Two:	Response paper to Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave"
Week Three:	Response paper to Cardinal Newman, <i>The Idea of University</i>
Week Four:	Response to Clinchy, "On Critical Thinking and Connected Knowing"
Week Five:	Response paper to Freis and Ward, "Two Convocation Addresses"
Spring - Pre-break	First Draft: Core 10 paper Relate your work as a theatre major to your goal of becoming a liberally educated person. Reflect on the intellectual journey of your undergraduate career, on what you have learned. Make references to specific courses, texts and experiences. In particular, you should explore how the courses in your major related (or should have related) to each other and to the work you have done elsewhere in the college. You may find it profitable to enter into dialogue with some of the materials we have read about the purpose and value of the liberal arts. Your final draft will be evaluated on the depth of your analysis and the specificity of your references to ideas, texts, classes and experiences as well as on the clarity, expressiveness and organization of your prose. The final draft should be about 4-5 pages. The Frank and Rachel Ann Laney Award will not accept papers over 8 pages in length.
Spring - April 01	Final Draft Due Since the Theatre Department faculty (as well as Dr. Coker) will be reading these papers before the comprehensives begin, this date is a serious one.

Frank and Rachel Anne Laney Award

The Frank and Rachel Anne Laney Award will be given each spring for the best reflective paper written to satisfy the Core 10 requirement during the academic year. The Award is intended to encourage students to reflect on the value of their education in the liberal arts.

The Laney Award will be presented at Commencement and will carry a substantial cash prize. Submitted papers will be reviewed by a faculty panel to determine the best paper. The best paper along with other selected papers from those submitted will be published annually. These papers will be given to every incoming freshman the following fall, and the best paper (and perhaps other selections) will be required reading.

Deadline: Any student writing a Core 10 Reflective paper during the Spring 2004 semester may submit his or her paper to Janice Jordan in the Core Office by Friday, April 23, 2004 in order to be considered for this award.

Length: The usual expectation is that Core 10 papers will be from 4-5 pages. For the purposes of this award, papers may not exceed 8 typed, double-spaced pages.

Judging: Papers will be reviewed anonymously by a committee of four faculty members, including the Writing Director (who will chair the committee) and one faculty member from each division of the College (appointed by the Dean of the College).

Disposition of Papers: In addition to the winning paper, the top ten or twelve papers will be printed and collected each year for the next freshman class to read. The papers will also be published on the College Web site so that everyone has access to them.

Criteria: In judging papers, the committee will consider the quality of thought and expression, as well as the writer's ability to relate the Core experience to the major and to the wider context of the liberal arts.

Format: All papers must be neatly typed (word-processed) on standard white paper with a cover sheet including the student's name and the title of the paper. The student's name should appear nowhere else in the manuscript. Please forward papers to the Core Office, Box 150175. [In the Core office the cover sheet will be detached and each paper will be assigned a number for the purposes of anonymity.]