

**UCNYC — 2017
Student Handbook**

TDHT 190: The New York Theater and Dance Scene
A UCSD Summer Session and
Department of Theatre and Dance
Domestic Travel Course



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Welcome to the UCNYP program! What you are now reading is a Student Handbook designed to answer some of your questions about the course, what we will be doing, how to navigate the city like a New Yorker, what you should bring, and what my expectations will be as a professor.

1. ABOUT THE COURSE

COURSE OUTLINE

Arts and culture in New York is without peer. UCNYP is a program of courses designed to provide students with a comprehensive experience of the best that New York has to offer in terms of arts, culture, and history.

The Foundational Course

TDHT190 The New York Theater and Dance Scene

In this class, students will not only study the history of New York as a performing arts cultural capital, but will also have the opportunity to experience it first-hand. In addition to reading dramatic literature and studying important choreographers, each week students will attend live performances and meet with major players in the New York Theater and Dance world. The program includes tickets to performances and accommodations in the heart of the city.

Activities include:

- Great performances in theater, dance, music, and more
- Illuminating lectures and seminar discussions with UC professors and guest speakers
- The opportunity to meet taste-makers: actors, directors, producers, designers, scholars, and critics
- Private tours through iconic museums and important cultural neighborhoods
- Backstage access to institutions where you can learn how productions go from vision to reality.

The goals of the course are:

- To teach students about current aesthetics in the performing arts, as well as the history of New York as a cultural capital
- To provide an immersive experiential approach to learning that is not possible in the classroom
- To help students become comfortable navigating the city and accessing the research institutions to support their studies
- To provide a short, highly intensive course within the structure of UCSD Summer Session that does not interfere with the summer employment needs of students
- To provide a Domestic Travel experience that is less expensive and open to students who have program needs that require their presence on campus during the school year

SCHEDULE

TDHT 190 is a Domestic Travel course that will be held July 3 to August 5, 2017, with the middle three weeks taking place in New York. During these three weeks, we will explore together the cultural mecca that is New York. During the first and final weeks of the course, students will work independently at UCSD or another place of their choosing. The course schedule is as follows:

July 3 - 8	Research prep assignment (no class time)
July 9 - (New York)	Check into housing
July 9 – 29 (New York)	Lectures, performances, tours, and more!
July 30 – August 5	Final reports/projects (no class time) Reports emailed to professor by August 5

The daily schedule in New York will be as follows:

- Morning or Afternoon depending on schedule: Seminar/lecture (3 hours, 3 times a week) during which we will gather to discuss performance history, review the performance of the night before, and preview the events to come. During other times students may relax, take arts-related tours, or visit New York's other cultural treasures
- Evening: Attend more performances
- Off Time: Explore the city and its culture on your own

PERFORMANCES AND TOURS

The program includes tickets to many performances. Possible performances and tours may include, but are not limited to, the following (final list TBD):

- Broadway and Off-Broadway shows
- Shakespeare in the Park
- SummerStage
- Urban Bush Women
- MOMA
- NY Public Library for the Performing Arts
- Elevator Repair Service
- NY Philharmonic
- Lincoln Center Festival
- Outdoor music festivals
- The Joyce Theater

You are encouraged — even required! — to be an active audience member. Don't just watch performances for their entertainment value. Think about how they relate to what you have learned about performance and cultural history, how they play off of each other and push boundaries, and how they engage audiences. Be prepared to ask

questions and to participate in discussions about what we see.

GRADES AND EXPECTATIONS

This is a Domestic Travel course, not a formal lecture-hall course. Moreover, simply by enrolling, each of you has expressed an interest that is far beyond that which is typical for an on-campus course. My expectations of you as a Domestic Travel student are therefore quite different from my expectations of classroom students, and the final grades I assign reflect this difference in expectations.

I ask that you participate in discussions, ask questions, and talk. You will be assigned readings which I will ask you to read and be prepared to discuss in addition to analyzing the live performances. There also will be a final report or project, due on the last day of the course, which you should think about as a way to capture and expand on the things you have seen and experienced during the course. Your final grade will be based on our conversations, your questions, and on this final project.

READINGS

Readings are detailed in the class syllabus. They (as well as a hardcopy of the syllabus) should be brought with you to New York.

2. LIVING IN NEW YORK

ACCOMODATIONS

Accommodation will be provided ONLY while you are in New York, July 9 to July 29. The cost of this accommodation is included in your course fees. You will be staying at the West Side YMCA, at 5 West 63rd Street in Manhattan. The YMCA is not fancy, but has well-kept and clean rooms, and a variety of amenities, including:

- Housekeeping service
- World class fitness and cardio center
- Indoor swimming pool
- Fitness classes and free weights
- Steam room and sauna
- Free Wi-Fi throughout the building
- Internet kiosks in lobby (nominal fee)
- Café on the premises
- 24-hour security and safe deposit boxes
- Close to all major transportation

You will share a room with other students, with shared bathrooms in the hall.

