

**THEA 1310:001 INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Spring, 2019**

**Class Meets: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45 in BAB 304**

Carolyn Barrientes, M.F.A. Assistant Professor of Theatre

Office: FAB 206C

Email: [Carolyn.barrientes@sulross.edu](mailto:Carolyn.barrientes@sulross.edu)

Office Hours: TBA

Office Phone: 432-837-8989

**DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:** An introduction to dramatic texts and dramatic principles, script analysis, and theatrical styles. This course will also prepare students to become knowledgeable audience members with an appreciation for the significance that theatre productions can provide in a given cultural context.

This course offers students an opportunity to collaborate with their classmates as actors, directors, and designers. Students will work together to rehearse, design and perform scenes from culturally significant plays. This course is intended to be an introduction to theatre. No prior theatre experience is required.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** *Zoot Suit + other plays* by Luis Valdez; *Man of La Mancha* by Dale Wasserman. Must bring to class during assigned readings.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

1. A working SRSU e-mail account. Check daily, especially before class.
2. A working blackboard account.
3. A 2" notebook binder with pockets to keep all handouts/scripts and notebook paper. I highly recommend that all students take good notes each class period.
4. Other supplies as needed for final exam project - TBA
5. Outside research and regular use of the library.

**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 professionals;

- \*Effectively analyze the basic elements of theatrical design;
- \*Communicate successfully written critical assessments of theatrical performances and printed works;
- \*Use your creative skills to work on design projects;
- \*Analyze the role that theatre plays in contemporary culture, particularly the ways in which theatre addresses issues of gender, religion, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class.

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MANY OF THE REQUIRED READINGS, VIDEOS, AND PLAYS MAY CONTAIN MATURE CONTENT, EXPLICIT LANGUAGE, DIFFICULT THEMES, AND/OR NUILITY.**

**FORMAT OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments must be typewritten in 12-point type. Times New Roman or Ariel font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and free of errors. PLEASE PROOF YOUR WORK. You will be graded on both the content and your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your writing. If needed, I suggest you visit the Writing Center before turning in your papers.

**All assignments must be submitted as soon as class begins on the due date. I will not accept late work.**

**GRADING:** Assignments are valued as follows:

Saturday Build Days (4 volunteer hours)	10%
Assignments/Quizzes	30%
2 Sul Ross Theatre Performance papers	20% (10% each)
Class participation/Class attendance	15%
FINAL EXAM CLASS PROJECT	25%

**Grading Criteria:**

A= 100-90%

B= 89-80%

C= 79-70%

D= 69-60%

F= below 60%

Students with disabilities needing academic assistance or other accommodations should contact Counseling and Prevention Services, Ferguson Hall 112, 432-837-8203.

University Rules/Regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in the University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Attendance and participation:** Regular attendance is expected and you should come to class prepared to contribute to class discussion and ask questions of the material. Your participation grade is 15% of your overall grade so keep this in mind and speak up during class.

Two (2) unexcused absences will lower your overall grade 9 points. Each subsequent absence will lower grade an additional 5 points. If you miss more than eight (8) classes, you must withdraw from the course or I will drop you with the grade of "F". (Please refer to the absence policy from the Sul Ross State University course catalogue for further details).

**Cell phones, texting and engaging in activities unrelated to this class are all strictly prohibited during class time.** If I see you using your cell phone during class, I reserve the right to ask you to leave and you will be marked absent.

**Build Hours:** You are required to sign up for four hours of volunteer time to help build sets for SRSU productions. Saturday work days are usually 9:30 – 1:30. More information to come.

**Sul Ross Theatre Performance Attendance & Analysis:** You are required to attend two SRSU plays: *Constellations* and *Hair*, the musical this Spring Semester. You will be required to write a 2-3 page critical analysis of these two productions. I will not accept late papers. You must also staple your signed program to your paper with the Director's signature.

