

Sul Ross State University
Department of Fine Arts and Communication

Introduction to Theatre 1310 Section 003
Spring 2017
MW 12:30-1:45
Fine Arts 105

Liz Coronado Castillo

Office: Ferguson Hall 107

Telephone: 837-8843

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

e-mail: ecastillo@sulross.edu

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.

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. FH 107

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

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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 (***Cabaret* March 25-April 9.**) Extra credit is available with the inclusion of a draft of the paper, which has been proofread by a staff member of the university's Writing Center.

The student will be required to turn in 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. The student will also be required to participate in the in-class rehearsal process and reading of original work written by the class.
- 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.

Grading Breakdown: 1,000	Available Points	Points Earned
Devised Scene # 1	125	_____
Devised Scene #2	125	_____
Devised Scene #3	125	_____
Scene Design Project	50	_____
Costume Design	50	_____
Discussion Board	25	_____
Play Analysis (2)	400	_____
Quizzes:	50	_____
Class Participation	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

Week of January 16	Discuss syllabus, Introduction Activities.
Week of January 23	Basic roles and responsibilities of the playwright, director, actor, and designers in the theatre production.
	Theatre spaces. Theatre History. Greek Theatre (Handout on Blackboard)
Week of January 30	Aristotle's 6 elements, Read <i>Antigone</i> (Handout on Blackboard)
Week of February 6	Genres of Plays, Styles of Plays (Handout on Blackboard)
Week of February 13	Watch Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez and write analysis.
Week of February 20	Theatre as a Political Platform, Read <i>Los Vendidos</i>
Week of February 27	Playwriting, Dramatic Structure
Week of March 6	Mid-Term, Begin Devised Scenes
Week of March 13	Spring Break! Yay!
Week of March 20	Attending Live Theatre. How to write a critique. <i>Cabaret opens this week.</i> Devised Scenes.
Week of March 27	Acting, Work on Devised Scenes.
Week of April 3	Work on Devised Scenes
Week of April 10	<i>Cabaret</i> Analyses due on the 14 th .
Week of April 17	Design, work on devised scenes.
April 24	Scene Design Due
May 1	Costume Design due. Work on devised scenes.
 Final – Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 12:30pm Devised Scene performance.	