

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

THEA 1310 – Introduction to Theatre

THEA 1310-001
MWF 9:00-9:50
BAB 304

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Office Hours:
10:00-10:50 MWF
9:00-12:00 TR
Or by appointment
FAB 203B

Course Description

Theatre is a unique art form, and in this class we will be exploring all of the different forms that go into creating each performance. We will act, we will design and we will write. I do not expect you to be fantastic actors, designers or playwrights; all that I expect is that you will put something of yourself into your work. Theatre requires involvement, both in the work being done and with your fellow theatre practitioners. If you can do that, we can play together. In this class you will have the opportunity to write a scene, design scenery, and perform a short scene with your classmates.

Course Requirements

Textbook: Robert Cohen *Theatre* 8th, 9th or 10th edition.

Project Materials: Any project materials required for the design project are to be provided by the student. I will take into account difficulties, but I expect you to work things out yourselves

Production requirement: As part of your grade, you are required to work on the two productions this semester in some area of production.

The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer Production dates: October 3rd-11th

A Christmas Carol Production Dates: November 13th-22nd

Audition dates: August 25th and 26th in Studio theatre (FAB 105) and TV studio (FAB 205)

Areas of Production:

- Scene shop
- Costume shop

- Acting
- Front of house (usher or box office)
- Running crew, sound board operator, light board operator

please note: preference will be given to theatre practicum students for certain roles

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 required. Theatre is a deeply collaborative art form and if you are not here, you cannot participate. Much of what we are going to do will require input from the whole class. 2 absences will result in the loss of one letter from your final grade (a B becomes a C), more than 5 and you will be dropped from the class.

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. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** 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:	5%
Production Participation:	10%
Design Project:	25%
Written Scene:	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 Schwartze, 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: mschwartze@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 24 Review Syllabus, assignments, and deadlines. Expected outcomes.
- 2 Aug 26 Why Theatre? **Read Cohen Chap 1**
- 3 Aug 28 A brief exploration of theatre history, The Greeks to the Elizabethan
- 4 Aug 31 A further brief exploration of theatre history, Elizabethan to modern
- 5 Sept 2 The Playwright: building a play **READ Cohen Chap 4**
- 6 Sept 4 An introduction to play structure and analysis **READ Excerpt from *The Poetics*.**
- 7 Sept 7 **LABOR DAY: NO CLASS**
- 8 Sept 9 Play structure: How to build an effective scene
- 9 Sept 11 Play structure: The Plot: Building tension and effective conflict
- 10 Sept 14 Play structure: Creating believable characters
- 11 Sept 16 Play structure: Dialogue
- 12 Sept 18 Work Day: be prepared to workshop your scene in class **DUE 1st draft of your scene**
- 13 Sept 21 Work Day: be prepared to workshop your scene in class
- 14 Sept 23 Work Day: be prepared to workshop your scene in class
- 15 Sept 25 Play Critique: Watching Theatre **Scenes due, start of class**
- 16 Sept 28 Introduction to theatre design and technology **Read Cohen chap 5**
- 17 Sept 30 Design Basics
- 18 Oct 2 Reading and analyzing the script **Read *The Imaginary Invalid***
- 19 Oct 5 Scenic design and the scene shop
- 20 Oct 7 Sound and Light design
- 21 Oct 9 Costume and Makeup design and the costume shop
- 22 Oct 12 Movie Day: Watch *The Imaginary Invalid* part 1 **Love Song critique DUE**
- 23 Oct 14 Movie Day: Watch *The Imaginary Invalid* part 2
- 24 Oct 16 Movie Day: Watch *The Imaginary Invalid* part 3
- 25 Oct 19 Theatre Technology: Technical Direction and stage management
- 26 Oct 21 Work Day: Come to class ready to work on your project
- 27 Oct 23 Work Day: Come to class ready to work on your project
- 27 Oct 26 Work Day: Come to class ready to work on your project

29 Oct 28 **Design Projects due, start of class:** Design project presentations
30 Oct 30 Design Project Presentations
31 Nov 2 Design Project Presentations
32 Nov 4 The Actor and Director (Assign scene partners) **Read Cohen Chap 3 and 6**
33 Nov 6 Staging, movement and positioning
34 Nov 9 Using your voice properly
35 Nov 11 Building the character
36 Nov 13 The rehearsal process
37 Nov 16 In class rehearsal
38 Nov 18 In class rehearsal
39 Nov 20 In class rehearsal
40 Nov 23 In class rehearsal (off book) **A *Christmas Carol* critique DUE**
41 Nov 25 In class rehearsal (off book)
43 Nov 27 In class rehearsal (off book)
44 Nov 30 In class rehearsal (off book)
45 Dec 2 In class rehearsal (off book)
46 Dec 4 DEAD DAY: Rehearsal time available in studio theatre
FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 9th 8:00-10:00 AM Location FAB 105, Studio Theatre