

THEA 1310:001 INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE

COURSE SYLLABUS

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

May 20, 2020 – June 26, 2020

Class Meets: Online

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

Email: Carolyn.barrientes@sulross.edu

Cell Phone: 432-294-4183

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 is intended to be an introduction to theatre. No prior theatre experience is required.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Zoot Suit + other plays* by Luis Valdez. Arte Publico Press, 1992 paperback.



OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1. A working SRSU e-mail account. Check daily, especially before class.

2. A working SRSU 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. Outside research; a computer, tablet or other to communicate virtually via zoom or email.

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 SOME OF THE REQUIRED READINGS, VIDEOS, AND PLAYS MAY CONTAIN MATURE CONTENT, EXPLICIT LANGUAGE and/or DIFFICULT THEMES.

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 of your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your writing.

All assignments must be submitted on or before the due date. I will not accept late work.

GRADING: Assignments are valued as follows:

Quizzes/Assignments	25%
Class participation/communication	25%
FINAL EXAM	50%

Grading Criteria:

A= 100-90%

B= 89-80%

C= 79-70%

D= 69-60%

F= below 60%

- Student Learning Outcomes: All courses aligned with specific degree programs should use the Student Learning Outcomes of that program that are reported to SACSCOC. The Academic Assessment Program Coordinators can provide the student learning outcomes for each degree plan. Faculty also may post course goals or course objectives as desired.
- Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the

university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

- Americans with Disabilities Act: 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 Student Services.

Marketable skills:

Strong oral and written communication skills.

Strong analytical skills.

Strong team work and collaboration skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and participation: Regular communication is expected and you should be prepared to contribute to class discussion and ask questions of the material when a virtual class meeting is in session.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

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

Week 1

May 20-May 22

Review Syllabus; Introduction

Theatre and its Audience: Cultural Collaboration:
Theatre & Society – review of slides

Experiencing Theatre: Collaboration of Actor,
Audience & Space - review of slides

Week 2

May 25-May 29

Monday, May 25th Memorial Day HOLIDAY

Analyzing Theatre: Thinking and Writing about
Theatre plays – review of slides

QUIZ #1 Slides/Lecture

Intro to Luis Valdez and *Zoot Suit Musical*

Zoot Suit to begin reading

Understanding the play: A Theatrical Blueprint;
Continue reading *Zoot Suit*

Week 3

June 1-June 5 Interpreting the play: *Zoot Suit*
Zoot Suit review for quiz #2
***Zoot Suit* QUIZ #2**

Week 4

June 8-June 12 Read or watch: play to be determined...
Continue discussion; review for next assignment
Paper Assignment – to be determined
Discuss Final Exam Details

Week 5 **Work on final exam projects...research, etc.**

June 15-June 19

Week 6

June 26 **Final Exam Presentations to be done via zoom**