

## **Theatre 1310:W01 Introduction to the Theatre: (Fall, 2015) Web-based Course**

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“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **I. Instructional Materials:**

- A) Required Textbook: *The Creative Spirit: An Introduction to Theatre* by Stephanie Arnold, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015. Students **must** have access to a copy of this textbook in order to successfully complete this class.
- B) Blackboard Lectures/Demonstrations/Presentations/Discussions
- C) Supplemental Reading Materials
- D) Outside Research
- E) SRSU Theatre Program productions

### **II. Course Overview:**

This course is designed to aid the student in the appreciation and understanding of theatre: the origins of theatre; the various aspects of theatre, theatre personnel, and facilities; and the development of genres in theatre throughout history.

Also the student will be able to discern the important theatre genres/styles, works, and theatre artists.

Additionally, the student will utilize acquired knowledge to analyze and critically assess two Sul Ross theatrical productions/events.

All assignments, including quizzes and tests, will be administered exclusively through Blackboard.

### **III. Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course the student should be able to

- Critically understand the origins, progression, genres, and the development of theatre;
- Discern the basic responsibilities and roles of theatre personnel;
- Effectively analyze the basic elements of theatrical design; and
- Communicate successfully written critical assessments of theatrical performances and printed works.

### **IV. Program Learning Outcomes:**

The graduating student will demonstrate:

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 scripts;
4. the ability work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production; and
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; and
7. the ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production

Additionally the student will be able to:

8. describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for 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 theatre;

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 theatre spaces;
15. know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre; and
16. demonstrate their understanding of acting, directing, playwriting or design in the areas of set, sound, or make-up.

#### V. Course Requirements:

- A. Three examinations, including the final exam, will be given. The tests will cover material from the text, Blackboard lectures, demonstrations, reading and viewing materials, student presentations, and SRSU theatrical productions. All examinations will be given in Blackboard 9.
- B. Quizzes will be given during the semester. All quizzes will be given in Blackboard 9.
- C. The student will be required to post a presentation (either a Powerpoint or a video presentation) on an instructor-approved theatrical research topic. If written, the presentation should contain video and/or audio links to enhance the presentation.
- D. Two written analytical/discussion papers on the SRSU theatrical productions will be required. The student will be required to critique two of the SRSU fall theatrical productions and to submit/post a two page, typewritten assessment of the play using specific critical parameters. **All critiques are due the week following the close of each play. If a student is unable to attend the fall SRSU productions, the instructor may approve an alternate critical assessment assignment.**
- E. The student will be required to post weekly comments (minimum of 200 words) upon the various theatrical topics discussed during the semester. Also weekly he/she will be responsible for posting a response (minimum of 50 words) to at least one other classmate's posts.
- F. The student will be responsible for additional critical assessments, written assignments and posts throughout the semester.
- G. Participation in all class activities, discussions, demonstrations, etc. is required.
- H. Students must demonstrate appropriate online behavior. If possible, all written work must be typed, spell and grammar checked. Inappropriate online behavior, excessive misspellings, and incorrect grammar may affect the student's grade for that assignment.

#### VI. Criteria For Grade Evaluation:

- A. Each student will be graded upon the basis of the assignment's guidelines and the completeness and effectiveness of the presentation/assignment.
- B. Breakdown of grading percentages is as follows:
 

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Presentation                           | 10% |
| 2. Discussion Board Posts and Responses   | 20% |
| 3. Examinations (3 @ 11%)                 | 30% |
| 4. Quizzes (Lowest grade dropped; 5 @ 4%) | 20% |
| 5. SRSU Play critiques (2 @ 5%)           | 10% |
| 6. Other Assignments                      | 10% |
- C. Grading will be on a 100 points system as follows:  
 93-100+ = A      84-92 = B      75-83= C      66-74 = D      Below 66 = F
- D. All assignments, including Blackboard posts, responses, presentations, examinations and quizzes **must be completed by the designated day and time**. The acceptance of late work is at the sole discretion of the instructor and make be subject to a late penalty of up to 50 points per week.
- E. Since the final grade is dependent upon the total number of accumulated points, it is important that all work be completed and turned in.
- F. Extra credit: (0-100 points) Extra credit may be given for participation/involvement in any of this semester's SRSU theatrical productions. Points will be awarded on the basis of the quality and the level of participation. Extra credit will not be given if the student is enrolled in Theatre Production Workshop or any of the Theatre Workshop courses, unless the requirements for that class have already been fulfilled.

