

## **Theatre 1310:W01 Introduction to the Theatre: (Summer I, 2017) Web-Based Course**

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Office Hours (via Skype or by cell phone) M & W 8-10 am (CDT) or by arrangement

“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 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 production or alternative viewing assignment

### **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 a Sul Ross theatrical production or alternate theatrical work.

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

### **III. Course Primary Learning 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. Student Learning Outcomes:**

The successful student will be able to demonstrate:

1. knowledge of the various theatrical genres, styles, and works made throughout Theatre History; (knowledge)
2. the ability to analyze scripts; (attitudes or dispositions)
3. the ability to analyze all technical aspects of a theatrical production; (attitudes or dispositions)
4. describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for the theatre event; (skills)
5. name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor and designer in the theatre production; (knowledge)
6. have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic and absurdist theatre and be able to apply them to productions; (knowledge and skills)
7. describe the uniqueness of the theatre art; (attitudes or dispositions)
8. understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production; (attitudes or dispositions)
9. identify a variety of theatre spaces; (knowledge)
10. know the names and works associated with key figures (playwrights, directors, designers, performers) in the theatre; (knowledge) and
11. demonstrate their understanding of acting, directing, playwriting or design in the areas of set, sound, or make-up. (attitudes or dispositions)

## 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 term. All quizzes will be given in Blackboard 9.
- C. A written analytical/discussion paper on the summer SRSU theatrical production will be required. The student will be required to critique the Theatre of the Big Bend production of *The 39 Steps* (or an alternate on-line production) 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 the play. If a student is unable to attend the SRSU production, the instructor may approve an alternate critical assessment assignment.**
- D. The student will be required to post weekly comments (minimum of 200 words) upon the various theatrical topics discussed during the term. Also weekly he/she will be responsible for posting a response (minimum of 50 words) to at least one other classmate's posts.
- E. The student will be responsible for additional critical assessments/analyses of an on-line production, written throughout the term.
- F. Participation in all class activities, discussions, demonstrations, etc. is required.
- G. 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. Discussion Board Posts and Responses 30%
  2. On-line Play Critique 5%
  3. Examinations (3 @ 11%) 33%
  4. Quizzes (lowest quiz score dropped) 25%
  5. SRSU Play critique 7%
- 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 term'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 **Monday, July 3 at 11 p.m CDT.**

**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 Term Class Schedule: (Assignments may be altered at the discretion of the instructor)**

<b>Week of May 31</b>	Read Syllabus and complete Syllabus Comprehension, Role of the Theatre, and My Theatrical Experience Blackboard assignments; Introduction to Course and Term Goals; Read Part I: Chapter 1 (pp. 1-23); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; read Part I: Chapter 2 (pp. 24-44); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts;
<b>Week of June 4</b>	Complete <b>Quiz 1</b> (Chapters 1 & 2); read Part II: Chapter 3 (pp. 45-109); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; 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); read theatrical criticism post and post response to prompt; read Part II: Chapter 5 (pp. 134-161); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts
<b>Week of June 11</b>	Complete <b>Test 1 (Chapters 1-5)</b> ; read Part II: Chapter 6 (pp. 162-192); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; read Part III: Chapter 7 (pp. 193-208); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; read Part III: Chapter 8 (pp. 209-260); post assessment/ response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; Complete <b>Quiz 3</b> (Chapters 6-8)
<b>Week of June 18</b>	Read Part III: Chapter 9 (pp. 261-284); Midterm grades posted; post assessment/ response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; read Part III: Chapter 10 (pp. 285-348); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; complete <b>Quiz 4</b> (Chapters 9 & 10); watch videoed stage-version of <i>Rent</i> and post <b>Critical Assessment of Rent</b> ;
<b>Week of June 25</b>	Read Part III: Chapter 11 (pp. 349-372); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; <b>Test 2 (Chapters 6-11)</b> ; read Part IV: Chapter 12 (pp. 373-387); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; read Part IV: Chapter 13 (pp. 388-448); post assessment/ response to prompt and respond to peers' posts; complete <b>Quiz 5</b> (Chapters 12 & 13); read Part IV: Chapter 14 (pp. 449-475); post assessment/response to prompt and respond to peers' posts
<b>Week of July 2</b>	Post <b>Critical Assessment of The 39 Steps (or alternate assignment)</b> ; <b>extra credit assignments</b> posted; <b>Test #3 (Chapters 12-14)</b> must be completed by <b>11 p.m, Monday, July 3.</b>

**SRSU Theatrical Production of Spamalot Schedule:**

June 17-19	8:15 pm	Kokernot Outdoor Theatre	Performances of <i>The 39 Steps</i>
June 23-25	8:15 pm	Kokernot Outdoor Theatre	Performances of <i>The 39 Steps</i>
June 30-July 2	8:15 pm	Kokernot Outdoor Theatre	Performances of <i>The 39 Steps</i>