

**Theatre 1310: W01 Introduction to the Theatre
Summer II, 2018 Web-Based Course**

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Communication**

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Office Hours M -Th 1:30-3:00 pm (CDT) or by appointment**

I. Instructional Materials:

1. Required Textbook: *The Creative Spirit: An Introduction to Theatre* by Stephanie Arnold, 6th edition, 2015. You **must** have access to this textbook in order to successfully complete this class.
2. Blackboard Viewings/Discussions
3. Supplemental Reading Materials
4. Outside Research for papers

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 theatrical works.

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

III. Course Primary Learning Objectives:

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

- Discern the basic responsibilities and roles of theatre personnel;
- Critically understand the origins, progression, genres, and the development of theatre;
- 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;
2. the ability to analyze scripts;
3. the ability to analyze all technical aspects of a theatrical production;
4. describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for the theatre event;
5. name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor and designer in the theatre production;
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;
7. describe the uniqueness of the theatre art;
8. understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production;
9. identify a variety of theatre spaces; and
10. know the names and works associated with key figures (playwrights, directors, designers, performers) in the theatre

V. Course Requirements:

1. Two examinations will be given during the term. The tests will cover material from the textbook. All examinations will be administered on Blackboard.
2. Two written critical analysis papers on the plays you will view online or read are required. You will be required to view *The Grapes of Wrath* and read *Angels in America* and to submit typewritten assessments of each play using specific critical parameters provided for you. **Both critiques are due on the posted due dates. Late assignments will not be accepted.**
3. You will be responsible for submitting responses to questions in the required textbook and additional questions posted by the instructor. Additional readings may also be required.
4. Participation in all class discussions is required.
5. Students in this course must demonstrate appropriate online behavior. All written work must be typed, spell-checked, 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:

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

Discussion Board Posts and Responses: 30%

Examinations: 30% (First exam at 15%, second exam at 20%)

Critical Analyses of Plays: 40% (first paper at 15%, final paper at 25%)

Grading will be on a 100 points system as follows:

A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 60-69 F=0-59

All assignments, including Blackboard posts, responses, examinations, and quizzes **must be completed by the designated day and time. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Since the final grade is dependent upon the total number of accumulated points, it is important that all work be completed and turned in.

VII. Students with Disabilities:

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 Mary Schwartze at 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 by 11 pm CDT by **Wednesday, August 15th.**

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 and on Blackboard.

See the following page for the term schedule.

Term Class Schedule:

(Assignments may be altered at the discretion of the instructor)

Date	Assignment Due	Reading/Viewings
Tues, July 10th	Review syllabus and complete intro assignment on Blackboard.	Start reading chapter 1 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> .
Wed, July 11th	Intro Assignment due by 10 pm . See Blackboard "Discuss" tab.	Keep reading chapter 1 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> and work on questions at the end of the chapter.
Thurs, July 12th	Submit responses to Chapter 1 questions via email by 10 pm .	
Fri, July 13th		Start reading chapter 2 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> .
Mon, July 16th		Keep reading chapter 2 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> . View: Clips of the Beijing Opera (on Blackboard)
Tues, July 17th	Submit responses at the end of Chapter 2 via email by 5 pm	
Wed, July 18th	Exam #1: Chapters 1-2. Administered on Blackboard.	
Thurs, July 19th		Read chapter 3 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> (pages 46-57). See link on Blackboard for chapter 3.
Fri, July 20th		
Mon, July 23rd	Submit responses to discussion questions on Blackboard regarding chapter 3 (pages 46-57) via email by 10 pm	
Tues, July 24th		Read chapter 3 (pages 58-80) Act One of <i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i>
Wed, July 25th	Submit responses to discussion questions on Blackboard about <i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i>	
Thurs, July 26th		Read chapter 3 (pages 80 – 109) Act Two of <i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i> and Producing <i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i> at Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Fri, July 27th	Exam #2 administered on Blackboard (exam will cover Chapter 3, including the play)	
Mon, July 30th		Read chapter 7 (Understanding Style: Realism) of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> .
Tues, July 31st	Submit responses via email to questions at the end of chapter 7 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> by 10 pm.	
Wed, Aug 1st		View <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> (on Blackboard).
Thurs, Aug 2nd		
Fri, Aug 3rd		
Mon Aug 6th	Submit a 2-3- page critical analysis paper on <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> via email no later than 10 pm.	Papers should be 2-3 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced. Please use MLA format and cite any sources you research.
Tues, Aug 7th		Read chapter 9 (Understanding Style: Theatricalism) of <i>The Creative Spirit</i>
Wed, Aug 8th	Submit response to discussion question regarding chapter 9 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> (on Blackboard)	
Thurs, Aug 9th		Read chapter 10 (Expressing a Worldview Through Theatricalism) of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> . This chapter includes the entire playscript of <i>Angels in America</i> by Tony Kushner. You are required to read the entire play.
Fri, Aug 10th		
Mon, Aug 13th		
Tues, Aug 14th		
Wed, Aug 15th		
Thurs, Aug 16 th	FINAL – Critical Analysis Paper on <i>Angels in America</i> due via email no later than 5 pm. No late papers accepted.	This paper will count as the final for the course. Papers should be 3-5 pages in length and should include a page of references in MLA format.