

THEA 1310 – Introduction to Theatre

THEA 1310-003
12:30 pm-1:45 pm
FAB 00205

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Office Hours:
1:00-2:00 MWF
2:00-3:00 TR
Or by appointment
FAB 203B

Course Description

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 brilliant actor. 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...

Course Requirements

Textbook: Robert Cohen *Theatre* either 9th or 10th edition.

Materials:

- 1) A working e-mail account;
- 2) A working blackboard account;
- 3) A folder or binder for scripts, handouts, assignments, and notes. Please use this folder/binder for this class only.
- 4) Please bring a pen or pencil to every class.

Primary Learning Objectives: The student will be able to

- Demonstrate knowledge of general theatre history. The origins and evolution of theatre as an art form
- Describe the theater process and compose a functional definition of the theatre event.
- Describe the close link between theatre and religion.
- Name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor, and designer in the theatre production
- Have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic, and absurdist theater.
- Describe the uniqueness of the theatre art.
- Understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production.
- Identify a variety of theater spaces.
- Know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze a play for the basic structure.
- Demonstrate their understanding of acting, directing, playwriting, or design in the areas of set, lighting, sound, or costume/makeup.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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
- Perform a rudimentary stage scene

CLASS MEETINGS:

Attendance is highly recommended. 3 unexcused absences will result in the loss of a letter grade. Nine (9) absences, of any kind, may result in a WF. I will not require you to attend class, but, again, I highly recommend that you do.

Assignments not completed or turned in on time, will receive one half credit of grade up to two (2) days after the due date. Papers and assignments will not be accepted after two days. All written assignments must be typed. **Students are responsible for unattended classes.**

UNIVERSITY RULES/REGULATIONS:

Rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in the University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook.

Grading Breakdown:

Attendance/participation:	10%
Quizzes:	10%
In class performance:	15%
Production reviews:	15%
Written assignments:	25%
Final performance:	25%
Total:	100%

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 Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University Alpine, TX 79832 (432-837-8203) Email: mschwartz@sulross.edu

CLASS DATES: Assignments and Deadlines

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 Why Theater?
- 3 Sep 2 Play Reading and Analysis (*Waiting for Lefty*)
- 4 Sep 4 Continue with *Waiting for Lefty*
- 5 Sep 9 Dramatic Structure (Assign Partners & Scenes for Final)
- 6 Sep 11 The Playwright
- 7 Sep 16 The Actor
- 8 Sep 18 The Director & The Producer
- 9 Sep 23 Design Elements (Costumes, Props, Lighting, Scenic)
- 10 Sep 25 Scenic Design
- 11 Sep 30 Lighting/Sound Design
- 12 Oct 2 Costume Design
- 13 Oct 7 Technical Direction
- 14 Oct 9 Theater Venues
- 15 Oct 14 The Scene Shop and Backstage
- 16 Oct 16 Areas of the Stage & Rehearsal – Blocking, movement, and layers
- 17 Oct 21 In-Class Performance of Scenes w/Scripts
- 18 Oct 23 In-Class Performance of Scenes w/Scripts
- 19 Oct 28 Work Through Scenes
- 20 Oct 30 Improvisational Theater
- 21 Nov 4 Improvisational Theater
- 22 Nov 6 Musical Theater
- 23 Nov 11 Theater History
- 24 Nov 13 Theater History
- 25 Nov 18 Group Scenes (Off Book)
- 26 Nov 20 Group Scenes (Off-Book)
- 27 Nov 25 Group Scenes (Off- Book)
- 27 Nov 27 **Thanksgiving: No Class**
- 29 Dec 2 The Future of Theater
- 30 Dec 11 Final Scenes (12:00 PM – 2:30 PM)