

Theatre 1310: W01 Introduction to the Theatre
Summer I, 2019
Marjorie Scott, Assistant Prof. of Theater and Communication
Chair, Department of Fine Arts and Communication
p: 432-837-8039
email: mscott3@sulross.edu
Office Hours: M -Th 10:00-11:00 am (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 provided by instructor
4. Outside Research for papers

II. Course Overview:

This course is designed to aid you 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.

By the end of this course, you will be able to discern important theatre genres/styles, works, and theatre artists.

You will also view some works of theatre and analyze and critically assess their formal qualities.

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;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the origins, progression, genres, and development of theatre;
- Effectively analyze the basic elements of theatrical design; and
- Develop beginner-level familiarity of theatrical literature.

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. **Required reading and journal responses.** 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. You are required to post responses in the Theatre Journal (under Assignments tab in Blackboard), unless otherwise instructed.
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*, read *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and to submit typewritten analyses 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. **Participation in all class discussions is required.**
4. **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:

Journal Responses: 30%

Discussions: 20%

Critical Analyses of Plays: 50% (first paper at 20%, final paper at 30%)

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 discussion posts, responses, and examinations **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 paper must be submitted by 5 pm CDT by **Friday, July 5th.**

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 course calendar.

Course Calendar

(subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Date	Assignment Due	Reading/Viewing
Wed, May 29	Acquire the required textbook <i>The Creative Spirit</i> , 6 th Edition by Stephanie Arnold.	
Thurs, May 30	Review syllabus	Start reading chapter 1 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> , 6 th edition (required text).
Fri, May 31	Submit 1 st Journal Entry (answer 3 questions)	
Mon, Jun 3		Keep reading Chapter 1 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i>
Tues, Jun 4	Submit 2 nd Journal Entry: responses to end of Chapter 1 questions (from <i>The Creative Spirit</i>) to Theatre Journal by 11 pm CDT. Respond to ALL questions at the end of the chapter.	
Wed, Jun 5		Start reading chapter 2 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> .
Thurs, Jun 6		Keep reading chapter 2 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> . View: Clips of the Beijing Opera (on Blackboard)
Fri, Jun 7	Submit 3 rd Journal Entry: responses at the end of Chapter 2 (from The Creative Spirit) to Theatre Journal by 11 pm CDT. Respond to all questions at the end of the chapter.	
Mon, Jun 10		Read chapter 3 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> (pages 46-57 only).
Tues, Jun 11	Submit responses to discussion questions on Blackboard regarding chapter 3 (pages 46-57). See Discussion tab.	

Wed, Jun 12		Read chapter 3 (pages 58-80) Act One of <i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i>
Thurs, Jun 13		
Fri, Jun 14	Submit responses to discussion questions on Blackboard about Act One of <i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i> . See Discussion tab.	
Mon, Jun 17		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.
Tues, Jun 18		
Wed, Jun 19		
Thurs, Jun 20		
Fri, Jun 21	PAPER #1: Write a 3-page paper analyzing how the play <i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i> is still relevant today, or not. Explain your reasoning for either side of the argument, citing examples from the play. All research must be cited. Papers should be typed, in MLA format, and submitted via email to mscott3@sulross.edu no later than 11 pm CDT.	
Mon, Jun 24		View: <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> presented by the Steppenwolf Theatre Company (on Blackboard).
Tues, Jun 25		Read chapter 7 (Understanding Style: Realism) of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> .

Wed, Jun 26		
Thurs, Jun 27	Submit 4 th Journal Entry: respond to the questions at the end of Chapter 7 in <i>The Creative Spirit</i> . Responses due no later than 11 pm CDT.	
Fri, Jun 28		Read chapter 9 (Understanding Style: Theatricalism) of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> .
Mon, Jul 1		Work on final paper
Tues, Jul 2		Work on final paper
Wed, Jul 3		Work on final paper
Thurs, Jul 4	HAPPY 4 th !!!	
Thurs, Aug 16 th	FINAL – Critical Analysis Paper on <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> via email to msscott3@sulross.edu no later than 11 pm CDT .	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.