

Theatre 1310: W01 Introduction to the Theatre: Web-Based Course
Fall, 2019

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Office Hours: M-F 2:00-3:00 p.m. (CDT) or by appointment


Instructional Materials:

A) Required Textbook: An Introduction to: The Art of Theatre by Marsh Cassidy.

 **Publisher:** Meriwether Pub; 1 edition (March 31, 2007)

 **Language:** English

 **ISBN-10:** 9781566081177

 **ISBN-13:** 978-1566081177

B) Blackboard Lectures/Demonstrations/Presentations/Discussions

C) Supplemental Reading Materials

D) Outside Research

E) SRSU Theatre fall production or alternative viewing assignment

II. Course Overview:

This course is designed to define Dramatic Structure, Genre, Architecture and Space. The student will be able to distinguish between the clearly defined roles of playwright, actor, director, designers, producers, audience/patrons, and critics. Additionally, the student will acquire knowledge to critically assess a Sul Ross theatrical production or alternate live theatrical work. All assignments, including quizzes and tests, will be administered through Blackboard.

III. Course Primary Learning

Objectives:

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

Identify the origins, structures, genres, and the development of theatre

Identify the basic responsibilities and roles of theatre personnel

Identify the basic elements of theatrical design

Provide written critical assessments of theatrical performances.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to meet one or more of the student learning outcomes (SLO) applied to all Theatre majors. The graduating theatre student will demonstrate:

1. A knowledge of the eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History. Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:
2. The ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance.
3. The ability to analyze script.

4. The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
5. The ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production.
Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:
6. The ability to apply all approaches to theatrical design and rendering of the design.
7. The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

V. Course Requirements:

- A. 15 quizzes, will be given. The quizzes will cover material from the text, Blackboard lectures, and reading and viewing materials.
- B. Quizzes will be given every week on Friday. Quizzes will be due by midnight on the following Monday. All quizzes will be given in Blackboard.
- C. A written analytical/discussion paper of a live theatrical production will be required. The student will be required to critique one of the fall productions produced by the Sul Ross Theatre program, or an alternate live production, and submit a two-three page, typewritten assessment of the play following the specific parameters outlined in the assignment. The critical paper is due during Finals week. If a student is unable to attend the SRSU production, they must attend a live theatrical performance in their area.
- D. Students will be required to read/view 1-2 plays each week.
- E. All written work must be typed, spell and grammar checked.

VI. Criteria for Grade Evaluation:

- A. Each student will be graded upon the assignment's guidelines and the completion of the assignment.
- B. Breakdown of grading percentages is as follows:
 1. Quizzes: one a week; 15 in total = up to 5 pts. each; total of 75 pts.
 2. *Other Assignments = up to 15 pts. (identified under course schedule)
 3. SRSU (or other live production) Play critique = up to 10 pts.

C. Grading will be on a 100 points system as follows:

90-100+ = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D Below 60 = F

D. Assignments will be given each Monday with clearly defined due dates. Late work will receive ½ credit and will not be accepted 3 days after due date.

E. Extra credit: (0-20 points) Extra credit may be given for participation/involvement in any of this term's SRSU Theatre 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. 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

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week One	From Text: Chapter 1: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: <i>Death of a Salesman</i>
Week Two	From Text: Chapter 2: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>
Week Three	From Text: Chapter 3: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: <i>Aristotle's Poetics</i>
Week Four	From Text: Chapter 4: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: <i>Waiting for Godot</i> and <i>The Glass Menagerie</i>
Week Five	From Text: Chapter 5: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: <i>Long Day's Journey Into Night</i> and <i>Our Town</i>
Week Six	From Text: Chapter 6: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: <i>An Actor Prepares</i> by Constantin Stanislavski
Week Seven	From Text: Chapter 7: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: View on Demand Videos via SRSU library *Additional assignment will be given this week on the role of the Director
Week Eight	From Text: Chapter 8: read and prepare for quiz *Additional assignment will be given this week on the role of the Designer
Week Nine	From Text: Chapter 9: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: none
Week Ten	From Text: Chapter 10: read and prepare for quiz Read/watch excerpts from: Theatrical Reviews

- Week Eleven From Text: Chapter 11: read and prepare for quiz
Read/watch excerpts from: *Lysistrada* and *Oedipus Rex*
- Week Twelve From Text: Chapter 12: read and prepare for quiz
Read/watch excerpts from: *The Second Shepard's Play* and *Everyman*
- Week Thirteen From Text: Chapter 13: read and prepare for quiz
Read/watch excerpts from: *Hamlet*
- Week Fourteen From Text: Chapter 14: read and prepare for quiz
Read/watch excerpts from: *The Way of the World* and *Tartuffe*
- Week Fifteen From Text: Chapter 15: read and prepare for quiz
Read/watch excerpts from: *Uncle Vanya* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Final Paper: Critical review of SRSU or other live theatre production. Due Noon, Wednesday, December 11, 2019.