There is a Laundromat on 67th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Ave (4 blocks from the Y)

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

We will share two dinners, on the first and last nights of your time in New York — a Welcome Dinner (July 9) and a Farewell Dinner (July 29). These meals are included in your course fees.

All other meals are your responsibility. New York can be expensive, but there are many, many good places to eat that are inexpensive. This is a good opportunity to try the wide variety of local specialties and international cuisines available in New York, so try a new place each time! The best sources to check out for good places to eat include:

- <http://www.timeout.com/newyork/restaurants>
- <http://newyork.seriousseats.com/>
- <http://midtownlunch.com/>

There are also many weekend food markets, and great food trucks available all week:

- <http://www.smorgasburg.com/>
- <http://www.nycgo.com/articles/summer-2015-nyc-food-festivals>
- <http://nyctruckfood.com/>

Breakfast is available at the YMCA, for \$7-9 for Continental Breakfast and \$9-12 for Full American Breakfast. Some good places to eat near the YMCA include:

- 'Wichcraft (62 West 62nd Street): breakfast, coffee, sandwiches
- Magnolia Bakery (200 Columbus Avenue): breakfast, coffee
- Pick a Bagel (39 West End Avenue at 61st Street): breakfast, lunch
- Ollie's Noodle Shop (1991 Broadway near 68th Street): Chinese

A word about alcohol — the drinking age is 21. Please be responsible.

TRANSPORTATION

The best way to get around New York is via public transportation. There is an extensive subway and bus system, and the subway system is usually the fastest option. The YMCA is near several major subway lines (A, B, C, D, 1, 2, 3), which will get you most of the places you want to go.

You can buy a MetroCard, good for both subway and buses, in any subway station. A single ride costs \$2.75. Since you will be travelling around the city almost every day, and often more than twice a day, it will probably be more cost effective for you to buy a 7-Day MetroCard each week for \$31 — if you use it only twice a day, it drops the cost of a single ride to \$2.20 (or less per ride if you use it more).

- You can download a map of the subway system here: <http://web.mta.info/maps/submap.html>
- If you have a smartphone, download the CityTransit app, which includes a map, line routes, and service advisories: <http://magnetismstudios.com/#citytransit>

The subway is generally very safe, but you should always use your common sense. Here are some guidelines to stay safe and also to move with the flow during busy times:

- Don't block the stairs that lead down to the subway.
- Whether walking up or down stairs, stay to the right.
- When the train arrives, stand to the side of the doors, so that people can exit before you enter.
- Don't enter a car if it is empty or mostly empty — there is probably a good reason why this is.
- Don't use the subway by yourself after midnight, especially if you are female (take a taxi instead).

If you want or need to take a taxi, you can easily hail a city taxi (yellow) any time by standing at the curb and raising your hand. You can also use the Arro app to call a city taxi to your location or the Uber or Lyft app to call a rideshare car:

- <https://www.goarro.com/>
- <https://www.uber.com/>
- <https://www.lyft.com/>

New York is also a walking city. You'll be able to walk to many of the places you need to go. Here are some tips for how to walk like a New Yorker (and not like a tourist):

- Walk with purpose — parks are for strolling, but sidewalks are for getting somewhere.
- If you want to stop to admire the view, check your phone, have a conversation, etc., step to the side (building side or curb side) so that you don't block the flow.
- Don't walk more than two people across.
- Don't look at your phone while walking, especially not while crossing the street — chances of tripping or bumping into something are very high.

Finally, New Yorkers have a reputation for being rude, but most of them are actually very nice and happy to help. If you get lost, just ask someone — but not someone with a map, because that's probably a tourist.

STREET SMARTS

Overall, New York is a pretty safe place. According to FBI data, it's the safest big city in the country, even safer than San Diego! But here are some common sense safety tips to keep in mind:

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid drawing attention to yourself as a tourist. Don't stand on street corners looking at maps and do your best to walk confidently, as this will deter many criminals.

