



Boston University Study Abroad London

Boston University Study Abroad London Theatre Studies Internship Seminar (CFA TH 543/ CFA TH 544) Spring 2016

Instructor Information

A. Name	Dr Aleks Sierz
B. Days and Times	1 st Seminar: Monday 15 February, 12noon-1.00pm (after exam) 2 nd Seminar: Thursday 10 March, 9.30am -11.00am 3 rd Seminar: Thursday 7 April, 9.30am-11.00am
C. Location	Alexander Room, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
D. BU Telephone	020 7244 6255
E. Email	sierz@btinternet.com
F. Office hours	By appointment

Aims and Objectives

The London internship is an academic course. In addition to performing a role in a British organisation related to the London theatre scene, students must meet a number of academic requirements so as to successfully complete the internship. During the internship, students have to attend three mandatory seminar meetings and produce academic work which will account for all of their final grade.

The objective will be to relate the experience of the internship to the Core Class CFA TH440 *Experiencing London Theatre in the Postwar World*. In other words, to show knowledge of the overall picture of contemporary British theatre in London; to understand a broad range of the major developments in British drama over the past 70 years; to relate drama to changes in British society; to examine the work of specific writers and directors in detail; to stimulate critical analysis through written work and discussion; to understand the role of the Arts Council and state subsidy of the performing arts. The ultimate aim is to demonstrate an awareness of British theatre, and an insight into how it is organised and why it has developed in its present form.

Assignments

Attendance and participation in seminars (10% of final grade)

Assignment 1 (30% of final grade)

An Introduction to the company or organization, setting it within the context of London theatre today. (1000-1500 words.)

Deadline: **Thursday 10 March 2016, hand in during seminar**

Assignment 2 (40% of final grade)

An Academic paper, which could be based on a project or piece of work created during the internship or which could take the form of a research paper on London theatre. (1500-2000 words.) Students have to have their research paper agreed with me at the 3rd Seminar.

Deadline: **Monday 18 April 2016, by 5.00pm to the Student Affairs Office**

Assignment 3 (20% of the final grade)

An Analysis of professional and career goals at the organization at which the student has interned. (1000–1500 words.)

Deadline: **Monday 18 April 2016, by 5pm to the Student Affairs Office**

Attendance Policy

Classes

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, seminar, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme. This may result in the student having to take a medical leave of absence from the programme or withdraw from the programme.

Authorised Absence:

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness for more than one day. In this situation students should submit the Authorised Absence Approval Form with the required doctor's note as soon as possible). **Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorised absence**

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness (first day of sickness): If a student is too ill to attend class, the student must phone the BU London Student Affairs Office (who will in turn contact the student's lecturer).
- Illness (multiple days): If a student is missing more than one class day due to illness, the student must call into to the BU London Student Affairs Office each day the student is ill. Students must also provide the Student Affairs office with a completed Authorised Absence Approval Form and sick note from a local doctor excusing their absence from class.
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

Unauthorised Absence:

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a **4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a 'Fail' in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism: <http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

* *Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

Readings

Some readings may be posted on the course webpage: <http://learn.bu.edu>

In both the seminars and the assessment, students are encouraged to make connections between their internships and what they have learnt in their core and elective courses in London.

Bibliography

Main textbooks: Dominic Shellard, *British Theatre Since the War*, Yale University Press (1999), Richard Eyre and Nicholas Wright, *Changing Stages*, Bloomsbury (2000) and Michael Billington, *State of the Nation*, Faber (2007).

Suggested additional readings:

Barbara Baker, *Backstage Stories*, Continuum (2007)

Peter Billingham, *At the Sharp End: Five Leading Dramatists*, Methuen (2007)

Michael Billington, *One Night Stands*, Nick Hern Books (1993)

Peter Brook, *The Empty Space*, Penguin (1968, frequently reprinted)

Peter Brook, *Threads of Time: A Memoir*, Methuen (1998)

Simon Callow, *Being an Actor*, Penguin (1995)

Dominic Dromgoole, *The Full Room: An A-Z of Contemporary Playwriting*, Methuen (2002)

Dominic Dromgoole, *Will and Me: How Shakespeare Took Over My Life*, Penguin (2007)

David Edgar, *State of Play: Playwrights on Playwriting*, Faber (1999)

David Edgar, *How Plays Work*, Nick Hern (2008)

William A Everett, *The Cambridge Companion to the Musical*, CUP (2002)

Richard Eyre, *Talking Theatre: Interviews with Theatre People*, Nick Hern (2011)

Richard Fawkes, *The History of the Musical* (CD) Naxos Audiobooks (2001)

Jim Fowler, *Unleashing Britain: Theatre Gets Real 1955-64*, V&A (2005)

Michael Kustow, *Theatre@Risk*, Methuen (2000)

David Lane, *Contemporary British Drama*, Edinburgh University Press (2010)

Robert Leach, *Makers of Modern Theatre: An Introduction*, Routledge (2004)

Peter Rankin, *Joan Littlewood: Dreams and Realities*, Oberon (2014)

Dan Rebellato, *Modern British Playwriting 2000-2009*, Methuen (2013)

Daniel Rosenthal, *The National Theatre Story*, Oberon (2013)

Graham Saunders, *'Love Me or Kill Me': Sarah Kane and the Theatre of Extremes*, Manchester University Press (2002)

Scales, Prunella and Timothy West, *So You Want To Be An Actor?* Nick Hern Books (2005)

Dominic Shellard, *Kenneth Tynan: A Life*, Yale University Press (2003)

Simon Shepherd, *The Cambridge Introduction to Modern British Theatre*, CUP (2009)

Aleks Sierz, *In-Yer-Face Theatre: British Drama Today*, Faber (2001)

Aleks Sierz, *John Osborne's Look Back in Anger*, Continuum (2008)

Aleks Sierz, *Rewriting the Nation: British Theatre Today*, Methuen (2011)

Kenneth Tynan, *Theatre Writings*, Nick Hern (2007)

Stephen Unwin, *So You Want To Be a Theatre Director?*, Nick Hern (2004)

Micheline Wandor, *Postwar British Drama: Looking Back in Gender*, Routledge (2001)

Irving Wardle, *Theatre Criticism*, Routledge (1992)

Steve Waters, *The Secret Life of Plays*, Nick Hern (2010)

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Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness, supported by a local London doctor's note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

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