

## THEA 1310-002 INTRO TO THEATER

FALL 2014

Tuesday/Thursday

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Lawrence Hall 300

Marjorie Scott, Adjunct Instructor

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Office hours by appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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This is a basic introduction to the world of theater. We will read, analyze, write, watch, and perform plays. We will also explore the origins of theater and the cultural significance of theater in modern society.

There will be some lecture but this class is meant to be a discussion about theater. Please don't be shy about asking questions and offering opinions. We will also perform scenes from selected plays. Don't panic. I'm not expecting you to be a seasoned actor by the end of the semester. My hope is that you'll have fun and learn about this dynamic art form that's literally been around for thousands of years. Let's play...

### **PREREQUISITES**

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None.

### **TEXTBOOK**

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No textbook is required for this class. You will receive several handouts (scripts, assignments, etc.) therefore I recommend you invest in a binder or folder for this class.

### **PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES** *The graduating student will demonstrate:*

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- 1) Knowledge of eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History.

Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

- 2) The ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance
- 3) The ability to analyze a script.
- 4) The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
- 5) The ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production.

Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:

- 6) The ability to apply all approaches to the theatrical design and rendering of the design.
- 7) The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

Additionally, the student will be able to:

- 8) Describe the theater process and compose a functional definition of the theatre event.
- 9) Describe the close link between theatre and religion.
- 10) Name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor, and designer in the theatre production
- 11) Have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic, and absurdist theater.
- 12) Describe the uniqueness of the theatre art.
- 13) Understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production.
- 14) Identify a variety of theater spaces.
- 15) Know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre.
- 16) Demonstrate an understanding of acting, directing, playwriting, or design in the areas of set, sound, or makeup.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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By the end of this class, students will:

- Articulate a working vocabulary of theater terminology
- Demonstrate beginner knowledge of basic stagecraft
- Evaluate a theatrical performance for its formal qualities
- Demonstrate beginner knowledge of playwriting
- Rehearse and perform a rudimentary stage scene

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

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- 1) Attend and Critique Sul Ross Productions
- 2) Playwriting Assignment
- 3) Scene Performances
- 4) Uta Hagen Character Analysis
- 5) Full Participation in Class Discussions

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

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- 1) A working e-mail account;
- 2) A working blackboard account;
- 3) A folder or binder for handouts, assignments, and notes. Please use this folder/binder for this class only.

**CLASS DATES: Assignments and Deadlines**

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*Note that these dates and the details of each class are subject to change at the instructor's discretion*

Class	Date	Topics and Assignments
1	Aug 26	Review Syllabus, assignments, and deadlines. Expected outcomes.

2	Aug 28	Play Reading and Analysis ( <i>Man In a Case</i> )
3	Sept 2	Play Reading and Analysis ( <i>Man In a Case continued</i> )
4	Sept 4	Genres of Plays and Source Material ( <b>Watch John Leguizamo's <i>Freak</i></b> )
5	Sept 9	Source Material ( <b>Watch John Leguizamo's <i>Freak</i></b> )
6	Sept 11	Playwriting
7	Sept 16	Playwriting & Dramatic Structure
8	Sept 18	Acting ( <b>Assign Scenes and Scene Partners for Final</b> )
9	Sept 23	Acting & The Rehearsal Process
10	Sept 25	Improvisation ( <b>Watch <i>Trust Us, This is All Made Up</i></b> )
11	Sept 30	Improvisation ( <b>Watch <i>Trust Us, This is All Made Up</i></b> )
12	Oct 2	Improvisation
13	Oct 7	Read first draft of playwriting scenes in class
14	Oct 9	Read first draft of playwriting scenes in class
15	Oct 14	Read first draft of playwriting scenes in class
16	Oct 16	Design Elements
17	Oct 21	Design Elements ( <b><i>Moises Critiques Due in class</i></b> )
18	Oct 23	Perform first round of scenes in class with script ( <b>Uta Hagen Character Analysis Due in class</b> )
19	Oct 28	Perform first round of scenes in class with script
20	Oct 30	Perform first round of scenes in class with script
21	Nov 4	Musical Theater
22	Nov 6	Musical Theater
23	Nov 11	Read final draft of playwriting assignment
24	Nov 13	Read final draft of playwriting assignment
25	Nov 18	Read final draft of playwriting assignment
26	Nov 20	Perform second round of scenes in class ( <b>Must be off-book but can call for line</b> )
27	Nov 25	Perform second round of scenes in class ( <b><i>East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Critiques Due in Class</i></b> )
27	Nov 27	NO CLASS - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
28	Dec 2	Perform second round of scenes in class
29	Dec 4	DEAD DAY – NO CLASS

30 Dec 9 12:30 p.m. Final Exam (**Performances of scenes – All students must be completely off-book**)

### **SUL ROSS FALL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

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You are required to attend all Sul Ross Theater Department productions and write a response paper for each. Admission to these shows is free with a valid student ID.

*Moises: A Modern-Day Tragedy* by Liz Coronado Castillo  
October 10th-19th in the Studio Theater (**Fine Arts Building**)

*East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street* A new play by Luke Miller  
November 20th-22nd in the Studio Theater (**Fine Arts Building**)

### **GRADING**

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Assignments are valued as follows:

1) Playwriting Assignment	25%
2) Play Attendance and Critiques	20%
3) Quizzes	15%
4) Final Project	30%
5) Class participation/Attendance	10%

#### **Grading Criteria:**

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

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Attendance is 10% of your grade. That's the difference between an "A" and a "B"...or an "F" and a "D."

Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University 2012-2014 Course Catalogue:

#### **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.

The instructors will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three-hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.

Please turn off all cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices upon entering class. If you ignore this rule, you will have to turn in your electronic equipment for the duration of the class period.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: [432-837-8203](tel:432-837-8203).