

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Department of Fine Arts and Communication**

**Introduction to Theatre 1310 Section 003**  
**Fall 2016**  
**MWF 11:00-11:50am**  
**Fine Arts 105**

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Office Hours 2:00-3:00 or by arrangement

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**Instruction Materials:**

- No textbook is required however; you will need to purchase supplies for different projects.
- Blackboard Discussions/Demonstrations/Presentations
- Supplemental Reading Materials
- Outside Research
- SRSU Theatre Program productions

**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
- Use your creative skills to work on design projects and write theatrical pieces
- Communicate successfully written critical assessments of theatrical performances and printed works.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History.
2. Describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for the event.
3. Name the basic roles and responsibilities of the playwright, director, actor, and designers in the theatre production.
4. Have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic, and absurdist theatre.
5. Identify a variety of theatre spaces.
6. Know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre.

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Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

7. The ability to express themselves creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
8. The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
9. The ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technician production.

Additionally the graduating students with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:

10. The ability to apply all approaches to theatrical design and rendering of the design.
11. The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

**Attendance:** Students will be dropped with an “F” if they reach a total of 9 absences. Please refer to the online catalog for further information.

<http://www.sulross.edu/docs/admissions/catalog-2010-2012-07.pdf>

**What happens if I am absent or late?**

This is a participation class, so it is very important to be at every class and arrive on time. Because there is not a textbook, required quiz and test material will come from class lectures and student presentations. **It is highly unlikely that you will do well in this class if you do not attend.**

**Availability of Instructor:** I enjoy speaking with students and am available most of the day. You may drop by my office or make an appointment to go over any ideas or ask any questions you may have.

**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

**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.

This course will observe the university’s guidelines for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because theatre imitates life and because sexuality is a part of life, some material in this course

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may deal with sexual behaviors, situations, or language. People offended by such subject matter may not want to take this course.

**Course Requirements:**

- Two written analytical/discussion papers: one will analyze a play that will be loaded on our Blackboard and the second that will analyze a SRSU theatrical production (*The Christians* October 21st - 30th.)

The student will be required 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.**

- Participation in all class activities, discussions, demonstrations, etc. is required. The student will be required to post discussion boards over class discussions.
- Student will work in a group setting to create a devised scene.
- Student will complete a scene design and a costume design.
- Student will complete quizzes covering assigned readings as well as class lectures and discussions.

<b>Grading Breakdown: 1,000</b>	<b>Available Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
Devised Scene (First Draft)	150	_____
Devised Scene (Second Draft)	150	_____
Devised Scene (Final Draft)	150	_____
Scene Design Project	50	_____
Costume Design	50	_____
Discussion Board	50	_____
Play Analysis (2)	350	_____
Quizzes:	50	_____

**Late work will NOT be accepted. Presentations must be given on the day they are assigned.**  
**Turn off your cell phone; you cannot possibly be that popular!**

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**Tentative Schedule**

<b>Week of August 22</b>	Discuss syllabus; Introduction Activities
<b>Week of August 29</b>	Introduction Activities
<b>Week of September 5</b>	Greek Theatre, Aristotle's 6 elements, Read Antigone
<b>Week of September 12</b>	Genres of Plays, Styles of Plays (on Blackboard)
<b>Week of September 19</b>	How to Write a Critique
<b>Week of September 26</b>	Watch Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez (on Blackboard) and write analysis. Due on Friday, September 30 <sup>th</sup> . 25 Extra Credit points will be available for turning in a rough draft along with the final paper that has been proofread by someone in the writing center.
<b>Week of October 3</b>	Theatre as a Political Platform
<b>Week of October 10</b>	<i>Read Los Vendidos</i>
<b>Week of October 17</b>	Mid-Term, Playwriting/Playwrights, Dramatic Structure
<b>Week of October 24</b>	Devised Scene (First Draft)
<b>Week of October 31</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> play analysis due. 25 Extra Credit points will be available for turning in a rough draft along with the final paper that has been proofread by someone in the writing center.
	Production Staff, work on devised scenes.
<b>Week of November 7</b>	Design, work on devised scenes. Devised scene 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft.
<b>Week of November 14</b>	Scene Design Due
<b>Week of November 21</b>	Thanksgiving
<b>Week of November 28</b>	Last week of class. Costume Design due. Work on devised scenes.
<b>Final - Tuesday, December 6, 2016 10:15am Devised Scene (Final Draft) and performance.</b>	