

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

**COURSE SYLLABUS, Summer II**

**July 1 – August 7, 2020**

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Class Meets: Online via Zoom M & W 10:00-11:00am**

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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 11-12 or by appointment

**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.

**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.

## 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.

Attendance for the Zoom Meetings are required each week. Class participation is essential to this course as well as your grade. Those who do not attend regularly and on time will not succeed.

Three (3) absences of any session will lower overall grade 10 pts., and each subsequent absence of session will lower grade an additional 5 pts.

Absences may be counted as excused **only** under the following conditions and with proper documentation:

1. **University approved/sponsored athletic, forensic, and similar trips (arranged IN ADVANCE through a memo from the faculty sponsor).**
2. **Illness that results in a doctor's visit—or the University Clinic (verified by a doctor's note or copy of the bill showing the date).**
3. **Death in the family or other catastrophe (verified with appropriate documentation)**

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



## OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1. A working SRSU e-mail account. **I will not allow other emails like gmail or yahoo emails. This class must be communicating via SRSU official emails only. Check daily, especially before class.**
2. A working SRSU blackboard account to access slides/handouts, announcements, etc.
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.

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

**Marketable skills:**

Strong oral and written communication skills.

Strong analytical skills.

**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 WILL BE DUE ON THURSDAYS EACH WEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.**

**All assignments must be submitted on or before the due date.** Assignments, not completed or turned in on time, will receive one half credit of grade up to two (2) days after the due date. Papers and assignments will not be accepted after two days. All written assignments must be typed. **Students are responsible for unattended classes.**

The information in the syllabus, other than grade and absence policies, may be subject to change as to meet the needs of this particular class with reasonable advance notice. Course content, including lectures, are copyrighted material and students may not sell notes taken during the conduct of the course.

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

5 (Five) Written Assignments	50%	
Class participation/communication	25%	<b>Zoom Meetings Required</b>
FINAL EXAM/PRESENTATION PROJECT	25%	

**Grading Criteria:**

A= 100-90%

B= 89-80%

C= 79-70%

D= 69-60%

F= below 60%

- **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.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT AND ETHICS:**

It is expected that any work done for this class is originally done by the student and is for this class. Any form of plagiarism is subject to strong disciplinary action and can lead to dismissal. All students as part of their obligation to the University assume the responsibility to exhibit in their academic performance the qualities of honesty and integrity. All forms of student dishonesty, which may include but not be limited to; cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action. Students are responsible for all material, in the syllabus, notes, handouts, announcements and other information given in class, even if they are not in attendance. Do not expect the instructor to give an individualized lecture if you miss class. Further, you are responsible for getting to class on time, and for being prepared. Please give to others the courtesy of listening attentively while they are speaking.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/INTEGRITY:**

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.

<https://library.sulross.edu/research-basics/about-plagiarism/>

### **ACADEMIC RIGOR:**

Academic rigor means a consistent expectation of excellence and aspiration to significant achievement. It should pervade the entire atmosphere of the University--teaching and learning, curriculum, evaluation of students and faculty, outreach, admissions, advising, and student life.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Visit: <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>

**COURSE CALENDAR - A tentative Course Schedule will be discussed in class the first day.**