**Group project:** You will work in groups of 4 or 5 for your final project. Each group must select a scene from one of the plays we read or view this semester. Scenes must be 5-7 minutes in length and presented to the class on the day of the final exam. Each group will have two – three actors, a director and a designer. The director of each group must meet with his/her actors to rehearse the scene before the final performance. I recommend each group rehearse a minimum of 6 times. All directors must provide the instructor with a detailed rehearsal schedule signed by the actors. Actors must be off book (lines memorized) and work collaboratively with the director to develop the scene as fully as possible. The designer's job is to research, discuss images, language, ideas of the play with the director and actors, create sketches or collages of the costumes for each character, and design a set for the scene. Use your creativity and found objects, etc. Designers are strongly encouraged to attend at least 2 rehearsals. All members of the group are required to read the full play from which their scene is selected. THIS GROUP PROJECT WILL SERVE AS THE FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE. ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

(Dates and details are subject to change at Instructor's discretion)

### Week 1

Jan 22 Review Syllabus; in-class activity

Jan 24 Theatre and its Audience: Cultural Collaboration: Theatre & Society

### Week 2

Jan 29 Theatre and Society

Jan 31 Experiencing Theatre: Collaboration of Actor, Audience & Space

### Week 3

Feb 5 Analyzing Theatre: Thinking and Writing about Live Performances

Feb 7 Discuss SRSU Theatre Performance Paper of *Constellations* and *Hair*; how to write a critique paper - handout

### Week 4

Feb 12 Understanding the Play: A Theatrical Blueprint; **bring *Zoot Suit* Script next class**

Feb 14 Intro to Luis Valdez and *Zoot Suit*; begin reading in class

### Week 5

Feb 19 Interpreting the play: Understanding Genre, Reading and Writing; continue reading in class

Feb 21 **Assignment – *Zoot Suit* research questions from video**

### Week 6

Feb 26 *Zoot Suit* **Assignment DUE** at beginning of class

Feb 28 Discuss *Zoot Suit*; prepare for Quiz #1; **Assign *Constellations* Critique Paper**

### Week 7

**MAR 1 CONSTELLATIONS PLAY OPENING NIGHT @8PM**

Mar 5 **QUIZ today on *Zoot Suit*; bring *Man of La Mancha* Script next class**

Mar 7 Background: *Man of La Mancha*; begin reading *Man of La Mancha*

### Week 8

Mar 12 Continue reading *Man of La Mancha* in class

**CONSTELLATIONS Critique Paper DUE- beginning of class**

Mar 14 Conclude *Man of La Mancha*; discuss in class

**Week 9 - Mar 18-22 SPRING BREAK WEEK – SRSU CLOSED; NO CLASSES**

**Week 10**

Mar 26 Watch *Man of La Mancha* video (film on demand) – Assign questions from video; prepare for Quiz on *Man of La Mancha*

Mar 28 Questions from *Man of La Mancha* video DUE at beginning of class.

**Week 11**

Apr 2 **QUIZ, *Man of La Mancha***

Apr 4 **Assign Critique paper for *Hair*; Distribute Xerox copies of scripts for *Blood Wedding*; Begin reading in class**

**APRIL 5 OPENING NIGHT FOR *HAIR*, THE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE @ 8PM**

**Week 12**

Apr 9 Read *Blood Wedding* in class

Apr 11 Conclude *Blood Wedding* reading; Discuss *Blood Wedding*; prepare for Quiz

**Week 13**

Apr 16 **Quiz on *Blood Wedding*; Assign Group project for final exam**

Apr 18 **Begin preliminary work on Final Group Project; roles, groups assigned, play and scene to select**

**Week 14**

Apr 23 ***Hair* Critique Paper DUE beginning of class; Work on Final Group Project – in class**

Apr 25 Work on Final Group Project – in class

**Week 15**

Apr 30 Collaboration with Instructor on Final Project in class

May 2 Confirm with Instructor on Final Project in class

**Week 16**

May 7 Last Class Day before final exams

**MAY 13 FINAL EXAM –PRESENTATIONS 8AM-10AM – All groups must arrive at 8am**