SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION
Introduction to Theatre 1310.w01
Spring 2015

Instructor: Mr. Jay Sawyer
Cell Telephone: 806-690-1321
Email: jsawyer@sulross.edu

Course Number and Title: THEA 1302 Introduction to Theatre

Catalog Description:

A survey of the elements of theatre and how they were formed. What makes theatre? Where it comes from and what is the future? Course meets the Fine Arts requirement.

Prerequisites: None.

Resources:

Student Textbook: There is no textbook for this class.

Theatres: SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY Theatre Department
Crowley Theatre in Marfa

Program Learning Outcome:

This course is designed to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes applied to all Theatre majors:
The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. A 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 script
4. the ability 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 theatrical design and rendering of the design
7. the ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production

Outcome Competencies:

The student will be able to:

A. Describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for the theatre event.

B. Name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor and designer in the theatre production.

C. Have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic and absurdist theatre.

D. Describe the uniqueness of the theatre art.

E. Understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production.

F. Identify a variety of theatre spaces.

G. Know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre.

H Demonstrate their understanding of acting, directing, playwriting or design in the areas of set, sound, or make-up.

Attendance Policy

By enrolling in this course students agree to the following:

1) The course week will run Monday through Sunday.
2) Posts must be made to the Discussion Board by Thursday at midnight. Posts must be 200 words minimum.
3) Responses to a minimum of two posts must be made by Sunday at midnight. Responses must be 50 words minimum.
4) Quizzes must be taken by Sunday at midnight.
5) Students will demonstrate appropriate online behavior.

Late Work

The acceptance of late work is at the sole discretion of the instructor. All late work that is accepted will be subject to a full grade reduction. An incomplete for the course will only be considered if a student has completed 70% of the coursework and has a "C" average.

Grading: *A final grade will be calculated from the following items.*

Quizzes (7 at 10 points each)	70 points
Discussion Board (14 at 25 points each)	350 points(15 points per post; 5 points per response)
Assignments (biography and scene)	150 points
Exams (3 at 100 points each)	300 points
Theatre Viewing/Analysis	100 points
TOTAL:	**970 points**

A: 970-875 points B: 874-780 points C: 779-671 points D: 670-590 points F: 569-0 points

Course Requirements:

Assignments:

<u>Note</u>: Keep a copy of everything you turn in!

Please type all papers.

1. Textbook

Students will be required to read assigned materials in the textbook and address the questions in the Power Points. This material will be the basis for discussion boards and quizzes/exams.

2. Biographical sketches of theatre personnel

You will write 4 to 5 biographical sketches on people in the theatre. This will be on playwrights, directors, designers and actors. The sketch will cover the person's achievements in a particular area of theatre. These sketches should be 1 ½ to 2 typed pages with at least 3 sources. Use standard 1" top and bottom margins, 1.25" left and right margins, and 12 point type. A cover page must contain the class name and number, your name and the number of the biographical sketch.

3. Write a scene

You will write a scene. This will be on a subject given to you by the instructor. This will be spoken language and not a narrative or story. The scene should be between a page to a page and half. You will be give a scene to read as an example.

4. Examinations

a. Quizzes and Exams

Covers readings, Power Points and discussions.

5. Critique

Students will write one – three to four pages, double spaced, typed critique of a theatre production you see or play you read. Use standard 1" top and bottom margins, 1.25"left and right margins, and 12-point type.

At the top of the page please place your name and date.

In your paper please answer the following questions:

1. What is the title and playwright's name for your play?
2. What genre or type of play did you see (i.e. comedy, tragedy, drama, musical, et al.)?
3. Describe the plot. What happens in the play? What is the problem and how was it resolved? Did you like the way the play progressed? Was there anything about the action that bothered you?
4. Choose one actor/character and describe their performance. Did they make you believe they were that character? Was their language consistent?
5. Describe how the actors as a group (ensemble) added or detracted from the "reality" of the performance.
6. What was the theme or moral of the story?
7. Describe how the visual (seen) and aural (sound) elements of the play (i.e. set, costumes, lights, sound) added or detracted from the performance. If you are reading a play what do you see as their set and costumes. Was there any information in the script that told you what the space should look like?
8. What did you like and dislike about the production. i.e. acting, story line, what the actors said, etc.

