

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION**  
**Introduction to Theatre 1310.w01**  
**Spring 2016**

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**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
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>970 points</b>

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

## **Course Requirements:**

### **Assignments:**

**Note: 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 two – 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?

One of your critiques will be of a play that was made into a movie that I will show you. The other will be of one of the Sul Ross theatre performances.

## 6. Group Design Project

This will be part of your final. You and some of your classmates will design the sets, costume and lights and sound for a play. More information will be given later.

**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

Read the syllabus  
Class Introduction (Discussion Board)

### DUE

Thursday  
Post: Saturday; Responses: Sunday

### WEEK TWO

Watch Ch 1 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 1  
Take the quiz over Chapter 1

### DUE

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

### WEEK THREE

Watch Ch 2 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 2  
Take the quiz over Chapter 2

### DUE

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

### WEEK FOUR

Watch Ch 4 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 4  
Take the quiz over Chapter 4

### DUE

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

### WEEK FIVE

Watch Ch 5 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 5  
Take the quiz over Chapter 5

### DUE

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

### WEEK SIX

Watch Ch 6 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 6  
Take the quiz over Chapter 6

### DUE

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

### WEEK SEVEN

Review  
Exam 1

### DUE

Thursday  
Open Thursday Due Sunday

### WEEK EIGHT

Watch Ch 7 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 7  
Playwriting assignment

### DUE

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

**WEEK NINE**

Watch Ch 8 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 8  
Biography over an actor

**DUE**

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

**WEEK TEN**

Watch Ch 9 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 1  
Biography a director

**DUE**

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday

**WEEK ELEVEN**

Watch Ch 10 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 10  
Biography over a designer

**DUE**

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday  
Sunday

**WEEK TWELVE**

Review  
Exam 2

**DUE**

Thursday  
Open Thursday Due Sunday

**WEEK THIRTEEN**

Watch Ch 11, 12 & 13 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapter 11, 12 & 13  
Take the quiz over Chapters 11, 12 & 13

**DUE**

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday  
Sunday

**WEEK FOURTEEN**

Watch Ch 14, 15 & 16 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board Chapters 14, 15 & 16  
Take the quiz over Chapters 14, 15 & 16

**DUE**

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday  
Sunday

**WEEK FIFTEEN**

Watch Ch 17 and 18 Power Point notes  
Participate in the Discussion Board (Chapter 18)  
Take the exam over Chapters 11 through 17

**DUE**

Thursday  
Post: Thursday; Responses: Sunday  
Sunday

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