#### VII. Special Needs:

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, who is located in FH 112 or call 432-837-8203. All requests for special

accommodations must be related in writing to the professor prior to the second week of classes.

**VIII. Final Examination Schedule:** Final exam must be completed in Blackboard before **Wednesday, December 9 at 5 p.m.**

**IX. Academic Honesty:** “The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.” --Excerpt from the Student Handbook

**X. Syllabus:** A copy of this syllabus will appear on the Department of Fine Arts and Communication’s web page.

**XI. Tentative Semester Class Schedule: (Assignments may be altered at the discretion of the instructor)**

|                              |         |   |
|------------------------------|---------|---|
| <b>Week of August 24</b>     |         | Read Syllabus: Introduction to Course and Semester Goals; Read Part I: Chapter 1 (pp. 1-23); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts   |
| <b>Week of August 31</b>     |         | Read Part I: Chapter 2 (pp. 24-44); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; complete <b>Quiz 1</b> (Chapters 1 & 2)   |
| <b>Week of September 7</b>   |         | Read Part II: Chapter 3 (pp. 45-109); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts  |
| <b>Week of September 14</b>  |         | Read Part II: Chapter 4 (pp. 110-133); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; complete <b>Quiz 2</b> (Chapters 3 & 4)  |
| <b>Week of September 21</b>  |         | Read Part II: Chapter 5 (pp. 134-161); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; complete <b>Test 1 (Chapters 1-5)</b>  |
| <b>Week of September 28</b>  |         | Read Part II: Chapter 6 (pp. 162-192); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; post <b>Play Assessment 2</b>  |
| <b>Week of October 5</b>     |         | Read Part III: Chapter 7 (pp. 193-208); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; <b>Quiz 3</b> (Chapters 6 & 7)  |
| <b>Week of October 12</b>    |         | Read Part III: Chapter 8 (pp. 209-260); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; post <b>Critical Analysis of <i>The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i></b>              |
| <b>Week of October 19</b>    | Midterm | Read Part III: Chapter 9 (pp. 261-284); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; <b>Quiz 4</b> (Chapters 8 & 9)  |
| <b>Week of October 26</b>    |         | Read Part III: Chapter 10 (pp. 285-348); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; complete <b>Test 2 (Chapters 6-10)</b>   |
| <b>Week of November 2</b>    |         | Read Part III: Chapter 11 (pp. 349-372); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; post <b>Play Assessment 2</b>  |
| <b>Week of November 9</b>    |         | Read Part IV: Chapter 12 (pp. 373-387); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; <b>Quiz 5</b> (Chapters 11 & 12)  |
| <b>Week of November 16</b>   |         | Read Part IV: Chapter 13 (pp. 388-448); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts  |
| <b>Week of November 23</b>   |         | Read Part IV: Chapter 14 (pp. 449-475); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers’ posts; <b>Quiz 6</b> (Chapters 13 & 14); post <b>Critical Analysis of <i>A Christmas Carol</i></b> |
| <b>Week of November 30</b>   |         | Post <b>Theatrical Research Presentation</b> and respond to at least each of the other students’ presentations  |
| <b>Wednesday, December 9</b> |         | Complete <b>Test #3 (Chapters 11-14 and Student Theatrical Research Presentations)</b> must be completed by <b>5 p.m.</b>   |

**SRSU Theatrical Production & Special Events Schedule:**

|                         |             |                     |   |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| August 26 & 27          | 6:30 pm     | FAB 105 & FAB 205   | Open Auditions for <i>The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i> and <i>A Christmas Carol</i> |
| October 3, 5, 9-10,     | 8:15 pm     | Marshall Auditorium | Performances of <i>The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i>                                 |
| October 4 & 11          | 2 pm        | Marshall Auditorium | Matinees of <i>The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i>                                     |
| November 13, 14, 20, 21 | <b>7 pm</b> | Marshall Auditorium | Performances of <i>A Christmas Carol</i>  |
| November 15 & 22        | 2 pm        | Marshall Auditorium | Matinees of <i>A Christmas Carol</i>  |