9. Would you recommend to a friend that they should see this play/ensemble performance? Why or why not?

There are no live theatre performances during the Summer II session. If you happened to see "Into the Woods" during Summer I session, then you can write a critique on that performance. If you did not see that performance then you can email me about a movie you can watch at home. I would like for it to be a play that has been turned into movie. For example "West Side Story", "The Producers" or "The Glass Menagerie". Some of these can be found online. On the last page there is a list of movie I found on Netflix, Project Free TV and YouTube.

Once you have written the critique please place in the appropriate Journal section then email me at jsawyer@sulross.edu to let me know you have turned in the assignment.

Tentative Course Schedule: *The instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule (and the syllabus) as needed. Please be advised that the "course week" runs Monday through Sunday.*

WEEK ONE	**DUE**
Read the syllabus	Thursday
Class Introduction (Discussion Board)	Post: Saturday; Responses: Sunday
WEEK TWO	**DUE**
Watch Ch 1 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 1	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the quiz over Chapter 1	
WEEK THREE	**DUE**
Watch Ch 2 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 2	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the quiz over Chapter 2	
WEEK FOUR	**DUE**
Watch Ch 4 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 4	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the quiz over Chapter 4	
WEEK FIVE	**DUE**
Watch Ch 5 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 5	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the quiz over Chapter 5	
WEEK SIX	**DUE**
Watch Ch 6 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 6	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the quiz over Chapter 6	
WEEK SEVEN	**DUE**
Review	Thursday
Exam 1	Open Thursday Due Sunday

WEEK EIGHT	**DUE**
Watch Ch 7 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 7	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Playwriting assignment	
WEEK NINE	**DUE**
Watch Ch 8 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 8	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Biography over an actor	
WEEK TEN	**DUE**
Watch Ch 9 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 1	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Biography a director	
WEEK ELEVEN	**DUE**
Watch Ch 10 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 10	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Biography over a designer	Sunday
WEEK TWELVE	**DUE**
Review	Thursday
Exam 2	Open Thursday Due Sunday
WEEK THIRTEEN	**DUE**
Watch Ch 11, 12 & 13 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 11, 12 & 13	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the quiz over Chapters 11, 12 & 13	Sunday
WEEK TFOURTEEN	**DUE**
Watch Ch 14, 15 & 16 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapters 14, 15 & 16	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the quiz over Chapters 14, 15 & 16	Sunday
WEEK FIFTEEN	**DUE**
Watch Ch 17 and 18 Power Point notes	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Board (Chapter 18)	Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday
Take the exam over Chapters 11 through 17	Sunday

Final Week **Exam 3 and Turn in all final critiques.**

This is a list of plays that are on the web. You will need to see one for the play critique. You should be able to see at least one of them. I do not want a critique of a movie that was not a play first. If you have any questions then you can send the name of the play to me and I will give you a yes or no answer. You can also check the Sul Ross library for some of these titles.

These movies are on Netflix.
They were originally a play.
A Midsummer's Night Dream
Barefoot in the Park
Best Little Whorehouse in Texas
Bus Stop
Company!
Death of a Salesman
Into the Woods
Jesus Christ Superstar
Love's Labor's Lost
Much Ado about Nothing
Our Town
Othello
Romeo and Juliet
The Glass Menagerie
The Mikado
The Odd Couple
The Pirates of Penzance

These movies are on Project Free TV.
This is a free service. You should be able to view them.
http://www.projectfree.tv
Amadeus
Phantom of the Opera
Rent
The Producers
West Side Story

These are on YouTube.
They are videos of full length productions. They are university productions. If you watch one please make sure you watch the whole production not just scenes.
The Crucible
Noises Off
The Odd Couple
All in the Timing
This is a series of short plays. I found a complete set from the Williamsburg Theatre Company please watch at least all 6 of the scenes.
Sure Thing, Variations on the Death of Trostsky, The Universal Language, The Philadelphia, Philip Class Buys a Loaf of Bread, Words, Words, Words

These are other plays you may want to look for.
A Chorus Line
A Street Car Named Desire
Driving Miss Daisy
As you Like It