- Never carry a wallet in a rear pocket. Be particularly aware of your purse/wallet in crowded situations, such as rush-hour trains and buses. If someone attempts to snatch your wallet or bag, just let go of it, especially if there is a weapon involved.
- Use well-lit, well-populated streets, especially at night. If you suspect you're being followed, stay away from deserted blocks and head for an area where there are people or to the nearest open store.
- Use well-lit ATMs at reputable banks or stores. Avoid ATMs that have unlocked doors or are directly out on the street.
- Never leave personal belongings unattended, and don't display cash or valuable items.
- Don't interact with anyone who appears mentally unstable or menacing.
- Avoid buying tickets from anyone on the street. They are often counterfeit.

HOW TO EXPLORE LIKE A NEW YORKER

Much of your time in New York will be scheduled as part of the UCNYP program, but you'll also have plenty of time to explore the city on your own. Some of the best resources for what's happening, cultural institutions, performances, and more are:

- <http://www.timeout.com/newyork>
- <http://www.mustseenewyork.com/new-york-city-on-a-budget.html>

Many Broadway and Off-Broadway theaters offer discount tickets:

- Rush or lottery tickets: Check the website of the show to see if rush or lottery tickets are available, and how to get them.
- TKTS booth in Times Square: Discount tickets for same-day performances. <https://www.tdf.org/nyc/7/TKTS-ticket-booths>
- www.broadwaybox.com/: Discount codes to use when purchasing tickets through Ticketmaster.

One of the best ways to get to know the city is to pick a neighborhood and walk around. There are some great neighborhood guides and do-it-yourself walking tours available:

- <http://www.walkingoffthebigapple.com/>
- <http://brooklynbased.com/blog/category/guides/neighborhoods-day-trips/>
- <http://www.timeout.com/newyork/new-york-neighborhoods/nyc-neighborhood-guides>
- <http://www.timeout.com/newyork/things-to-do/walks-tours>
- <http://www.nycinsiderguide.com/manhattan-neighborhood-map#.Vp56hFMrLzJ>

Whatever you do during your free time, don't just hang out at the YMCA!

3. PLANNING FOR THE TRIP

MONEY

How much should you bring? It's up to you. It's best not to bring a large sum of cash with you, but to withdraw from ATMs as needed. You can also make most purchases with a debit or credit card. Here are some tips that might help you plan:

- You'll need to pay for most of your meals. You can get a simple breakfast (egg sandwich or bagel, coffee) for about \$5. For lunch you should budget \$10, and \$10-20 for dinner (at an inexpensive place).
- There are many free performances and activities available throughout the city, but others will cost money. You should always show your student ID, in case there's a discount available.
- You'll also need money for souvenirs and any other incidentals.

WHAT TO PACK

New York can get HOT in the summer, so bring lightweight clothing. Suggestions for what clothing to pack include:

- Enough casual summer clothing for a week. There is a Laundromat on 67th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Ave (4 blocks from the Y).
- Something fairly nice for group dinners or evening performances. If you want to go to dance clubs, some of them have dress codes, particularly for men.
- Work-out clothing (if you plan to use the YMCA fitness room or jog in the park).
- Bathing suit (if you plan to swim in the YMCA pool or visit a NY beach).
- It also rains (yes, rains!) so pack a light raincoat and/or umbrella.
- Hat

And other suggested things to bring:

- All medications you require
- Personal toiletries and hygienic items
- Sunscreen
- Laptop (optional)
- Camera and film/digital cards, as well as spare batteries
- Readings (see above)
- Notebook and pen (please do not plan on using your phone for notes!)
- Diary, journal, or trip log (optional)
- Sufficient money and/or ATM card
- UCSD student ID
- THIS HANDBOOK

GETTING TO/FROM NEW YORK

The course runs July 3 to August 5, but only the middle three weeks take place in New

York, July 9 to 29. Please purchase your plane ticket as early as possible to arrive on July 9. Jetblue has great fares! If you choose to leave New York later than July 29, you will no longer be under the auspices of this class and will be responsible for your own accommodations.

Please make sure that you e-mail me with your entire flight plans — all legs and all flights, including departure and arrival cities, departure and arrival times, and flight numbers. We need your entire itinerary to track you down in case you are not on your flight. This is critically important!

HEALTH

If you are suffering from any chronic health problems or have special needs for accommodation (including dietary requirements or preferences), you should have already made these clear in the application and health form.

You must have health insurance to participate on this trip. You must provide evidence of such insurance before participation, so be sure to bring your documentation along. It is important to be able to pay for any medical treatment in advance, because most insurance policies are on a claim-back basis. I recommend that you have a credit card you can use if necessary. You should also find out if your insurance company has a toll-free hotline number in case of severe emergencies, and keep this with your insurance documents.

If you get sick while in New York, there is an urgent care facility near the YMCA: CityMD at 315 West 57th Street (<http://www.citymd.com/>).