

Intro to Theatre

THEA 1310

Instructor: Stuart Standly

Office: FAB 206 A
email: stanley.standly@sulross.edu
Telephone: 432-837-8074

Office Hours
MTWThF 8:00-9:00am
By Appointment

Course Description

The readings and viewings for this course will introduce students to theatrical texts, knowledge of theatrical principles and styles, and address a range of contemporary social issues. This course also teaches students how to become an educated audience member and to appreciate the significance that theatre holds in all cultural contexts.

Students also get the opportunity to analyze and design a unique presentation, by using the basic theatrical elements learned in this class. This course is an introduction to theatre and does not require prior theatrical experience.

Materials Required:

- 1) A working e-mail account. **You are required to check your Sul Ross email account daily for potential messages from the instructor.**
- 2) A working Blackboard account. **The instructor will post assignments and reminders to Blackboard.**
- 3) The instructor will provide required reading materials.

Course Objectives

Among other topics, students will:

- Articulate a working vocabulary of theatre terminology
- Evaluate a performance for its formal qualities
- Demonstrate beginner knowledge of the rehearsal and performance process
- Articulate basic theatrical design principles
- Demonstrate beginner knowledge of script analysis
- Articulate the jobs of different types of theatre professionals
- Analyze the role that theatre plays in contemporary culture, particularly the ways in which theatre addresses issues of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class.

Program Learning Outcomes for Majors *The graduating student will demonstrate:*

- 1) Knowledge of 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 a 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 the theatrical design and rendering of the design.
- 7) The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

Additionally, the student will be able to:

- 8) Describe the theater process and compose a functional definition of the theatre event.
- 9) Describe the close link between theatre and religion.
- 10) Name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor, and designer in the theatre production
- 11) Have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic, and absurdist theater.
- 12) Describe the uniqueness of the theatre art.
- 13) Understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production.
- 14) Identify a variety of theater spaces.
- 15) Know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre.
- 16) Demonstrate an understanding of acting, directing, playwriting, or design in the areas of set, sound, or makeup.

Marketable Skills

1. Strong oral and written communication skills.
2. Strong analytical skills.
3. Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

Course Requirements

Entertainment Viewing Journal: You must start and maintain a journal of everything you have viewed for entertainment and/or education, that fits the given definition of Theatre. **“Any rehearsed or practice behaviors and/or movements, that elicit emotion and tell a story.”** This includes sporting events, news broadcast, YouTube videos, advertisements, sit-coms, live performances, music concerts, comedy, ... etc.

Performance Attendance & Analysis: You are required to attend one performance of each Sul Ross State University Theater department productions. If you do not live within a 60-mile radius of Alpine Texas, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor for an alternative assignment.

FAB Studio Theater

February 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, & 16

Nat Turner in Jerusalem, by Nathan Alan Davis

Motion Capture Soundstage located at the Kokernot Outdoor Theatre facility

March 27, 28, 29, and April 3, 4, 5, 10, & 11

Avenue Q, Play by Jeff Whitty, Music by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx

You must write a minimum 4-5-page essay analyzing the performance by explaining how each theatrical element was represented. Provide specific details from the performance to explain your opinion. These specific details will be used to verify your attendance. Without these details you will only receive a maximum HALF credit for the assignment.

Final Project: Each student will choose a script, from a provided list, and complete a Script Analysis and independent design concept for the Play. These designs must include sketches or a collage of images that illustrate your design concept for costumes, a detailed ground plan for the set, and basic sound/rhythm and lighting design; describing the theatrical purpose for each.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THE REQUIRED READINGS AND PERFORMANCES CONTAIN MATURE CONTENT, EXPLICIT LANGUAGE, DIFFICULT THEMES, AND/OR NUDITY. THEY MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME PEOPLE.

Students with Disabilities

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact the Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112.

Telephone: [432-837-8203](tel:432-837-8203)

Written Assignments

Required Essays and Papers: You are required to write several essays and abbreviated research papers for this class. Proper citations for reference materials is required. Each assignment is worth 100pts. **ALL assignments must be turned in either before or on the day they are due. Late work is not accepted!!**

Format: All written assignments must be typed, in 12-point type, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and free of errors. You will be graded on both the content of your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your writing

Academic Integrity: The University has a Code of Academic Integrity, which prohibits, among other things, cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers or portions of papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, forging signatures, and using unauthorized study aids (including old quizzes and exams). This class abides by that code.

Challenges: If you have a concern about a grade on an assignment you must present the graded assignment and one paragraph explaining your comments on the grade (including any supporting evidence) to the instructor no later than one week after the grade is posted. **After one week, questions about grades will not be considered. This policy applies to ALL grades.**

Grading

Assignments are valued as follows:

Theatre History - Research Paper	100 points
Spectacle - Analysis Essay	100 points
<i>Nat Turner</i> - Analysis Essay	100 points
Plot – Original Story	100 points
Character & Language/Diction - Analysis Essay	200 points
Theme/Thought - Analysis Essay	100 points
Rhythm/Music - Analysis Essay	100 points
<i>Avenue Q</i> - Analysis Essay	100 points
Entertainment Viewing Journal	100 points
Final Project - Script Analysis/Design	200 points

900-1000 points	= A
800-899 points	= B
700-799 points	= C
600-699 points	= D
599 & below	= F

Class Dates: Assignments and Deadlines

Note that these dates and the details of each class are subject to change at the instructor's discretion

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- Week 1 – Theatre History - Research Paper
- Week 2 – Theatre Evolution – Theatrical Employment
- Week 3 – Research Paper Due – February 2,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 4 – Spectacle - Analysis Essay Due – February 9,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 5 – *Nat Turner* - Analysis Essay Due – February 16,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 6 – Plot – Original Story
- Week 7 – Plot – Original Story Due – March 1,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 8 – Character & Language/Diction - Analysis Essay
- Week 9 – Character & Language/Diction - Analysis Essay Due – March 22,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 10 – Theme/Thought - Analysis Essay Due – March 29,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 11 – Rhythm/Music - Analysis Essay Due – April 5,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 12 – *Avenue Q* - Analysis Essay Due – April 12,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 13 – **Final Project** - Script Analysis/Design
Entertainment Viewing Journal Due – April 19,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight
- Week 14 – **Final Project** - Script Analysis/Design
- Week 15 – **Final Project Due** – May 3,
BEFORE 12:00 midnight